

Adoption and Special Guardianship Quarterly Data Collection

Headline Measures: Q2 2022/23

December 2022

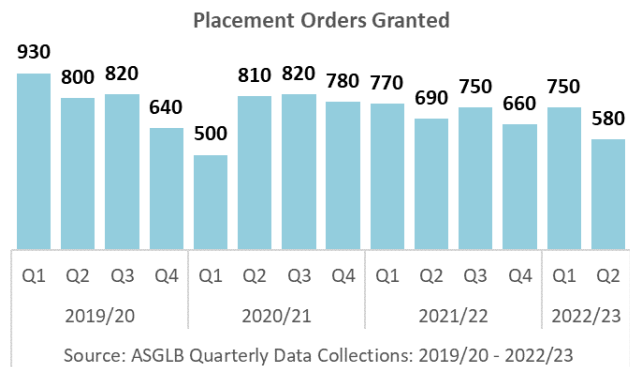
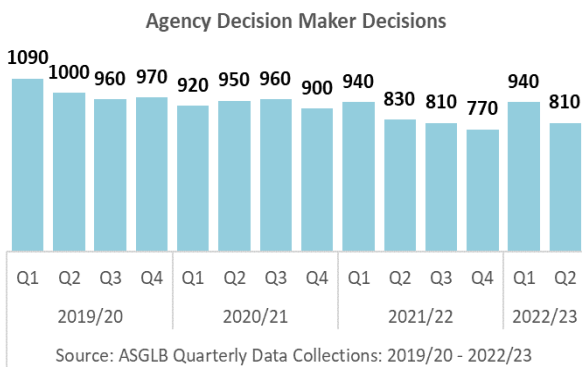
Note: The Department for Education's annual figures on adoptions and timeliness for children who have been adopted are published in the [Children looked after in England including adoption](#) SFR. This is the most robust source of information on adoption.

CHILDREN

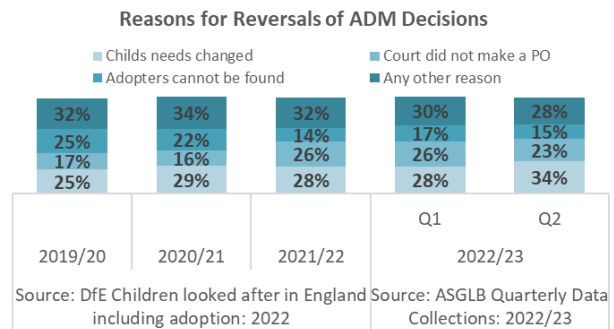
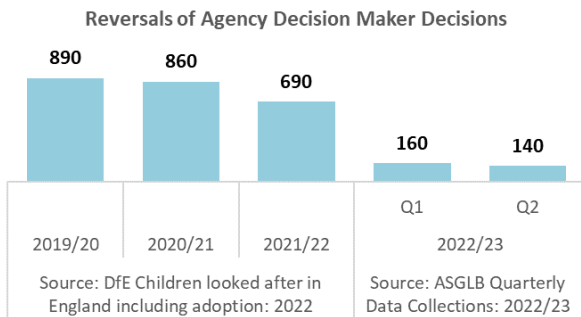
In Quarter 2 2022/23 there has been an increase in the number of adoption orders and special guardianship orders granted, a decrease in the number of Agency Decision Makers decisions, Placement Orders, and children matched and placed with adoptive parents when compared to Q1 2022/23. There are less children waiting with a PO, but the proportion waiting 18+ months since entering care and 18+ months since grant of PO has increased, and children’s journeys to permanence are taking longer.

In Q2 2022/23 (30 September) there were:

- **810** Agency Decision Maker decisions, a decrease of **14% (130n)** from Q1 2022/23 and a decrease of **2% (20n)** when compared to Q2 2021/22
- **580** Placement Orders granted, a decrease of **23% (170n)** from Q1 2022/23 and a decrease of **16% (110n)** when compared to Q2 2021/22



