

# Adoption and Special Guardianship Quarterly Data Collection

## Headline Measures: Q4 2022/23

**July 2023**

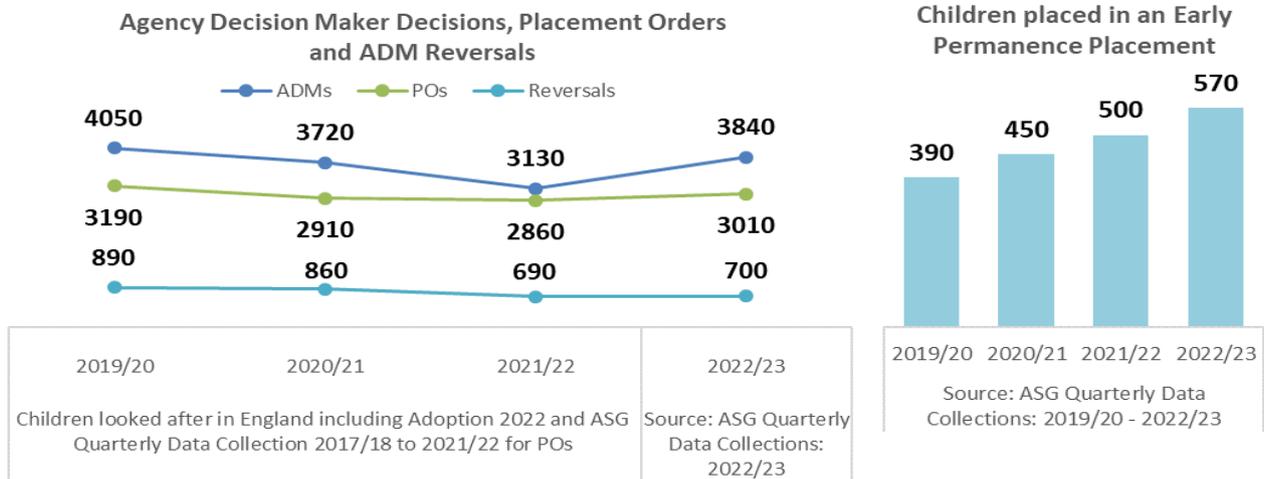
Note: The Department for Education's annual figures on adoptions and timeliness for children who have been adopted are published in the [Children looked after in England including adoption](#) SFR. This is the most robust source of information on adoption.

## CHILDREN

There has been an increase in the number of Adoption Orders, while the number of Special Guardianship Orders have remained the same as last year. Agency Decision Maker decisions and Placement Orders have also increased, resulting in a rise in the number children waiting with a Placement Order. Less children are waiting with a PO 18+ months since entering care, 12+ and 18+ months since grant of PO. The number of children matched with an adoptive family continues to decline, but there has been an increase in the number of children placed with an adoptive family.

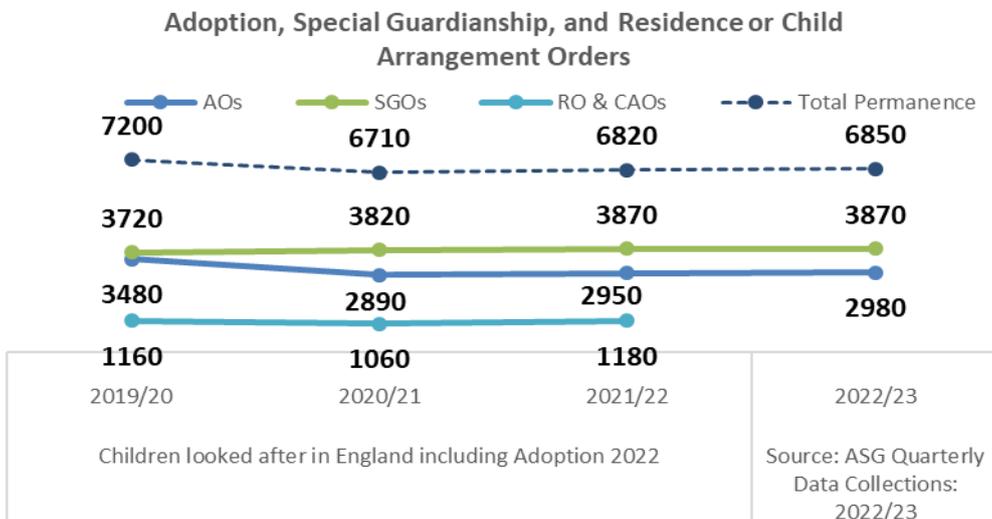
In 2022/23 there were:

