

Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board

Headline Measures and Business Intelligence

Quarter 3 2017 to 2018 Update

September 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

2650 children waiting at 31 December 2017

This has remained the same as 30 September 2017 when there were also 2650 children waiting with a placement order not yet placed with an adoptive family.

30% of children waiting at 31 December 2017 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 three quarters in 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 three quarters in 2017/18 was 6 months (Adoption Scorecard indicator A2), a decrease when compared to 2016/17, where the average was 7 months.

Adopter timeliness is increasing

The latest quarterly data suggests adopter timeliness for local authorities is increasing. In the first three quarters of 2017/18, 31% of approvals made by local authorities were made within 6 months of registration, this compares to 30% the previous year.

However, the timeliness of matches for local authorities is declining; 31% of matches were made within 3 months of approval in the first three quarters of 2017/18 compared to 38% during the same 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 1160 in quarter 2 2017/18 to 1140 in quarter 3 2017/18; a decrease of 2%.

The number of new placement orders has also fallen from 990 in quarter 2 2017/18 to 870 in quarter 3 2017/18; a decrease of 12%.

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 2750 children adopted in the first three quarters of 2017/18; a decrease of 12% compared the first three quarters of 2016/17 when there were 3110 children adopted.

Adoptive family approvals have increased and registrations remained the same

Registrations to become an adopter have decreased from 790 in quarter 2 2017/18 to 760 in quarter 3 2018/18; a decrease of 4%.

The number of families approved for adoption has increased from 680 in quarter 2 2017/18 to 740 in quarter 3 2017/18; an increase of 9%.

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 2017/18 (April to June, July to September and October to December 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 3 2017/18 the response rate from local authorities for the child level section was 93% and the adopter level section was 89%. 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 59%.

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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