

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **16 October 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**

RECOMMENDATION: 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. As ever this is a 'snapshot' at the end of each month and therefore masks considerable activity throughout the months. Services for LAC are funded from the Children's Services base budget.

2. Supporting information

2.1 Between the end of June and the end of September 2015, there were 3 fewer children overall. Looking at subsets of children, agency foster care numbers have increased by 2 and agency residential numbers have increased by 3. The number of children placed in house with ESCC foster carers has remained stable at 283.

2.2 The number of children with kinship carers has decreased by 3. We had 2 parent and baby placements at the end of the quarter.

2.3 The number of children placed with prospective adopters has decreased by 3 at the end of the quarter. 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 4. 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. There has also been a couple of occasions when a judge has made Care Orders in Private Law proceedings with the requirement that the children remain at home. The logic behind this thinking can be challenging to understand at times.

2.5 The number of children subject to Residence Orders/Child Arrangement Orders has risen by 11 with 10 additional children becoming subject to Special Guardianship Orders.

2.6 At the end of the quarter, 2 East Sussex children were 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 have 1 young person placed in bed and breakfast accommodation and supported by social work staff.

3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

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

STUART GALLIMORE
Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Appendix 1

Accommodation Type	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15
Total Foster Placements	457	441	444	432	431	433	432	438	431	434	433	430
<i>Breakdown of total foster placements:</i>												
<i>Foster Care - ESCC Approved</i>	<i>293</i>	<i>282</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>282</i>	<i>284</i>	<i>292</i>	<i>290</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>283</i>	<i>282</i>	<i>277</i>	<i>283</i>
<i>Foster Care - Kinship</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Foster Care - Agency</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>92</i>
<i>Foster Care - Parent & Baby</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Foster Care - Supported Lodgings</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>12</i>
Placed For Adoption	39	42	40	47	48	43	42	42	38	33	35	35
Bed & Breakfast	4	3	3	3	3	2	4	2	1	0	1	1
Supported People Accommodation	5	6	5	5	3	4	3	4	6	9	9	8
Independent Living	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Residential - East Sussex Home	21	23	22	22	22	21	19	20	21	21	18	15
Residential - Agency Residential Care	17	17	19	19	19	20	18	17	16	15	18	19
Residential - Schools	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Residential - Secure	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	2
Residential - Other	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Prison / Youth Offending Institution	0	0	2	1	1	5	5	4	3	6	5	3
Placed With Parent	11	11	11	10	11	11	14	13	16	14	19	20
Hospital/Health Setting	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Absconded	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Total Looked After	563	551	554	548	548	548	547	551	544	541	548	541

UASC Children

7 6 8 8 6 6 7 7 7 10 12 11

Legal Status Type	Oct-14	Nov-14	Dec-14	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15
Residence Orders/Child Arrangement Order	272	276	280	281	282	284	283	285	289	292	300	300
Special Guardianship Orders	294	301	310	319	321	328	329	333	336	340	345	346
Total	566	577	590	600	603	612	612	618	625	632	645	646