- **3840** Agency Decision Maker decisions, an increase of **23% (710n)** when compared to the DfE’s Children looked after in England including Adoption 2022 data (*shown below*), and an increase of **15% (490n)** when compared to the ASG total of 3350 for 2021/22
- **3010** Placement Orders granted, an increase of **5% (150n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **700** ADM Reversals, an increase of **1% (100n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **570** FFA/CP placements, an increase of **14% (70n)** when compared to 2021/22

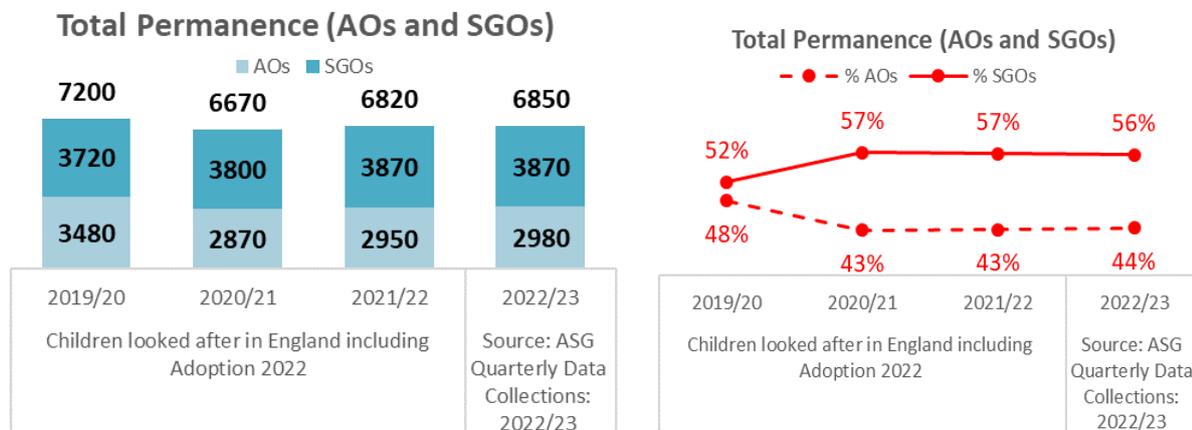


In 2022/23 there were:

