

Committee: **Corporate Parenting Panel**

Date: **22 April 2016**

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 Information

1.1 At the end of February a new client recording system was introduced within both Children's and Adults Services, and the information presented here is at a summary level.

1.2 Services for LAC are funded from the Children's Services base budget.

2. Supporting information

2.1 It has been challenging to retrieve confidential performance data from the system and in terms of this report it is not possible to detail the normal subsets of children, nor the trends over the past quarter. As the system beds in this will become more straightforward, although formats for the report may have to change. As it is not possible at present to produce a more detailed appendix with the usual statistics, information in this report is at a summary level.

2.2 Between the end of December 2015 and March 2016, there were 12 more children overall bringing East Sussex County Council to a total of 544 Looked After children. A total of 441 children were in foster care with 86 children in agency placements, a rise of five.

2.3 The number of children with kinship carers now stands at 38, a decrease of two.

2.4 The number of children subject to a Care Order placed at home with their parents has decreased by five to 15. 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 21 children were placed in agency residential placements, an increase of two placements.

2.6 At the end of the quarter, three East Sussex children were secured via a welfare route, two in the context of risk of CSE and one who had been at substantial risk of a drug overdose. All were placed at Lansdowne.

2.7 Five young people from ESCC were in criminal secure placements.

2.8 The numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking children has remained stable at 11, however this includes changes of individual young people, as we have successfully located family members already in the UK for two Vietnamese brothers and they have been discharged from the care system.

2.9 There are now 314 children subject to Residence Orders, a rise of 9 and 367 children subject to Special Guardianship Orders, a rise of 11.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Presently confidential performance data is limited and addressing this is a priority.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None