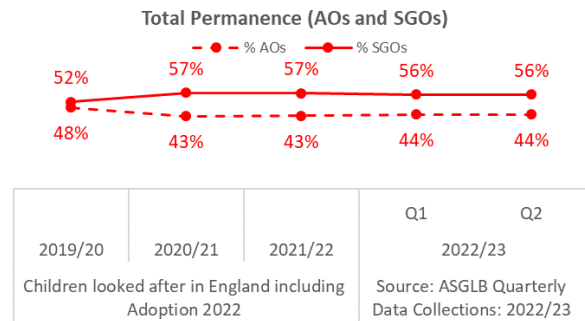
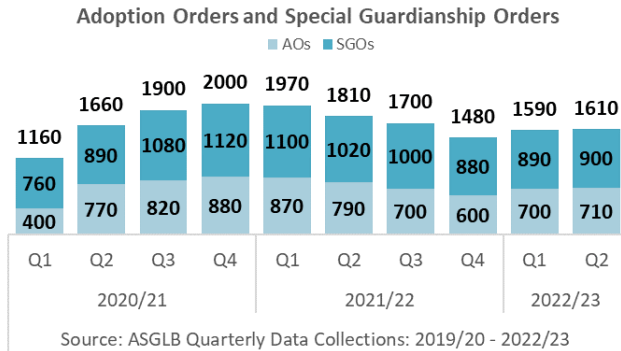
- **140** ADM reversals, a decrease of **13% (20n)** from Q1 2022/23
- **34%** of reversals were due to ‘Child’s needs changed’, a decrease of **6** percentage points when compared to Q1 2022/23 and **15%** were due to ‘Adopters cannot be found’, a decrease of **2** percentage points when compared to Q1 2022/23



There has been an increase in the number of Adoption Orders and Special Guardianship Orders granted.

In Q2 2022/23, there were:

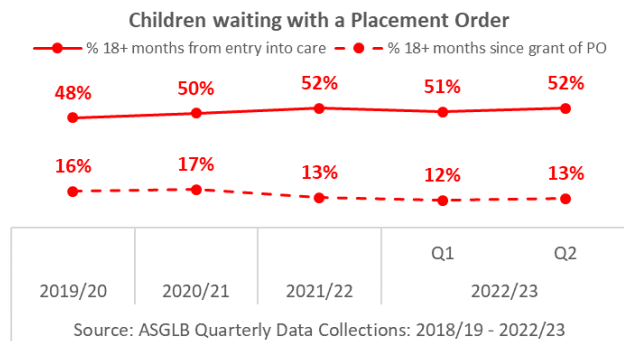
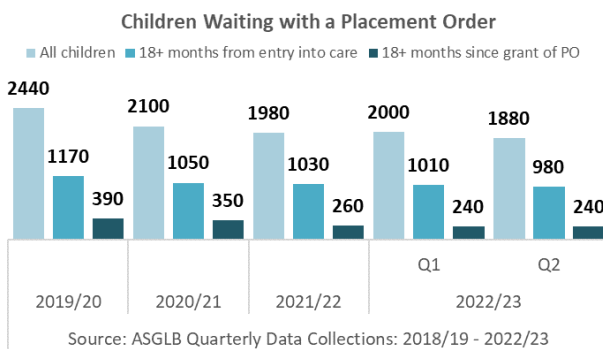
- **710** Adoption Orders granted, an increase of **1% (10n)** from Q1 2022/23 and a decrease of **10% (80n)** when compared to Q2 2021/22
- **900** Special Guardianship Orders granted, an increase of **2% (20n)** from Q1 2022/23 and a decrease of **12% (120n)** when compared to Q2 2021/22



- **1610** total permanence orders granted (AOs & SGOs), an increase of **2% (30n)** from Q1 2022/23 and a decrease of **11% (200n)** when compared to Q2 2021/22
- SGOs accounted for **56%** of all permanence the same when compared to Q1 2022/23

In the first two quarters of 2022/23, **260** children were placed in an FFA/CP placement, **52%** of the total for 2021/22

The numbers of children waiting with a Placement Order, waiting 18+ months since entering care, and waiting 18+ months since grant of Placement Order have declined, although the proportions of children waiting 18+ months have increase.



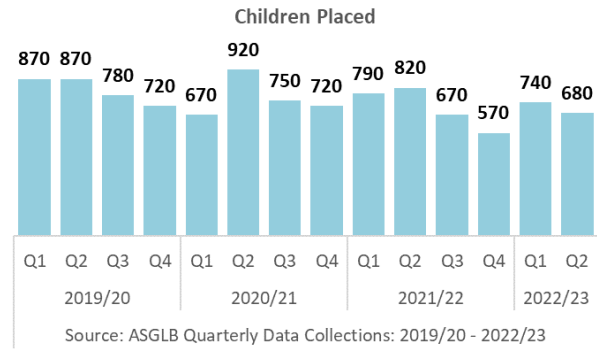
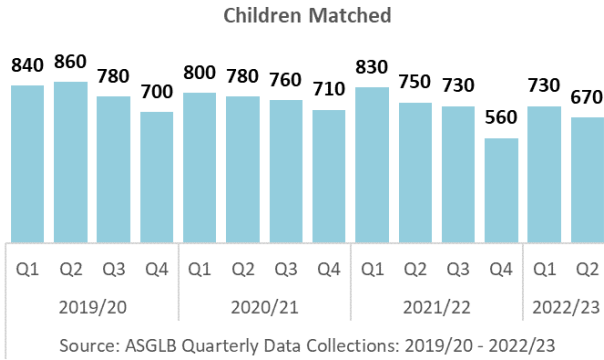
In Q2 2022/23 there were:

- **1880** children with a PO waiting to be matched, a decrease of **6% (120n)** from Q1 2022/23
- **980** children with a PO waiting to be matched 18+ months since entering care, a decrease of **3% (30n)** from Q1 2022/23
- **52%** of children with a PO have been waiting to be matched 18+ months since entering care
- **240** children with a PO waiting to be matched 18+ months since grant of PO, the same as Q1 2022/23
- **13%** of children with a PO have been waiting to be matched 18+ months since grant of PO

There has been a decrease in the number of children matched and placed with adoptive parents

In Q2 2022/23 there were:

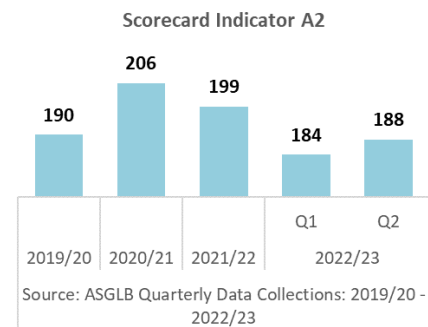
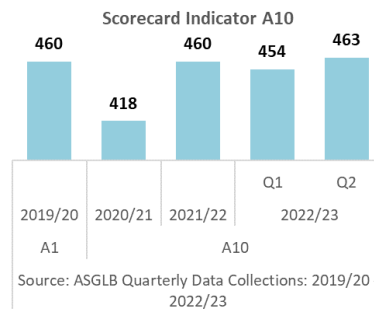
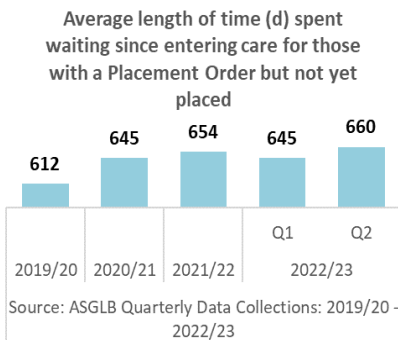
- **670** children matched with an adoptive family, a decrease of **8% (60n)** from Q1 2022/23 and a decrease of **11% (80n)** when compared to Q2 2021/22
- **680** children placed with an adoptive family, a decrease of **8% (60n)** from Q1 2022/23 and a decrease of **17% (140n)** when compared to Q2 2021/22



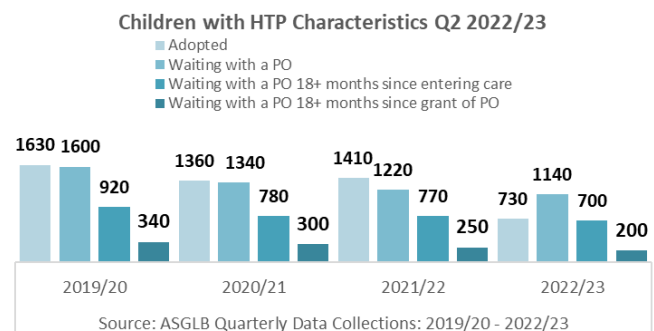
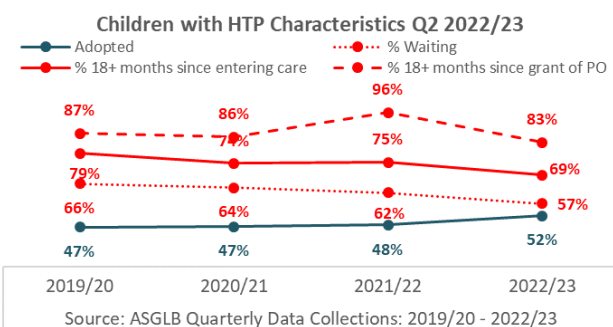
Timeliness is slowing with some children’s journey to permanence taking longer.