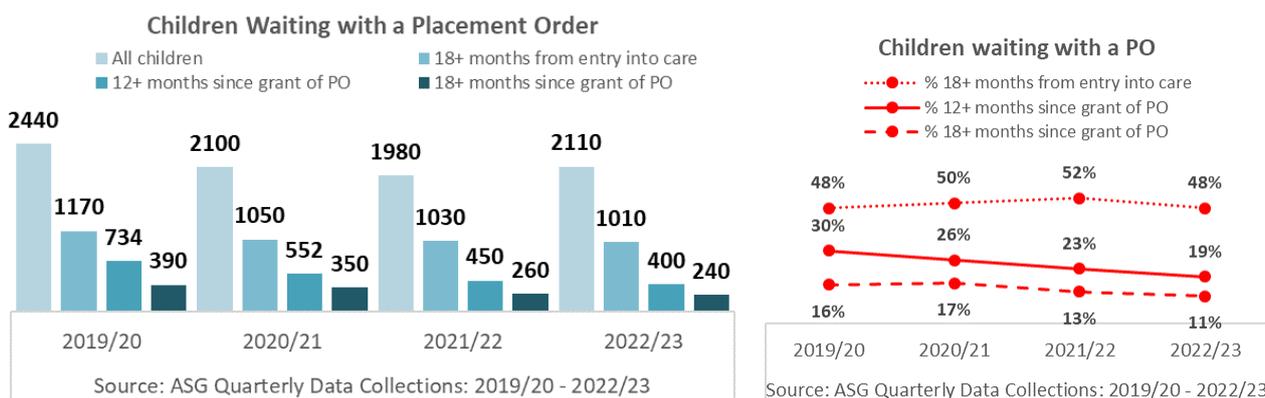
- **2980** Adoption Orders granted, an increase of **1% (30n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **3870** Special Guardianship Orders granted, the same when compared to 2021/22
- In total there were **6850** permanence orders (AOs and SGO), an increase of **0.4% (30n)** when compared to 2021/22



There continues to be more SGOs granted than AOs granted, with SGOs accounting for **56%** of permanence orders, the same when compared to 2021/22



There has been an increase in the number of children waiting with a PO and a decrease in the number and proportion of children waiting with a PO 18+ months since entering care, 12+ months, and 18+ months since grant of PO.



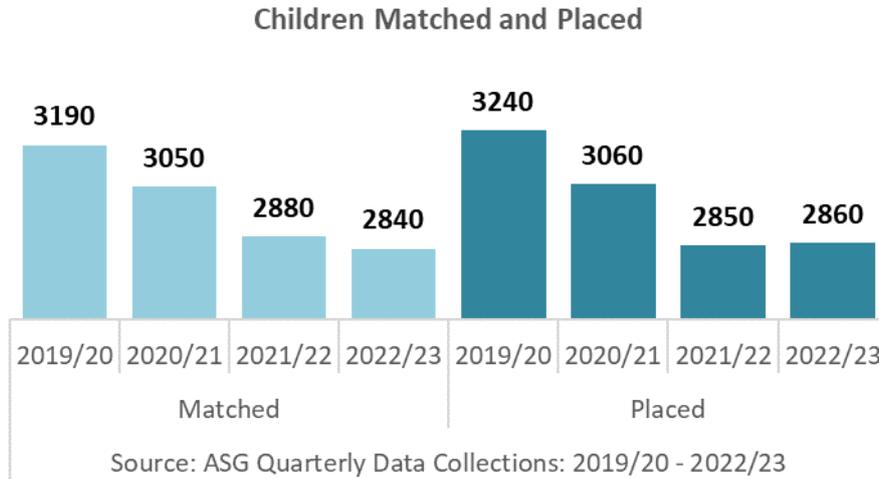
In 2022/23 there were:

- **2110** Children with a PO waiting to be matched, an increase of **7% (130n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **1010** Children with a PO waiting to be matched 18+ months since entering care, a decrease of **2% (20n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **48%** of children with a PO have been waiting to be matched 18+ months since entering care, a decrease of **4** percentage points when compared to 2021/22
- **400** Children with a PO waiting to be matched 12+ months since grant of PO, a decrease of **11% (50n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **11%** of children with a PO have been waiting to be matched 12+ months since grant of PO, a decrease of **2** percentage points when compared to 2021/22
- **240** Children with a PO waiting to be matched 18+ months since grant of PO, a decrease of **8% (20n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **19%** of children with a PO have been waiting to be matched 18+ months since grant of PO, a decrease of **4** percentage points when compared to 2021/22

The increase in the number of ADM and POs granted has impacted on the increase in the number of children waiting with a PO.

