

Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board

Headline Measures and Business Intelligence

Quarter 4 2018 to 2019

December 2019

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

The number of children waiting has decreased

The number of children waiting has decreased. There were 2800 children waiting as at 31st March 2019; a decrease of 4.4% (130n) from 31 December 2018 when there were 2930 children waiting with a placement order not yet placed with an adoptive family.

41% of children waiting at 31 March 2019 had been waiting 18 months or more. This is an increase from 31 December 2018 when 37% of children waiting had been waiting 18 months or more.

Child timeliness for Adoption Scorecard A1 measure has been sustained

The time taken between a child entering care and being placed with a family for children who were adopted in 2018/19 was 14 months (Adoption Scorecard indicator A1). This has remained the same as 2017/18.

Child timeliness for Adoption Scorecard measure A2 has been sustained

The average time between placement order and match for children who were adopted during in 2018/19 was 6 months (Adoption Scorecard indicator A2). This has remained the same as 2017/18.

Adopter approval timeliness has improved

Adopter timeliness for local authorities has improved. In 2018/19, 32% of approvals made by local authorities were made within 6 months of registration, this compares to 31% in 2017/18.

Timeliness for matches has declined

Timeliness of matches for local authorities has declined. 36% of matches were made within 3 months of approval in 2018/19 compared to 38% in 2017/18.

OTHER KEY HEADLINES

New ADM decisions have fallen The number of new ADMs continue to fall. There were 4550 new ADMS in 2018/19; a decrease of 8% (420n) from 2017/18 when there were 4870 ADMs.

Placement orders granted have fallen The number of new placement orders continues to fall. There were 3700 new placement orders in 2018/19; a decrease of 8% (310n) from 2017/18 when there were 4010 placement orders.

Children adopted from care has fallen There were 3540 adoptions in 2018/19; a decrease of 7% (280n) from 2017/18 when there were 3820 adoptions.

Registrations have increased The number of registrations to become an adopter is increasing. There were 4000 registrations in 2018/19; an increase of 11% (400n) from 2017/18 when there were 3600.

Adoptive family approvals have decreased The number of families approved for adoption has decreased. There were 2940 families approved for adoption in 2018/19; a decrease of 1% (40n) from 2017/18 when there were 2980.

Prospective Adopters awaiting approval has increased There has been an increase in the number of prospective adopters. There were 2850 prospective adopters not yet approved in 2018/19; an increase of 23% (530) from 2017/18 when there were 2320.

DATA SOURCES

New data This document has been updated with new data from the ASGLB quarterly survey providing information on children and adopters in the four quarters of 2018/19 (April to June, July to September, October to December 2018 and January to March 2019).

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 the [Looked After Children Statistical First Release](#). (SFR) and the [Adoption Scorecards](#). The most recent data covers the year ending 31 March 2018.

ASGLB quarterly survey In quarter 4 2018/19 the response rate from local authorities for the child level section was 100% and the adopter level sections was 100%. Therefore, national and regional figures on adoptions and adopters do not 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 2017-18 (from the SSDA903 data). The response rate for the adopter level section from Voluntary Adoption Agencies was 100%.

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 Coram-i on behalf of the Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board

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