

**Committee:** Corporate Parenting Panel

**Date:** 29 July 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 note the report.

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## 1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 Services for Looked After Children 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.

## 2. Supporting information

2.1 Data is drawn as a snapshot on the last day of the month and inevitably there will be some changes as data is cleansed. There has been a significant increase in number of Looked After Children during the last quarter and on the last day of June 2022, there were 638 children in care. This is an increase of 11 children from the last quarter. The service remains very busy and the sufficiency of any placements either in-house, or in the independent sector, is extremely challenging. This is a reflection of a national issue across the UK.

2.2 A total of 365 children were living in foster care at the end of June a rise of 7 children. Of that number 271 were living with ESCC carers and a further 94 children were living with agency carers. In addition, 70 young people were living in supported housing options, homes or hostels, which is an increase of 7 over the quarter. 18 children were placed for adoption, and a further 7 children were placed with foster carers, who were also approved adopters as part of the Fostering for Adoption pathway.

2.3 At the end of the quarter 87 children were living with kinship foster carers, 3 less than in the previous period.

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

2.5 At the end of June, the number of children living in residential children's homes increased to 78. Of that figure 19 children were living in ESCC children's homes and 59 were placed in external homes. Our staff work strenuously to place children in our in-house provision before they seek agreement from a senior manager for an agency placement. Robust negotiations on both quality and price are a feature of every

external placement search. An additional ESCC children's home has now been registered and has a number of children in placement.

- 2.6 At the end of June 1 ESCC child was placed in the Secure Unit at Lansdowne and 1 other child was in an external secure unit. Exit planning is currently underway for both children.
- 2.7 1 young person was remanded into youth detention accommodation in this quarter.
- 2.8. ESCC is fully participating in the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) in relation to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. The number of young people seeking asylum was 63 at the end of June. In addition, there were 92 Asylum Seeking young people who were Care Leavers during this period.
- 2.9 The number of children subject to Child Arrangement/Residence Orders have remained at 342 and those children subject to a Special Guardianship Order increased to 476.
- 2.10 There was one complaint from a Looked After Child during this period which was responded to in a timely manner and satisfactorily resolved.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 There were significant pressures in the Looked After Children's system during this period. The impact of Covid-19 compounded the stresses felt by many families, and as a result more children came into care with a range of complex behaviours. This in turn, with the national shortage of care placements, has proved very challenging for the service.

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

## Children's Services LAC Summary between 01/07/2021 and 30/06/2022

Placement Type	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22
A4 - Placed for adoption with consent (under section 19 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
A5 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) with current foster carer	2	2	2	1	1	3	5	5	5	5	6	6
A6 - Placed for adoption with placement order (under section 21 of the 2002 Act) not with current foster carer	15	15	15	16	16	13	14	11	11	11	11	11
H5 - Residential accommodation	61	59	61	57	61	60	59	56	63	65	66	70
K1 - Secure unit	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	2
K2 - Homes and Hostels	75	75	78	75	72	73	72	74	73	75	77	77
P1 - Placed with own parents	27	32	29	30	23	20	21	26	22	22	21	21
P2 - Independent living	5	4	4	2	2	2	1					
R1 - Residential care home	1	1	1	1								
R2 - NHS/Health Trust	1					1						
R5 - Young Offender Institution or prison					1			1	1	2	2	1
S1 - All Residential schools	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
U1 - Foster placement with relative or friend- long term fostering	10	11	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	10
U3 - Foster placement with relative or friend- not long term or FFA	60	60	71	71	72	76	75	70	75	76	76	75
U4 - Placement with other foster carer- long term fostering	178	177	173	171	171	169	167	160	157	154	149	147
U5 - Placement with other foster carer who is also an approved adopter- FFA		1	1	3	8	6	4	4	5	5	6	7
U6 - Placement with other foster carer - not long term or FFA	176	170	168	172	173	174	182	186	202	200	201	207
<b>Total</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>636</b>

Immigration Status	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22
Asylum Seeker			1	1	1							
British Citizen	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	7
Discretionary Leave to Remain in the UK to 18 (DLR)	1	1	1	1	1							
Humanitarian Protection applied for under ECHR	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	19	17	12	11	11	10	9	9
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child	27	29	30	34	35	38	39	40	49	52	52	51

Legal Status	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22
Child Arrangements Order/ResidenceOrder S8(1)CA'89	343	343	343	343	343	343	342	342	342	342	342	342
Special Guardianship Order S14A CA 89	462	463	463	465	469	470	470	474	475	476	476	476