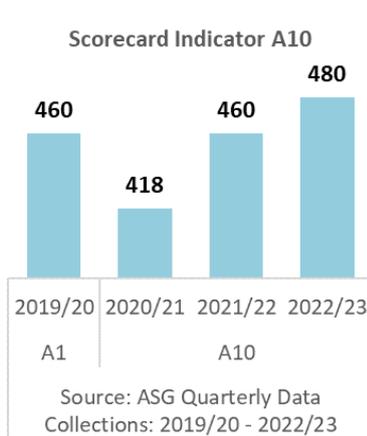
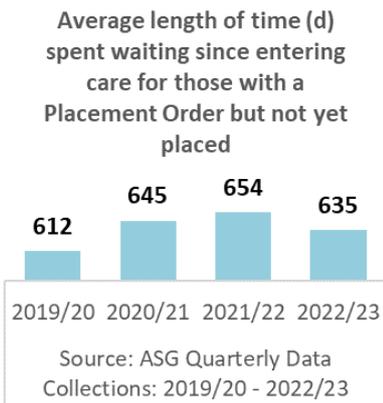
In 2022/23 there were:

- **2840** Children matched with an adoptive family, a decrease of **1% (40n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **2860** Children placed with an adoptive family, an increase of **0.4% (10n)** when compared to 2021/22



In 2021/22:

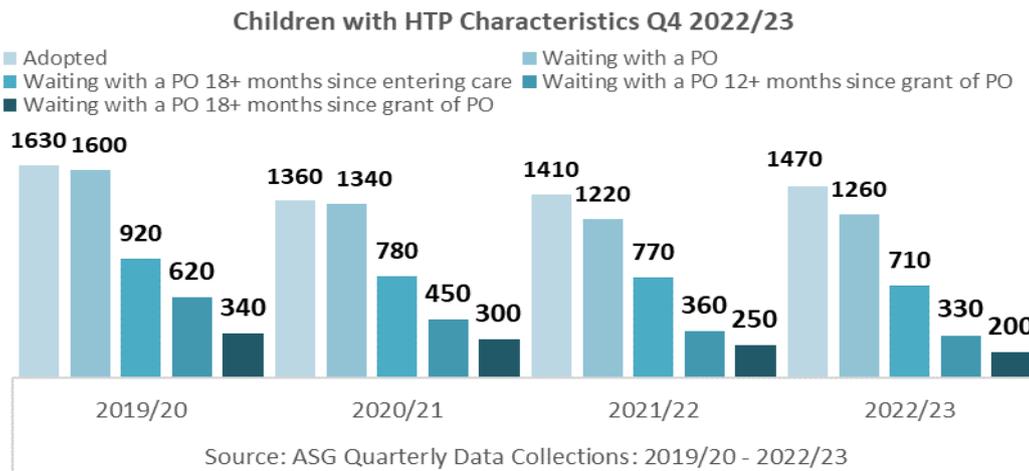
- The average number of days spent waiting to be placed with placement order since entering care was **635** days, a decrease of **19** days when compared to 2021/22
- Scorecard Indicator A10 (average number of days between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster care adoptions) was **480** days, an increase of **20** days when compared to 2021/22
- Scorecard Indicator A2 (average time between an LA receiving court authority to place a child and deciding on a match to an adoptive family) was **197** days, a decrease of **2** days when compared to 2021/22



There has been an increase in the number of children with harder to place (HTP) characteristics adopted. There has also been an increase in the number of children with HTP characteristics waiting with a PO, but a decrease in the numbers waiting 18+ months since entering care, 12+ months, and 18+ months since grant of PO.

