

Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board

Headline Measures and Business Intelligence

Quarter 3 2018 to 2019 Update

May 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

2750 children waiting at 31 December 2018

This is a 1.9% increase from 30 September 2018 when there were 2700 children waiting with a placement order not yet placed with an adoptive family.

39% of children waiting at 31 December 2018 had been waiting 18 months or more. This is an increase from 30 September 2018 when 34% of children waiting had been waiting 18 months or more.

Child timeliness for Adoption Scorecare A1 measure has been sustained

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 three quarters of 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 the first three quarters in 2018/19 was 6 months (Adoption Scorecard indicator A2). This has remained the same as 2017/18.

Adopter approval timeliness has been sustained

The latest quarterly data suggests adopter timeliness for local authorities has stalled. In the third quarter of 2018/19, 31% of approvals made by local authorities were made within 6 months of registration. This has remained the same as 2017/18.

Timeliness for matches has improved

Timeliness of matches for local authorities has improved. 38% of matches were made within 3 months of approval in the first three quarters 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 1170 in quarter 2 2018/19 to 1070 in quarter 3 2018/19; a decrease of 9%.

Placement orders granted have fallen The number of new placement orders has fallen from 920 in quarter 2 in 2018/19 to 850 in quarter 3 2018/19; a decrease of 8%.

Children adopted from care has fallen 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 2470 children adopted in the first three quarters of 2018/19; 65% of the total children adopted in 2017/18

Registrations have increased Registrations to become an adopter have increased from 800 in quarter 2 to 920 in quarter 3; an increase of 15%.

Adoptive family approvals have increased The number of families approved for adoption has increased from 670 in quarter 2 2018/19 to 780 in quarter 3 2018/19; an increase of 16%.

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 three quarters of 2018/19 (April to June, July to September and October to December 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 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 3 2018/19 the response rate from local authorities for the child level section was 90% and the adopter level sections was 80%. 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 2017-18 (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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