

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

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

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

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### **1. Background 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 Data is drawn as a snapshot on the last day of the month and inevitably there will be some changes subsequently as data is cleansed. However the past quarter has seen an increase in numbers of children and on the last day of September 2019 there were 605 children in care, up from 585 in June after the figures were cleansed. It has been a very busy summer with pressure on the Fostering Duty system remaining intense as new children come in and existing children disrupt and need to be moved, often at short notice.

1.3 A total of 393 children were in foster care at the end of June, with 81 of those children in agency placements, a stable figure for agency fostering placements from the previous quarter. In addition, we still have 47 young people in supported housing options, homes or hostels. 26 children were placed for adoption. 5 children were placed with foster carers who are also approved adopters under the Fostering for Adoption pathway; we continue to see Adoption Order applications being delayed significantly by repeated parental appeals.

1.4 Over the quarter the number of children with kinship carers has risen by 19 and now stands at 63, some of whom have remained within their extended family but legal proceedings have been initiated by ESCC to resolve complex situations or an uncertain legal status for children.

1.5 The number of children placed at home with their parents whilst subject to a legal order has remained stable at 20. 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 38 children were placed in agency residential care placements, an increase over the period. This is being driven partly by the pressure on in-house fostering capacity and by the inability of the external market to provide any placements for children at times. Staff continue to make every effort to place children in our in-house beds before they seek agreement from a senior manager for an agency placement.

1.7 At the end of the quarter 3 ESCC children were secured at Lansdowne, this includes the young person who was previously placed in County Durham. 2 of the children were secured in the context of exploitation, with the remaining child having severe emotional wellbeing difficulties. Exit planning is underway for all 3 children but it will be significantly challenging and likely very expensive to put an alternative plan in place for at least 2 of them.

1.8 We have had no new remands to custody during this quarter.

1.9 Overall the numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people was up to 41 at the end of September, many arriving in the County spontaneously.

1.10 The numbers of children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders and Special Guardianship Orders have also remained stable at 333 and 454 respectively.

1.11 There have been no complaints from our LAC in Q2

## **2. Conclusion**

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

2.2 There have been no complaints during this quarter.

### **STUART GALLIMORE**

Director of Children's Services

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### **Local Members**

All

### **Background documents**

None

# Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/10/2018 and 30/09/2019

Placement Type	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19
A3 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	3	2	2			1						
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	13	11	11	10	14	12	18	17	17	17	21	21
H5 - Residential accommodation	32	34	36	30	33	33	30	32	30	31	36	38
K1 - Secure unit		2	2	2	1	2	4	5	5	5	4	3
K2 - Homes and Hostels	44	46	44	45	43	44	47	46	47	50	49	47
P1 - Placed with own parents	25	23	23	23	23	22	23	22	21	19	20	20
P2 - Independent living	1	2	2	3	1				2	3	3	2
R2 - NHS/Health Trust	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	2	3	3
R3 - Family centre or mother and baby unit										2	2	2
R5 - Young Offender Institution or prison							1	1				
S1 - All Residential schools	4	4	4	4	4	2	1	2	3	4	3	3
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	9	10	9	8	8	7	7	7	7	8	8	5
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	52	49	43	43	41	37	36	37	37	49	54	58
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	103	100	98	96	92	93	92	91	88	86	86	82
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	5	5	5
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	315	320	322	325	321	327	318	317	318	313	306	311
<b>Total</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>605</b>

Immigration Status	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19
Asylum Seeker	3	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	2	2		
British Citizen	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Discretionary Leave to Remain in the UK to 18 (DLR)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
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	2	2	2	2	2	2
Refugee Status	11	11	11	7	10	10	9	9	8	8	8	8
Refused Asylum, Appeal applied for	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	4	15	16	16	16	17	17	17	19	20	27	27

Legal Status	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19
Child Arrangements Order/Residence Order S8(1)CA'89	334	334	334	334	334	334	334	333	333	332	332	333
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	448	449	449	449	449	453	454	454	454	454	454	454