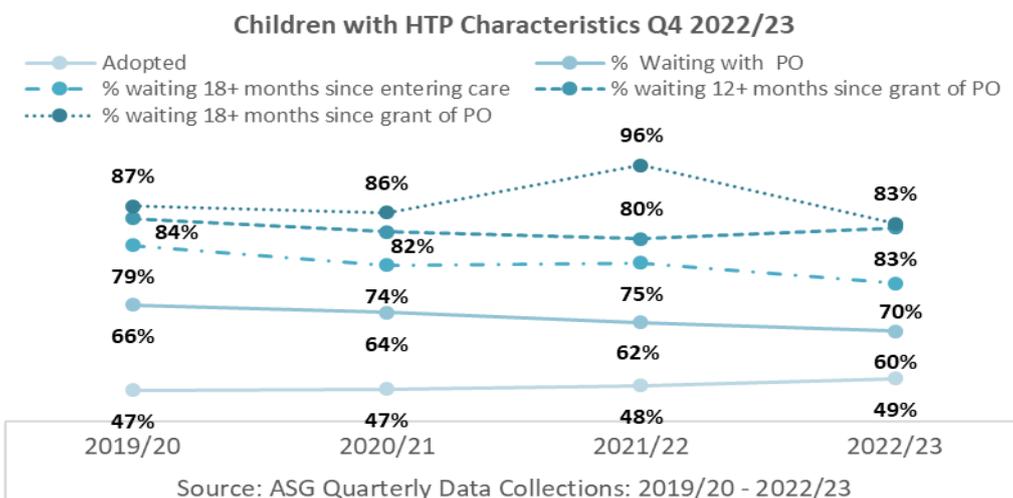
In 2022/23 there were:

- **1470** children with HTP characteristics adopted, an increase of **4% (60n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **1260** children with HTP characteristics waiting with a PO, an increase of **3% (40n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **710** children with HTP characteristics waiting with a PO 18+ months since entering care, a decrease of **8% (60n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **330** children with HTP characteristics waiting with a PO 12+ months since grant of PO, a decrease of **8% (30n)** when compared to 2021/22, and **200** children with HTP characteristics waiting with a PO 18+ months since grant of PO, a decrease of **20% (50n)** when compared to 2021/22



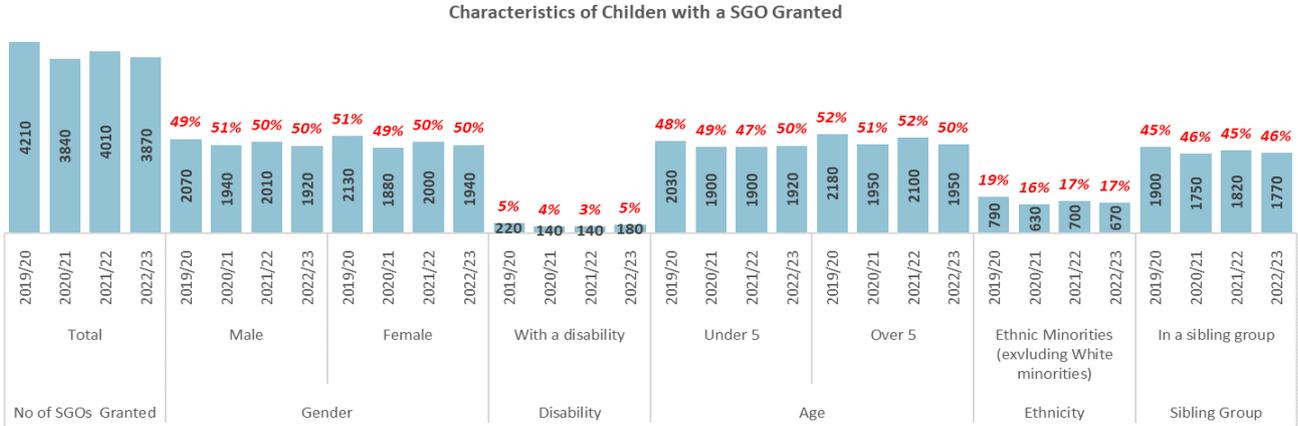
In 2022/23:

- **49%** of all children adopted had HTP characteristics, an increase of **1%** when compared to 2021/22
- **60%** of all children waiting with a PO had HTP characteristics, a decrease of **2%** when compared to 2021/22
- **70%** of all children waiting with a PO 18+ months since entering care had HTP characteristics, a decrease of **5%** when compared to 2021/22
- **83%** of all children waiting with a PO 12+ months since grant of PO had HTP characteristics, an increase of **3%** when compared to 2021/22, and **83%** of all children waiting with a PO 18+ months since grant of PO had HTP characteristics, a decrease of **13%** when compared to 2021/22



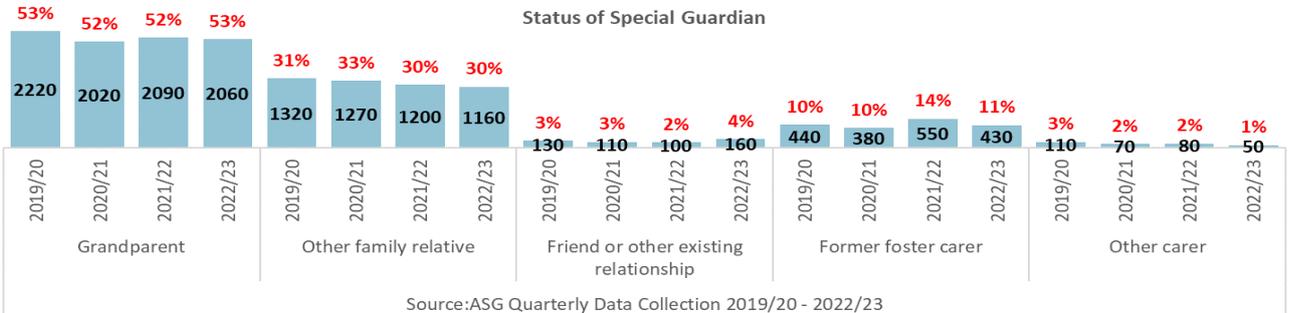
### SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP ORDERS

In 2022/23 there were **3870** Special Guardianship Orders granted, a decrease of **3% (140n)** when compared to the ASG 2021/22 data (*shown below*) and the same when compared to the DfE’s Children looked after in England including Adoption 2022 data.



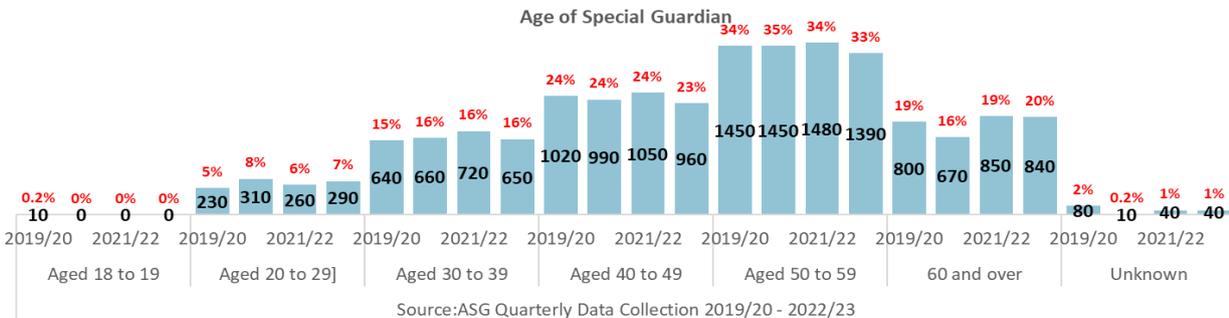
- **50% (1920n)** of the children were male, **50% (1940n)** were female
- **5% (180n)** SGOs were granted for children with a disability
- **50% (1920n)** SGOs were granted for children under 5 years
- **17% (670n)** SGOs were granted from children with an Ethnic Minority (excludes White minorities) background
- **46% (1770n)** children were in a sibling group of two or more

Special Guardians are more likely to be grandparents, and more likely to be aged between 50 to 59.



