

Committee:	<b>Corporate Parenting Panel</b>
Date:	<b>25 January 2019</b>
Title of Report:	<b>Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics</b>
By:	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
Purpose of Report:	<b>To update the Panel on changes in the last quarter</b>

---

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to comment on and note the report.**

---

### **1. Background and supporting information**

1.1 Services for LAC are predominantly funded from the Children's Services base budget with some additional smaller funding streams supporting specific activity e.g. Virtual School activity from the Pupil Premium Grant.

1.2 The past quarter has continued to see sustained pressure on the system and at the end of December ESCC had 615 children in care, a reduction of 2 over the quarter. December can be an anomalous month however because essentially the Christmas period limits activity in the teams and in Court.

1.3 A total of 425 children were in foster care at the end of December, with 86 of those children in agency placements, a rise of 1 over the quarter. In addition we have 47 young people in supported housing options, homes or hostels. 15 children were placed for adoption. 3 children were placed with foster carers who are also approved adopters under the Fostering for Adoption pathway.

1.4 The number of children with kinship carers now stands at 59, some of whom have been placed with family members at the direction of a judge or have remained at home during proceedings, again at the direction of a judge.

1.5 The number of children placed at home with their parents whilst subject to a final legal order has stayed stable at 21. Planning for placements of this sort is always monitored rigorously in order to mitigate any risk factors and agreement to begin or end a placement with parents is given at a senior level.

1.6 At the end of the quarter 35 children were placed in residential placements, a rise of 1 over the period. Staff continue to make every effort to place children in house and to negotiate costs with the agency provider where this is not possible.

1.7 At the end of the quarter 2 ESCC children were secured at Lansdowne; both in the context of sexual exploitation. Exit planning is underway for both.

1.8 We have had no new remands to custody during this quarter and, at the end of December there were no young people still on remand and awaiting sentencing.

1.9 Overall the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people has seen an increase of 12 to 38 over this quarter due to a combination of transfers of young people via the dispersal scheme and spontaneous arrivals in the County.

1.10 The numbers of children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders has stayed stable at 335 and 446 children were subject to Special Guardianship Orders, a rise of 3 over the quarter.

1.11 During Q3 1 complaint was received from a 12 year old child in one of the ESCC residential homes. The complaints form was found in her bedroom after she had moved to foster care. On the form she wrote that she did not want to move and that she didn't like the proposed foster carers. Although her worries about moving were discussed with her, the complaint itself was not because staff were unaware that she had completed the form. There was regular outreach from the home to this child initially to help her settle and there will be regular visits from her social worker going forward. She has settled well in her new placement and it would not be helpful to her to explore this now.

## **2. Conclusion**

2.1 Pressure on the system continues, driven by the numbers of and costs for children. Continued close oversight will be maintained.

2.2 There was one complaint from one of our LAC about moving from her residential placement to a foster carer. The complaint has not been explored with her but appears to be more about being fearful of the move rather than critical of staff in the home. The child has settled well in her new placement and it seems proportionate to consider the matter to be resolved.

### **STUART GALLIMORE Director of Children's Services**

Contact Officer: Liz Rugg, Assistant Director, Early Help and Social Care

Telephone: 01273 481274

Email: [Liz.Rugg@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Liz.Rugg@eastsussex.gov.uk)

Local Members: All

#### **APPENDICES:**

Appendix 1 - Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/01/2018 and 31/12/2018

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

# Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/01/2018 and 31/12/2018

Placement Type	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18
A3 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1				
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	8	7	7	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	1	1	3	3	3	1	3	4	4	4	4	4
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	11	14	14	15	14	14	13	12	13	12	10	8
H5 - Residential accommodation	16	24	25	28	26	31	30	37	34	32	33	35
K1 - Secure unit	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1		2	2
K2 - Homes and Hostels	49	50	50	49	49	48	49	48	46	45	47	47
P1 - Placed with own parents	19	19	21	21	21	18	20	20	21	24	22	21
P2 - Independent living	5	5	4	4	4	3	2	3	2	1	2	2
R2 - NHS/Health Trust	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
R5 - Young Offender Institution or prison	3	5	4	2	2							
S1 - All Residential schools	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	5
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	11	11	11	11	10	9	9	9	9	9	10	9
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	38	35	34	35	34	39	43	53	50	54	52	50
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	116	114	114	113	113	113	112	109	106	103	100	98
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	3	4	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	285	289	304	304	313	308	307	313	318	321	327	327
<b>Total</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>615</b>

Immigration Status	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18
British Citizen	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1
Discretionary Leave to Remain in the UK to 18 (DLR)	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
DLR to 18th Birthday, extension applied for	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Exceptional Leave to Remain in the UK (ELR)	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1			
Humanitarian Protection applied for under ECHR	1	1	1	1	1							
Refugee Status	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	5
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	11	11	11	12	14	11	12	18	17	17	29	29

Legal Status	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	May 18	Jun 18	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18
Child Arrangements Order/ResidenceOrder S8(1)CA'89	331	331	333	333	333	334	333	334	335	335	335	335
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	433	436	437	438	438	439	441	442	443	445	446	446