In Q2 2022/23:

- The average number of days spent waiting to be placed with Placement Order since entering care was **660 days**, an increase of **15 days** from Q1 2022/23
- Scorecard Indicator A10 (average number of days between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster care adoptions) was **463 days**, an increase of **9 days** from Q1 2022/23
- Scorecard Indicator A2 (average time between an LA receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family) was **188 days**, an increase of **4 days** from Q1 2022/23



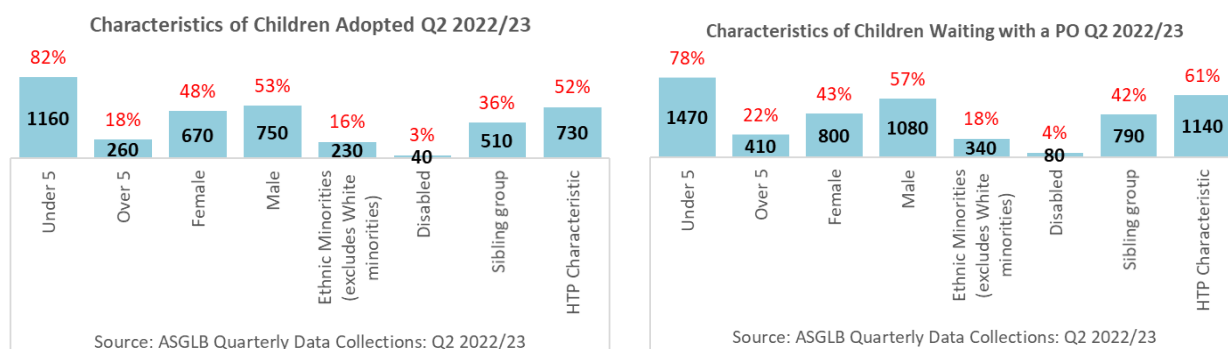
There has been an increase in the proportion of children adopted who have harder to place characteristics and a decrease in the proportion of children with harder to place characteristics waiting with a PO, waiting 18+ months since entering care and waiting 10+ months since grant of PO, mirroring the trend for all children waiting.



In the first two quarters of 2022/23 there were a total of:

- **730** children with HTP characteristics adopted, **52%** of the total number of children with HTP characteristics adopted in 2021/22
- **1140** children with HTP characteristics waiting with a PO, a decrease of **7% (80n)** from 2021/22
- **700** children with HTP characteristics waiting with a PO 18+ months since entering care, a decrease of **10% (70n)** from 2021/22
- **200** children with HTP characteristics waiting with a PO 18+ months since grant of PO, a decrease of **20% (50n)** from 2021/22

The charts below give a breakdown of the number of children adopted and waiting with a PO by characteristics.



In Q2 2022/23:

- Children who were aged under 5, female and not from an Ethnic Minority (excludes White minorities) background were more likely to be adopted and less likely to be waiting with a PO
- Children aged over 5, male, from an Ethnic Minority (excludes White minorities) background, with a disability and in a sibling group were more likely to be waiting with a PO and less likely to be adopted

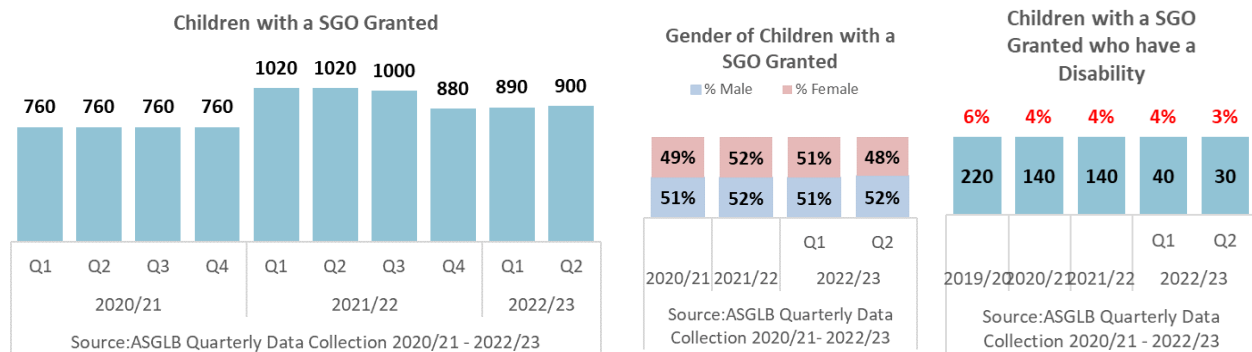
NB: "Harder to place" is defined as a child who is any of the following: 5 years or over, with an Ethnic Minority (excludes White minorities) background, disabled, or part of a sibling group. Children with more than one harder to place characteristic will be counted in each characteristic.

SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS

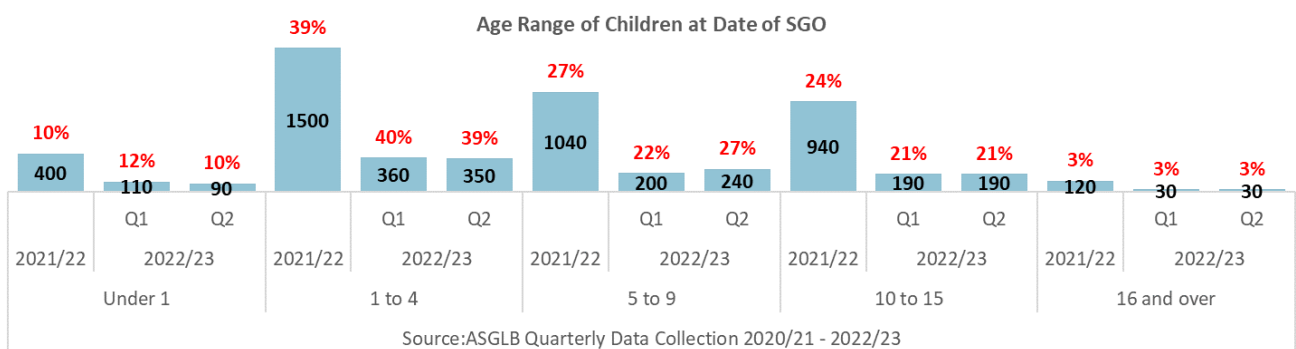
There has been an increase in the number of Special Guardianship orders granted this quarter.

In Q2 2022/23, there were:

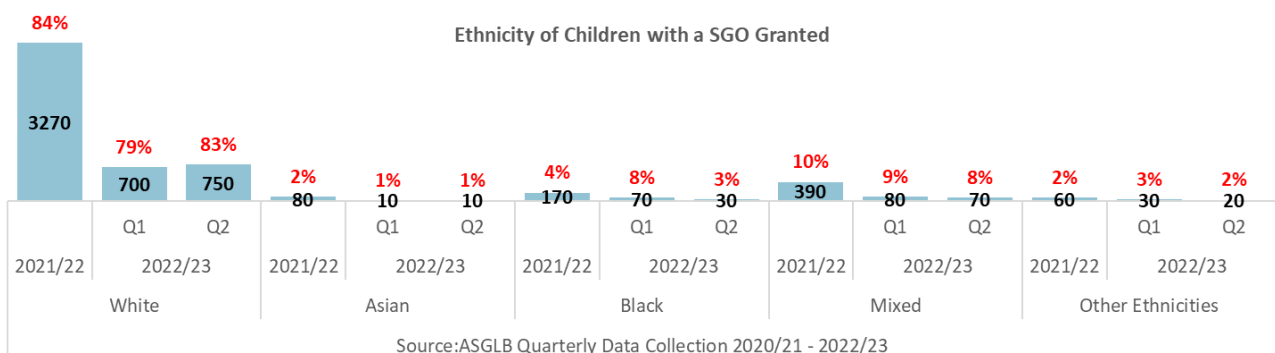
- **900** SGOs granted, an increase of **2% (20n)** from Q1 2022/23, a decrease of **12% (120n)** when compared to Q2 2021/22
- **52%** of the children were male, **48%** female and **4%** had a disability, **16%** were from an Ethnic Minority (excluding White minorities) background and **42%** were in a sibling group