Source:ASG Quarterly Data Collection 2019/20 - 2022/23

- **53% (2060n)** of children with an SGO granted, had a special guardian who was a grandparent



Source:ASG Quarterly Data Collection 2019/20 - 2022/23

- **33% (1390n)** of children with an SGO granted, had a special guardian who was aged between 50 to 59

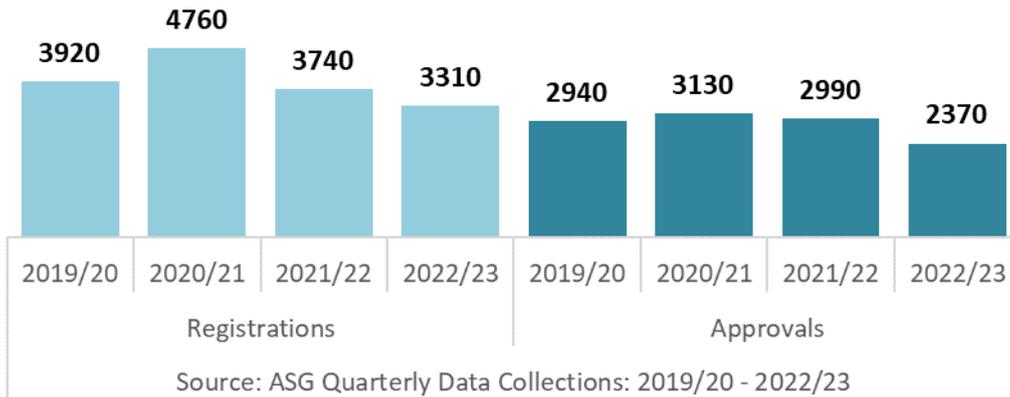
**ADOPTERS**

There has been a decrease in the number of adopter registrations and approvals, prospective adopters not yet approved, and approved adopters waiting to be matched with a child.

In 2022/23 there were a total of:

- **3310** Registrations, a decrease of **11% (430n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **2370** Approvals, a decrease of **21% (620n)** when compared to 2021/22

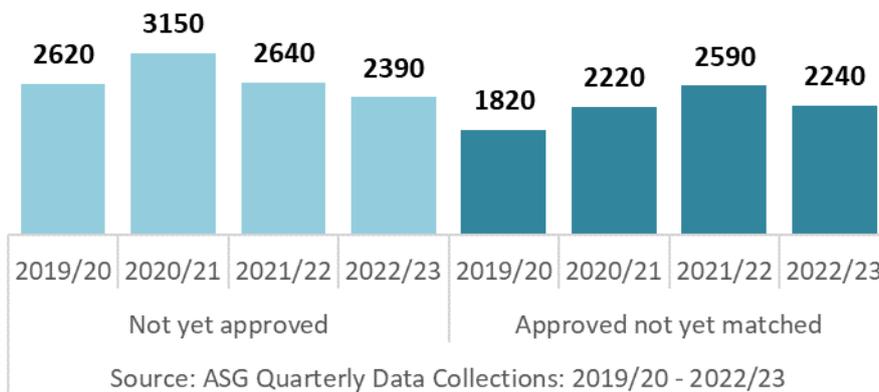
**Adopter Registrations and Approvals**



There has been a decrease in both the number of adopters not yet approved and approved adopters waiting to be matched with a child. In 2022/23 there were a total of:

- **2390** Prospective adoptive families not yet approved, a decrease of **9% (250n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **2240** Approved adoptive families waiting to be matched, a decrease of **14% (350n)** when compared to 2021/22

