

Report to: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date of meeting: 29 January 2016

By: Director of Children's Services

Title: Update on Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and refugees, September-December 2015

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

East Sussex County Council have a statutory duty to safeguard and support Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and to provide accommodation for refugee families who have no recourse to public funds. The purpose of this report is keep the Corporate Parenting Panel informed of new children and refugee families who have become known to East Sussex County Council (ESCC) in the last quarter.

2. Supporting information

2.1 In the period September- December 2015, since the previous report to the CPP, a further six children/young people have become known to ESCC, all in an unplanned way. All have been age assessed or have had passports which negates the need for an age assessment. With the exception of the two who returned to the care of extended family members after two weeks in foster care, four are UASC and have remained LAC.

2.2 As before the ethnic backgrounds of these children are diverse:

- 3 Albanian 2x 17yrs and 1x 15yrs - all male
- 2 Kuwaiti Bedouin 1x 12yrs and 1x 8yrs - both girls – returned to extended family
- 1 Iraqi Kurd 15yrs male

2.3 Ongoing placements are as follows:

- 2x Albanian young people aged 17 placed in foyer accommodation.
- Albanian young person aged 15 placed with IFA carers in Brighton.
- Iraqi young man placed with in house carers.

2.4 To date there have been no requests for support to refugee families from Syria.

2.5 Services for children who present as UASC are funded from the Children's Services base budget because they are part of the LAC population for ESCC.

3. Conclusion

3.1 We continue to see a steady but small number of children and young people who present as UASC. In addition during this period we have facilitated the return of three children to family

members, the two little girls from Kuwait and a 16 year old from Vietnam who arrived before September. To date we have not been approached to support any Syrian refugees.

3.2 Any children under 16 have been placed within family placements, older young people have been placed in supported accommodation.

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Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None