



Department
for Education

Adoption Leadership Board headline measures and business intelligence

Quarter 2 2014 to 2015 update

December 2014

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Summary

Adoption Leadership Board (ALB) Headline Measures

3,470 children waiting at 30 September 2014

This is a 26% decrease from 31 March 2014 when there were 4,680 children waiting with a placement order not yet placed with an adoptive family.

Child timeliness has improved

In 2013-14, the average number of days between entering care and placement was 594 days, which is an improvement from 656 days in 2012-13, but still 47 days above the scorecard threshold. At 216 days, the average number of days between placement order and match in 2013-14 is a slight improvement on 2012-13, but 64 days longer than the 2011-14 threshold. Latest quarterly data suggests there has been little change in the A1 indicator between quarters 1 and 2 2014-15, which has decreased from 541 to 539 days. The A2 indicator has increased from 222 to 236 days, a further increase on the 2013-14 figure.

“Adopter gap” has closed

Our most recent estimate for the “adopter gap” suggests that the gap has closed, and we now have more adopters than children waiting. However, there are still 3,060 children with a placement order not yet matched and the relevance of this measure assumes that matching is working effectively.

Adopter timeliness has improved

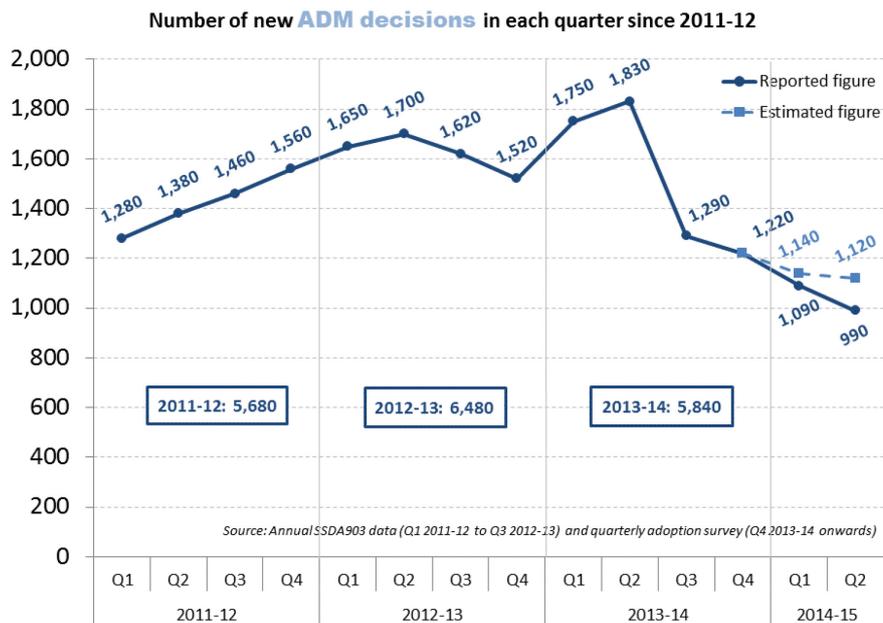
The latest Ofsted data shows that the proportion of decisions made within 6 months of application in 2013-14 was 35%. This compares to 27% in 2012-13. The latest quarterly data, however, suggests timeliness is beginning to decline. In quarter 2 2013-14, 50% of approvals were made within 6 months of application, this was 32% in quarter 2 2014-15. The timeliness of matches has also declined. In quarter 4 2013-14, 80% of matches were made within 6 months of approval, this was 71% in quarter 2 2014-15.

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 1,830 in quarter 2 2013-14 to 990 in quarter 2 2014-15, a decrease of 46%. The number of new placement orders have also continued to fall from 1,550 in quarter 2 2013-14 to 780 in quarter 2 2014-14, a decrease of 50%.

The charts below show the number of ADM decisions and placement orders over time. The estimated figures on the charts are based on the uplift seen in previous quarters when local authorities revise their figures the following quarter. **As the reported decrease has not been as steep this quarter, figures indicate that the number of ADM decisions and placement orders may be beginning to level out.**



2,510 children adopted in first half of 2014-15 2013-14 saw the highest number of adoptions from care since the current data collection began in 1992, with 5,050 children adopted from care. Quarterly data suggests that in the first half of 2014-15 there were 2,510 children adopted from care.

Adopter approvals have increased, but registrations have decreased The number of adopter families approved for adoption has increased by 4% from 1,200 in quarter 1 2014-15 to 1,250 in quarter 2 2014-15. However registrations to become an adopter have decreased by 21% from 1,750 in quarter 1 2014-15 to 1,380 in quarter 2 2014-15.

New 2 stage process Approvals made via the new process were 6 weeks quicker than those approved via the old process in the first half of 2014-15.

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 second quarter of 2014-15 (July to September).

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 2014. The SFR can be found [here](#).

ALB quarterly survey From quarter 4 2013-14, responsibility for quarterly surveys transferred (from the DfE for local authorities and the CVAA for voluntary adoption agencies) to the ALB. The ALB collection form includes new variables, the biggest change being that adopter data is requested at adopter level (previous collections asked for this aggregated to agency level). This was also the first time voluntary adoption agencies were asked for the same adopter information as local authorities.

All local authorities and all voluntary adoption agencies provided a return in quarter 1 2014-15. The response rate for adoptions information in quarter 2 2014-15 was 99% (150 local authorities), whilst the response rate for the adopters information was 94% for local authorities (143 local authorities), and 97% for voluntary adoption agencies (28 voluntary adoption agencies). The quarter 1 2014-15 figures have been revised since the last pack due to further data being received from local authorities and revised historical information being provided in the quarter 2 returns. Figures relating to quarters 1 and 2 2014-15 are based on all data provided for that quarter.

Ofsted data Ofsted publish annual data on the recruitment of adopters and the children placed with them. Data is collected on both local authority recruitment and voluntary adoption agency recruitment. We include information on adopter timeliness taken from this collection in this pack. Data relating to 2013-14 was published in November.



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