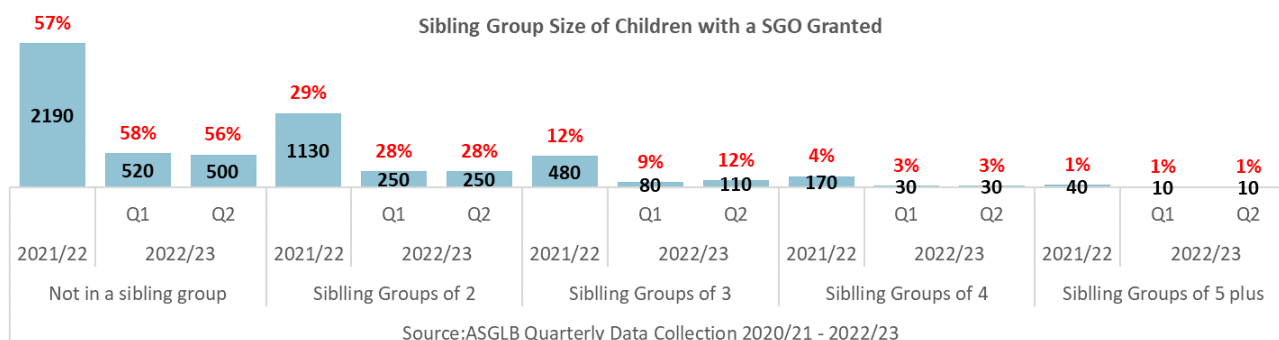
Children aged 1 to 4 continue to be the largest group of children who leave care with a SGO, **39%**, followed by children aged 5 to 9, **27%**.



Children with a White ethnic background continue to be the largest ethnic group who leave care with a Special Guardianship Order, **83%**, followed by children with a Mixed ethnic background, **8%**.

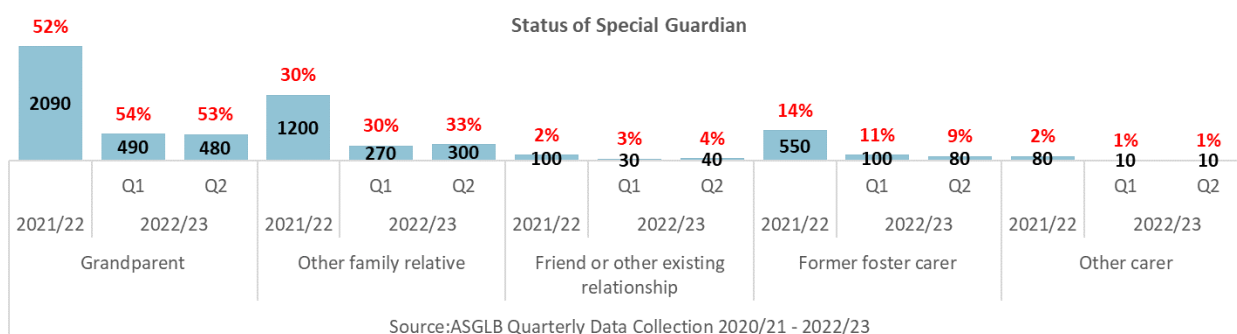


Children not in a sibling group continue to be the largest group of children who leave care with a Special Guardianship Order **56%**, followed by children in a sibling group of 2, **28%**.

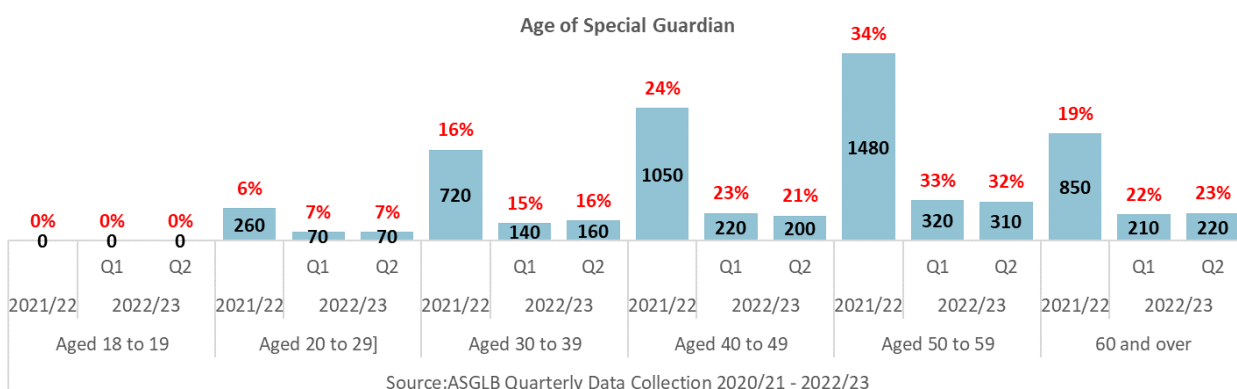


Grandparents are the largest represented group of Special Guardians, **53%**, followed by other family relative, **33%**.

