

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **24 April 2015**

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**

RECOMMENDATIONS: **The Corporate Parenting Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report.**

1. Background

1.1 The most recent LAC statistics are attached as Appendix 1. It is important to continue to be aware that the figures are a 'snapshot' at the end of each month and therefore mask considerable activity throughout the months.

2. Supporting information

2.1 Between the end of December and the end of March 2015, there were 6 fewer children overall. Looking at subsets of children, agency foster care numbers have decreased by 11 and agency residential numbers have increased by 1. The number of children placed in house with ESCC foster carers has increased by 3.

2.2 The number of children with kinship carers has decreased by 1. We had no parent and baby placements at the end of the quarter.

2.3 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has risen by 3 at the end of the quarter with higher placement activity in the preceding 2 months. Activity rates are obviously closely allied to individual care planning for children.

2.4 The number of children subject to a Care Order placed at home with their parents has remained stable. 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.

2.5 The number of children subject to Residence Orders has risen by 4 with 18 additional children becoming subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.6 At the end of the quarter, no East Sussex child was secured via a welfare route but we had 5 young people in criminal secure placements.

2.7 At the end of the quarter we still have 2 young people placed in bed and breakfast accommodation. All are supported by social work staff and more work is being done on this in line with the Ofsted Action Plan.

2.8 Services for LAC are funded from the Children's Services base budget. Additional Thrive funding has now ceased, as has the financial support from the Adoption Reform grant.

3. Conclusion

3.1 LAC numbers are closely monitored by the management team and are part of the regular reporting to the Director.

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Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None