



Department
for Education

Adoption Leadership Board headline measures and business intelligence

Quarter 4 2016 to 2017 update

May 2018

Note: The Department's annual figures for 2016-17 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.

Summary

Adoption Leadership Board (ALB) Headline Measures

2,470 children waiting at 31 March 2017 This is a 7% increase from 31 December 2016 when there were 2,320 children waiting with a placement order not yet placed with an adoptive family.

27% of children waiting at 31 March 2017 had been waiting 18 months or more.

The Department's annual figures for 2016-17 on adoptions are published in the [Looked After Children statistical first release](#).

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 in 2016-17, was 15 months (Adoption Scorecard indicator A1).

The average time between placement order and match for children who were adopted in 2016-17 was 6 months (Adoption Scorecard indicator A2). This represents an improvement of 2 months compared to 2015-16, where the average was 8 months.

The Department's annual figures for 2016-17 on adoptions are published in the [Looked After Children statistical first release](#).

Adopter timeliness is improving The latest quarterly data suggests adopter timeliness for local authorities has improved. In 2016-17 34% of approvals made by local authorities were made within 6 months of registration, this compares to 30% the previous year.

The timeliness of matches has remained stable. 26% of matches were made within 3 months of approval in 2016-17, compared to 27% during the same time period the previous year.

Note: Adopter timeliness figures exclude information not available.

Other Key Headlines

New ADM decisions and placement orders granted are stable

The latest quarterly data suggests that there were 5,180 new ADM (Agency Decision Maker) decisions in 2016-17. This is an increase from 4,750 decisions that were reported in the quarterly data in 2015-16.

There were 4,310 new placement orders in 2016-17, this compares to 3,840 placement orders reported in the quarterly data the previous year.

The Department's annual figures for 2016-17 on adoptions are published in the [Looked After Children statistical first release](#).

Children adopted from care has decreased slightly

Quarterly data suggests that there were 4,370 children adopted in 2016-17.

The Department's annual figures for 2016-17 on adoptions are published in the [Looked After Children statistical first release](#).

Adoptive family approvals and registrations have decreased

While registrations to become an adopter have increased by 27% from 750 in quarter 3 2016-17, to 950 in quarter 4 2016-17, the overall picture is that the number of registrations have plateaued at 3,460 in 2016-17 showing a small decrease of 2% since 2015-16 when there were 3,540 registrations.

The number of families approved for adoption has decreased by 17% from 3,610 in 2015-16 to 2,980 in 2016-17. Furthermore, there has been a slight decrease from 750 in quarter 3 2016-17 to 710 in quarter 4 2016-17.

Data Sources

New data This document has been updated with new data from the ALB quarterly survey providing information on children and adopters in 2016-17 (April 2016 to March 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 4 2016-17 the response rate from local authorities was 97% for the child level section of the return and 95% for the adopter level section. 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 86%.

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.



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