

Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board

Headline Measures and Business Intelligence

Quarter 1 2017 to 2018 Update

August 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

2,460 children waiting at 30 June 2017

This is a 0.4% decrease from 31 March 2017 when there were 2,470 children waiting with a placement order not yet placed with an adoptive family.

28% of children waiting at 30 June 2017 had 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 the first two quarters of 2017/18 was 14 months (Adoption Scorecard indicator A1).

The average time between placement order and match for children who were adopted during the first two quarters in 2017/18 was 6 months (Adoption Scorecard indicator A2). This has remained static when compared to 2016/17, where the average was also 6 months.

Adopter timeliness is declining

The latest quarterly data suggests adopter timeliness for local authorities is declining. In the first two quarters of 2017/18, 29% of approvals made by local authorities were made within 6 months of registration, this compares to 34% the previous year.

Timeliness of matches for local authorities is also declining; 27% of matches were made within 3 months of approval in the first two quarters of 2017/18 compared to 31% during the same time period the previous year.

OTHER KEY HEADLINES

New ADM decisions and placement orders granted have fallen

Quarterly data suggests that the number of new decisions has continued to fall from 1260 in quarter 4 2017/18 to 1080 in quarter 1 2017/18; a decrease of 14%.

The number of new placement orders has also fallen from 1070 in quarter 4 in 2017/18 to 900 in quarter 1 2017/18; a decrease of 16%.

Children adopted from care has decreased

In 2016/17 there were 4350 adoptions; a decrease of 8% compared to 2015/16 when there were 4710 adoptions.

Quarterly data suggests that there were 920 children adopted in quarter 1 2017/18; a decrease of 13% compared to quarter 4 2016/17 when there were 1060 children adopted

Adoptive family approvals and registrations have decreased

Registrations to become an adopter have declined from 950 in quarter 4 2017/18 to 790 in quarter 1 2017/18; a decrease of 17%.

The number of families approved for adoption has declined from 710 in quarter 4 2017/18 to 570 in quarter 1 2017/18; a decrease of 20%.

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 first quarter of 2017/18 (April to June 2017).

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 2017.

ALB quarterly survey In quarter 1 2017/18 the response rate from local authorities for the child level section was 95% and the adopter level sections was 95%. 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 73%.

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>

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