

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **21 January 2022**

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

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

1.1 Services for Looked After Children (LAC) are predominantly funded from the Children's Services base budget with some additional smaller funding streams supporting specific activity for example, 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 as things stand currently, the past quarter has seen a slight increase in numbers of children and on the last day of December there were 620 children in care, up from 618 in September. The system remains extremely busy as children come in and go home and placements for existing children disrupt and they need to be moved, with continued difficulty in the supply of external agency placements when in-house capacity is full.

1.3 A total of 344 children were in foster care at the end of December, with 267 living with East Sussex County Council (ESCC) carers and a further 77 children living with agency carers, a rise of 3 over the quarter. In addition, we have 73 young people in supported housing options, homes or hostels, a decrease of 5 over the quarter. 17 children were placed for adoption, 8 further children being placed with foster carers who are also approved adopters under the Fostering for Adoption pathway.

1.4 At the end of the quarter 89 children with living with kinship foster carers.

1.5 The number of children living at home with their parents whilst remaining subject to a legal order to ESCC stood at 21. Planning for placements of this sort is always monitored rigorously to mitigate any risk factors. Agreement to begin or end a placement with parents is given at a senior level, unless it is court mandated when realistically ESCC has no choice in the matter.

1.6 At the end of December, the number of children living in residential children's homes has stayed stable at 62. Staff continue to make every effort to place children in our in-house homes before they seek agreement from a senior manager for an agency placement and robust negotiations on both quality and price are a feature of every external placement search. The building works at the new children's home in Hastings are still not finished and once the building is handed over to CSD, the Ofsted registration will need to be completed before it can open.

1.7 At the end of December 1 ESCC child remain secured at Lansdowne. Exit planning is ongoing for this child with the hope that they will be able to move shortly and once their new placement has completed its Ofsted registration. Another young person left secure provision just before Christmas following significant work with both the agency provider and with Ofsted to complete the registration of the home in time for their move, timescales being dictated by the ending of their Secure Order.

1.8 At the end of the quarter there were 2 children remanded for criminal activity, one to custody and 1 to the care of ESCC. Both were accorded LAC status by virtue of their remands and for both, their LAC status will end when they are sentenced.

1.9 60 young people were seeking asylum at the end of December, down 4 over the quarter. Some young people seeking asylum and already in our care turned 18 during this quarter and so moved out of these numbers but remained eligible for ongoing support as care leavers. ESCC continues to take part in the National Transfer Scheme that is now mandated by the Government.

1.10 The numbers of children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders have stayed steady at 342 and the number of children placed with a Special Guardianship Order has increased by 7 to 466.

1.11 There were no complaints from a LAC in the last quarter.

## **2. Conclusion and recommendations**

2.1 Pressure on the system continues, driven by complexity of children and costs for placements. External agency placements remain very scarce.

2.2 The Corporate Parenting Panel are recommended to comment on and note the report.

**ALISON JEFFERY**  
**Director of Children's Services**

### Contact

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# Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/01/2021 and 31/12/2021

Placement Type	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	6	6	7	6	6	4	1	1	1			
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	16	18	17	18	18	18	15	15	14	15	15	14
H5 - Residential accommodation	61	63	59	58	57	62	62	60	62	58	62	62
K1 - Secure unit	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	1
K2 - Homes and Hostels	69	70	69	73	73	75	75	75	78	75	72	73
P1 - Placed with own parents	29	24	22	21	26	30	27	32	29	30	23	21
P2 - Independent living	4	5	6	6	5	4	5	4	4	2	2	2
R1 - Residential care home	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
R2 - NHS/Health Trust		1				1	1					1
R5 - Young Offender Institution or prison			1	1							2	1
S1 - All Residential schools	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	3	3	11	11	11	10	10	11	10	9	9	9
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	54	60	56	53	57	55	60	60	71	71	74	80
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	63	61	187	186	184	183	178	177	173	171	171	170
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA	2	2						1	1	3	8	8
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	299	292	169	173	168	175	176	170	169	173	174	174
<b>Total</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>620</b>

Immigration Status	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21
Asylum Seeker	11	9	9	5	2							
British Citizen	2	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6
Discretionary Leave to Remain in the UK to 18 (DLR)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Humanitarian Protection applied for under ECHR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK (ILR)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Refugee Status	24	24	24	20	18	18	18	18	18	16	15	13
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	21	21	21	22	25	28	34	36	38	40	40	39

Legal Status	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21
Child Arrangements Order/ResidenceOrder S8(1)CA'89	341	341	341	341	340	340	342	342	342	342	342	342
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	454	453	453	452	456	456	458	459	459	461	465	466