From Q1 to Q2, there was an increase in the number and proportion of SGOs granted to ‘other family relative and ‘friend or ‘other existing relationship’, and a decline in SGOs granted to ‘former foster carers’.



Special Guardians are more likely to be aged over 50, with **32%** of Special Guardians aged 50 to 59 and **23%** aged 60 and over.



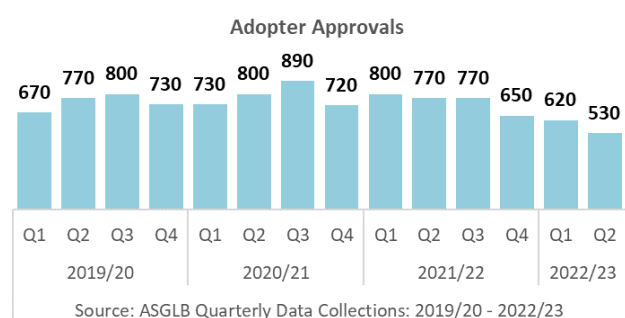
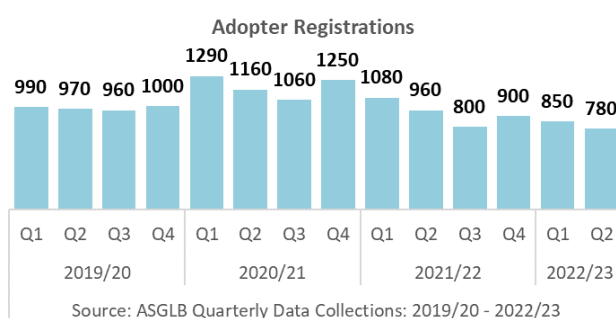
ADOPTERS

The number of approved adoptive families continues to decline, with there being decrease in both the number of adopters not yet approved, and adopters approved and waiting to be matched. Adopter registrations and approvals are also declining.

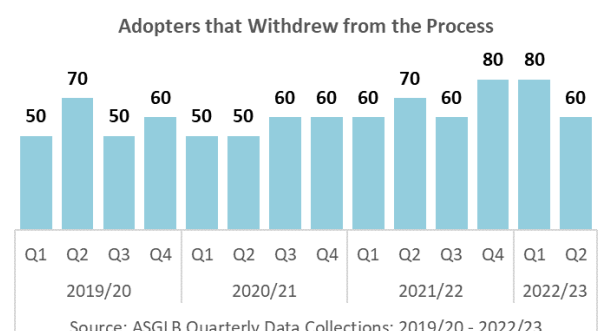
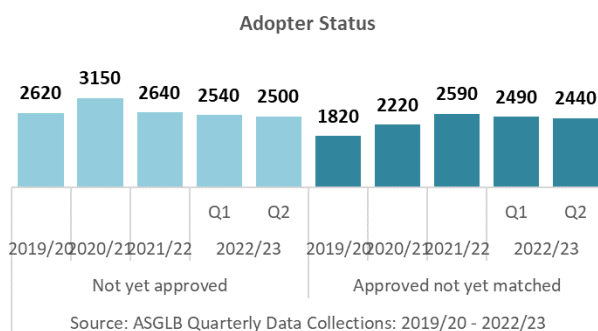
After an increase in Q1, the number of adopters matched with and having a child placed with them decreased.

In Q2 2022/23 there were:

- **780** Registrations, a decrease of **8% (70n)** from Q1 2022/23 and a decrease of **19% (180n)** when compared to Q2 2021/22
- **530** Approvals, a decrease of **15% (90n)** from Q1 2022/23 and a decrease of **31% (240n)** when compared to Q2 2021/22



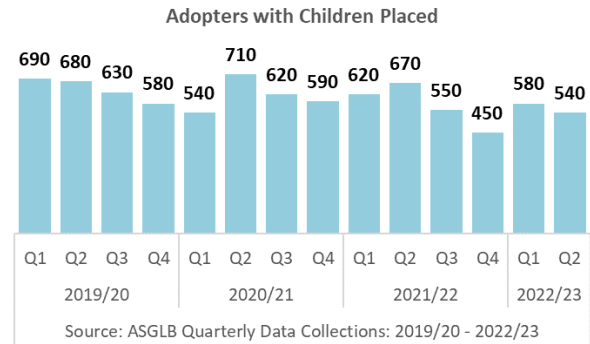
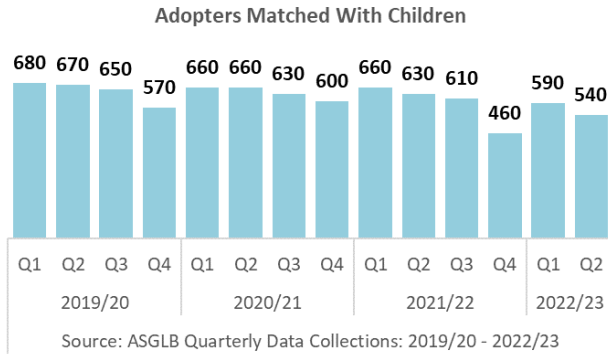
- **2500** Prospective adoptive families not yet approved, a decrease of **2% (40n)** from Q1 2022/23
- **2440** Approved adoptive families waiting to be matched, a decrease of **2% (50n)** from Q1 2022/23
- **60** approved adopters withdrew from the process after approval, a decrease of **25% (20n)** when compared with Q1 2022/23.



