

Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board

Headline Measures and Business Intelligence

Quarter 1 2018 to 2019 Update

February 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

2,770 children waiting at 30 June 2017 This is a 5% increase from 31 March 2018 when there were 2630 children waiting with a placement order not yet placed with an adoptive family.

35% of children waiting at 30 June 2018 had been waiting 18 months or more. This is an increase from 31 March 2018 when 33% of children waiting had been waiting 18 months or more.

Child timeliness has stalled 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 quarter of 2018/19 was 14 months (Adoption Scorecard indicator A1). This has remained the same as 2017/18.

The average time between placement order and match for children who were adopted during the first quarter in 2018/19 was 5 months (Adoption Scorecard indicator A2). This is a decrease from 2017/18 when the average was 6 months.

Adopter approval timeliness is declining The latest quarterly data suggests adopter timeliness for local authorities is declining. In the first quarter of 2018/19, 28% of approvals made by local authorities were made within 6 months of registration, this compares to 31% in 2017/18.

However, timeliness of matches for local authorities is improving; 35% of matches were made within 3 months of approval in the first quarter of 2018/19 compared to 31% in 2017/18.

OTHER KEY HEADLINES

New ADM decisions have fallen Quarterly data suggests that the number of new decisions has continued to fall from 1140 in quarter 4 2017/18 to 1090 in quarter 1 2018/19; a decrease of 4%.

Placement orders granted have risen The number of new placement orders has risen from 860 in quarter 4 in 2017/18 to 900 in quarter 1 2018/19; an increase of 5%.

Children adopted from care has decreased In 2017/18 there were 3820 adoptions; a decrease of 13% compared to 2016/17 when there were 4370 adoptions.
Quarterly data suggests that there were 830 children adopted in quarter 1 2018/19; a decrease of 19% compared to quarter 1 2017/18 when there were 1030 children adopted

Registrations and Adoptive family approvals have declined Registrations to become an adopter have declined from 960 in quarter 4 2017/18 to 830 in quarter 1 2018/19; a decrease of 14%.
The number of families approved for adoption has declined from 650 in quarter 4 2017/18 to 640 in quarter 1 2018/19; a decrease of 2%.

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 2018/19 (April to June 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 1 2018/19 the response rate from local authorities for the child level section was 88% and the adopter level sections was 86%. 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 69%.

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

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