

Report to: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of meeting: 29 January 2016

By: Director of Children's Services

Title: Looked After Children (LAC) Statistics

Purpose: 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 September and the end of December 2015, there were 3 fewer children overall. Looking at subsets of children, agency foster care numbers have decreased by 11 and agency residential numbers have stayed stable at 19. The number of children placed in house with ESCC foster carers has increased by 7.

2.2 The number of children with kinship carers has decreased by 1. We still 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 4 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 remained stable at 20. 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 10 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 in the context of risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and placed at Lansdowne and there were 3 young people in criminal secure placements.

2.7 At the end of the quarter we had no LAC placed in bed and breakfast accommodation.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The steady downward trajectory on LAC numbers has continued with close monitoring by the management team and regular reporting to the Director. Use of more expensive agency fostering placements has decreased substantially over the calendar year, from 103 to 81, with the consequent budget savings. Residential agency use has stayed stable over the year.

STUART GALLIMORE
Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

Accommodation Type	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15
Total Foster Placements	432	431	433	432	438	431	434	433	430	432	426	427
<i>Breakdown of total foster placements:</i>												
<i>Foster Care - ESCC Approved</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>281</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>290</i>
<i>Foster Care - Kinship</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>49</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Foster Care - Agency</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>87</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>Foster Care - Parent & Baby</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>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Foster Care - Supported Lodgings</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>	<i>13</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>14</i>
Placed For Adoption	47	48	43	42	42	38	33	35	35	29	27	31
Bed & Breakfast	3	3	2	4	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0
Supported People Accommodation	5	3	4	3	4	6	9	9	8	8	9	10
Independent Living	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Residential - East Sussex Home	22	22	21	19	20	21	21	18	15	15	18	19
Residential - Agency Residential Care	19	19	20	18	17	16	15	18	19	18	19	19
Residential - Schools	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4
Residential - Secure	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1
Residential - Other	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Prison / Youth Offending Institution	1	1	5	5	4	3	6	5	3	3	2	3
Placed With Parent	10	11	11	14	13	16	14	19	20	22	22	20
Hospital/Health Setting	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Absconded	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2
Total Looked After	548	548	548	547	551	544	541	548	541	538	533	538
UASC Children	8	6	6	7	7	7	10	12	11	7	10	10
Legal Status Type	Jan-15	Feb-15	Mar-15	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15
Residence Orders/Child Arrangement Or	281	282	284	283	285	289	292	300	300	298	303	305
Special Guardianship Orders	319	321	328	329	333	336	340	345	346	349	356	356
Total	600	603	612	612	618	625	632	645	646	647	659	661