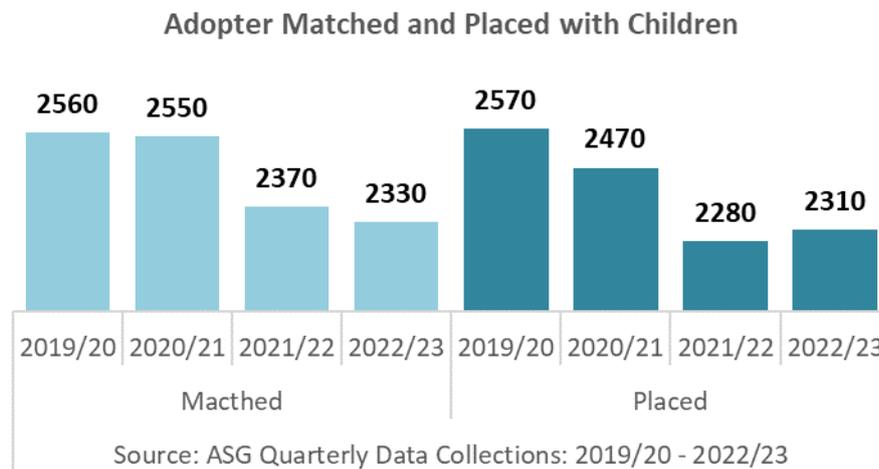
**Adopter Status**



There number of adoptive families matched with a child continued to decrease, but there was a small increase in the number of adoptive families with a child placed with them.

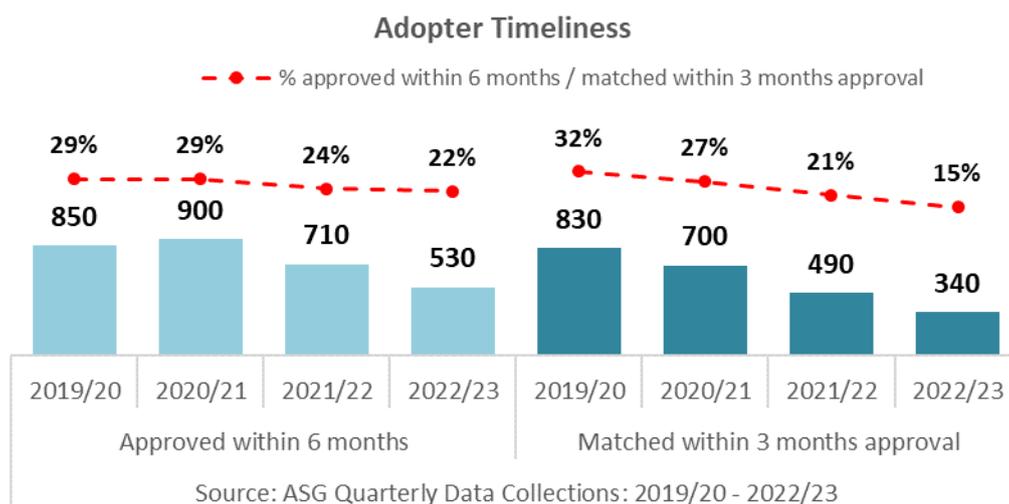
In 2022/23 there were a total of:

- **2330** Adoptive families matched to children, a decrease of **2% (40n)** when compared to 2021/22
- **2310** Adoptive families with a child placed, an increase of **1% (30n)** when compared to 2021/22



The timeliness of adoptive family approvals and matching is declining. In 2021/22:

- **22%** of adoptive families were approved within 6 months of registration, a decrease of **2** percentage points when compared to 2021/22
- **15%** of approved adoptive families had a child matched with them within 3 months of approval, a decrease of **6** percentage points when compared to 2021/22



## DATA SOURCES

### ASG Quarterly Data Collection

In quarter 4 2022/23 the response rate from local authorities for the child level section was 100% and the adopter level sections was 100%. The response rate for the adopter level section from Voluntary Adoption Agencies was 100%. Therefore, national and regional figures on adoptions and adopters do not include estimates made for non-responses.

### SSDA 903 Data Collection

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 [Children looked after in England including adoption](#) (SFR) and the [Adoption Scorecards](#). The most recent data covers the year ending 31 March 2020.

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication was produced by The Children and Social Care Secretariat, delivered by Coram-i on behalf of the Department for Education.

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