

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **10 July 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**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

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**1. Background**

1.1 The most recent LAC statistics are attached as Appendix 1. As ever this is a 'snapshot' at the end of each month and therefore masks considerable activity throughout the months.

**2. Supporting information**

2.1 Between the end of March and the end of June 2015, there were 4 fewer children overall. Looking at subsets of children, agency foster care numbers have decreased by 4 and agency residential numbers have also decreased by 4. The number of children placed in house with ESCC foster carers has decreased by 9.

2.2 The number of children with kinship carers has increased by 10 following some very challenging Court judgements. We had no parent and baby placements at the end of the quarter.

2.3 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has decreased by 5 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 increased by 5. 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/Child Arrangement Orders has risen by 5 with 8 additional children becoming subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.6 At the end of the quarter, 1 East Sussex child was secured via a welfare route and placed at Lansdowne and there were 3 young people in criminal secure placements.

2.7 At the end of the quarter we still have 1 young person placed in bed and breakfast accommodation and supported by social work staff.

2.8 Services for LAC are funded from the Children's Services base budget.

**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