The number of adopters being matched and having a child placed with them decreased.

In Q2 2022/23 there were:

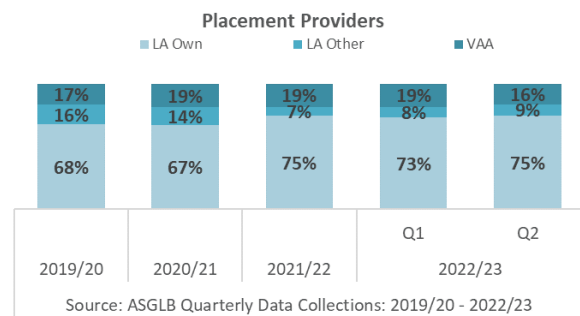
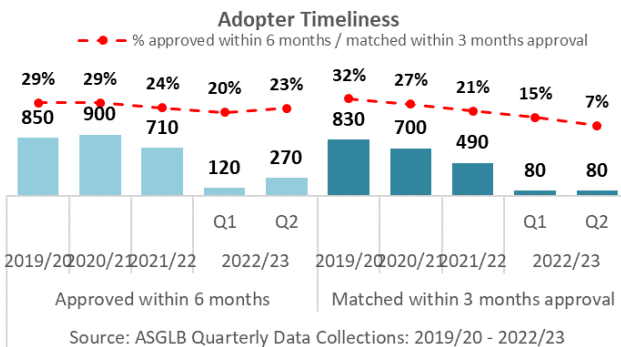
- **540** Adoptive families matched to children, a decrease of **8% (50n)** from Q1 2022/23 and a decrease of **14% (90n)** when compared to Q2 2021/22
- **540** Adoptive families with a child placed, a decrease of **7% (40n)** from Q1 2021/22 and a decrease of **19% (130n)** when compared to Q2 2021/22



Timeliness for adoptive family approvals and for adoptive families being matched has declined.

In Q2 2022/23:

- **23%** of adoptive families were approved within 6 months of registration, an increase of **3** percentage points from Q1 2022/23
- **7%** of approved adoptive families had a child matched with them within 3 months of approval, a decrease of **8** percentage points from Q1 2022/23



There has been a decrease in the proportion of placement providers by the VAAs.

In Q2 2022/23:

- **75%** of placements were provided by LAs themselves (via their RAAs)
- **9%** of placements were provided by other LAs (other RAAs)
- **16%** of placements were provided by VAAs

NB: Percentages may not add due to rounding of numbers

DATA SOURCES

ASG Quarterly Data Collection

In quarter 2 2022/23 the response rate from local authorities for the child level section was 99.3% (*one LA was unable to submit their Q2 child level data return, publications will be updated once the return has been received*) and the adopter level sections was 100%. The response rate for the adopter level section from Voluntary Adoption Agencies was 100%. Therefore, national and regional figures on adoptions and adopters do not include estimates made for non-responses.

SSDA 903 Data Collection

Local authorities provide data on their looked after children using the SSDA903 collection. Data are collected from all local authorities. The information is collected at child level and includes information about the child's characteristics and their dates for each stage of the care process, including adoption. The data goes through thorough quality assurance and local authorities are able to update their historic data annually. We therefore view this as the most robust source of information on adoption. It is used to produce the [Children looked after in England including adoption](#) (SFR) and the [Adoption Scorecards](#). The most recent data covers the year ending 31 March 2021.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication was produced by The ASG Data Collection Team, delivered by Coram-i on behalf of the Department for Education.

download: [ASG Quarterly Data](#)

email: asglb@coram.org.uk

write: Coram-i, Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