

Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board

Headline Measures and Business Intelligence

Quarter 4 2017 to 2018 Update

November 2018

Note: The Department for Education's annual figures on adoptions and timeliness for children who have been adopted are published in the [Looked After Children statistical first release](#). This is the most robust source of information on adoption.

HEADLINE MEASURES

2630 children waiting at 31 March 2018

This has decreased by 3% from 31 December 2017 when there were 2710 children waiting with a placement order not yet placed with an adoptive family.

However, the number of children waiting with a placement order not yet placed with an adoptive family has increased by 6% from 31 March 2017 when there were 2470 children waiting.

33% of children waiting at 31 March 2018 had been waiting 18 months or more. This is an increase when compared to both 31 December 2017 when 29%, and March 2017 when 27% of children has been waiting 18 months or more.

Child timeliness has improved

The quarterly data suggests that the time taken between a child entering care and being placed with a family for children who were adopted during in 2017/18 was 14 months (Adoption Scorecard indicator A1). This is a decrease on 2016/17 where the average was 15 months

The average time between placement order and match for children who were adopted during 2017/18 was 6 months (Adoption Scorecard indicator A2), this has remained the same as 2016/17, where the average was also 6 months.

Adopter approval timeliness is declining, but time to match has improved

The latest quarterly data suggests adopter timeliness for local authorities is declining. In 2017/18, 31% of approvals made by local authorities were made within 6 months of registration, this compares to 34% the previous year.

However, the timeliness of matches for local authorities is improving; In 2017/18, 31% of matches were made within 3 months of approval, this compares to 26% in 2016/17.

OTHER KEY HEADLINES

New ADM decisions and placement orders granted have fallen

There were 4970 new ADM decisions in 2017/18, a decrease of 4% from 2016/17 when there were 5180 ADM decisions.

Quarterly data suggests that the number of new decisions has continued to fall from 1280 in quarter 3 to 1140 in quarter 4 2017/18; a decrease of 11%.

There were 4010 new placement orders granted in 2017/18, a decrease of 7% from 2016/17 when there were 4310 placement orders.

Quarterly data suggests that the number of new placement orders has continued to fall from 990 in quarter 3 to 860 in quarter 4 2017/18; a decrease of 13%.

Children adopted from care has decreased

In 2017/18 there were 3850 adoptions; a decrease of 12% compared to 2016/17 when there were 4370 adoptions.

The Department's annual figures for 2017-18 on adoptions and timeliness for children who have been adopted are published in the [Looked After Children statistical first release](#). This is the most robust source of information on adoption.

Adoptive family approvals have fallen whilst registrations increased

In 2017/18 there were 3610 registrations to become an adopter. This is an increase of 4% on 2016/17 where there were 3460 registrations to become an adopter.

There were 2880 families approved for adoption in 2017/18. This is a decrease of 4% from 2016/17 when there were 2980 families approved for adoption.

DATA SOURCES

New data This document has been updated with new data from the ALB quarterly survey providing information on children and adopters in the four quarters of 2017/18 (April to June, July to September, October to December 2017 and January to March 2018).

SSDA903 data 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 [Looked After Children statistical first release](#). (SFR) and the [Adoption Scorecards](#). The most recent data covers the year ending 31 March 2018.

ALB quarterly survey In quarter 4 2017/18 the response rate from local authorities for the child level section was 98% and the adopter level section was 98%. Therefore national and regional figures on adoptions and adopters include estimates made for non-responses. Estimates are made by scaling to the regional level based on the number of adoptions in each LA during 2016-17 (from the SSDA903 data). The response rate for the adopter level section from Voluntary Adoption Agencies was 96%.

Ofsted data Ofsted have previously published annual data on the recruitment of adopters and the children placed with them. From quarter 4 2014-15 the Ofsted data collection became part of the quarterly survey.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication was produced by CVAA on behalf of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Board

enquiries: asglb@cvaa.org.uk

download: <http://www.cvaa.org.uk/asglb/data-on-adoption>

visit: <http://www.cvaa.org.uk>