



Derby City Council

**Corporate Parenting Sub-Board
20 August 2013**

ITEM 8

Report of the Strategic Director of Children and
Young People's Services

Children in Care – Annual Performance Report 2012/13

SUMMARY

- 1.1 At the end of March 2013 there was a total of 465 looked after children in Derby, which equated to 81.6 per 10,000 children aged under 18 years.
- 1.2 Overall, the total number of looked after children has reduced throughout 2012/13 with a fall of 3% (480) by the end of the year compared to March 2012. This is a trend which has continued into the first quarter of 2013/14, with a drop to 462 at the end of June 2013.
- 1.3 The profile of looked after children remains consistent with the position reported at the end of 2011/12, with the largest proportion of children in care being aged 10 years and over, White – British, male and just under half (44%) have been in care for less than two years.
- 1.4 The Looked After and Adopted Children and Young People Strategy was introduced in 2012/13, which aimed to improve outcomes against three key priorities and support improvements in three development areas; this report highlights progress against each of these areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the 2012/13 performance results relating to looked after children.
- 2.2 To consider how the performance information aligns to the 2013/14 forward plan for Corporate Parenting, and consider how to address any gaps highlighted in **Appendix 3**.
- 2.3 To note the performance update on health assessments for looked after children set out in paragraphs 5.5, 5.6 and in Appendix 3.

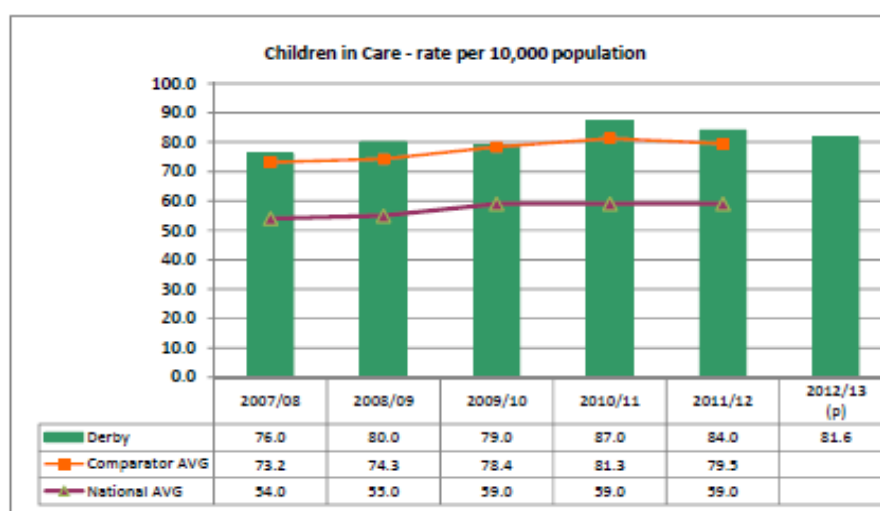
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is essential that Corporate Parenting are aware of performance information relating to looked after children and the outcomes achieved for them, providing them with the opportunity to challenge services as appropriate.

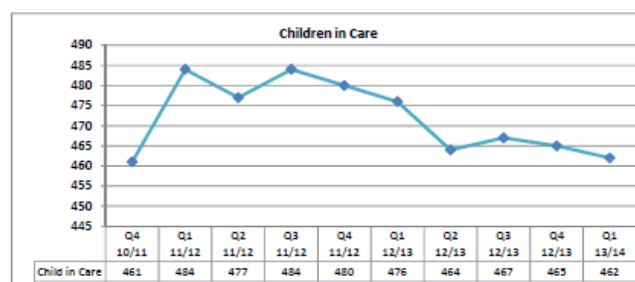
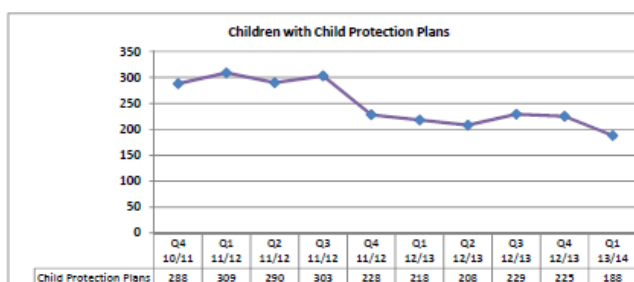
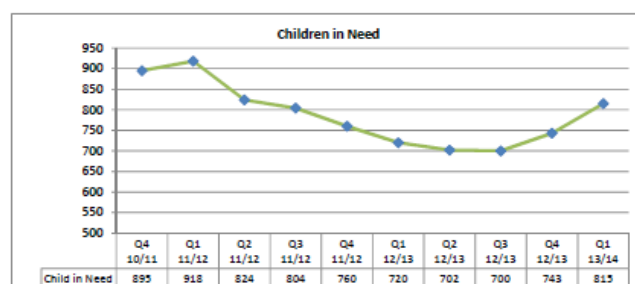
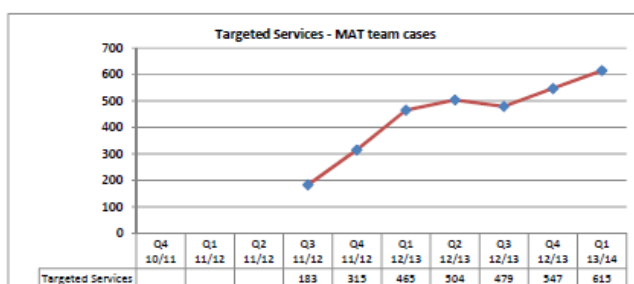
SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. Profile of Children in Care at the end of March 2013

- 4.1 At the end of March 2013 there were a total of 465 children in care, which is a 3% reduction from the same period in 2012, when there was 480.
- 4.2 The end of year figure for 2012/13 equates to 81.6 children per 10,000 (aged under 18 years), which although is below the target of 90.4 per 10,000 remains above both national and comparator averages.



- 4.3 In line with the total number of looked after children falling; the total number of children on a child protection plan has also fallen, whilst the numbers of MAT cases and children in need cases have risen, suggesting a higher use of early intervention and prevention services...



- 4.4 At the end of March 2013 the largest proportion of looked after children were...
- Male (57.6% compared to 57.1% at the end of March 2012)
 - White – British (79%)
 - 10 years of age and over (52.7%)

The tables set out in **Appendix 2** provide further details on the demographic profile of looked after children, including trends over the last three years. It should be noted that the numbers of children in care from certain groups are relatively small but the overall proportion of looked after children from minority groups is slightly under represented compared to the local population.

- 4.5 The primary reason for a child becoming looked after in 2012/13 was 'abuse / neglect', which is a trend mirrored over the last three years...
- 2010/11 – 76%
 - 2011/12 – 68%
 - 2012/13 - 62%

The fall in 2011/12 was due to a rise in those coming into care as a result of 'socially unacceptable behaviour' and 'absent parenting'. In contrast in 2012/13 the main reasons aside from 'abuse / neglect' included; 'parental illness / disability' and 'family dysfunction'.

- 4.6 The legal status of the largest proportion of children in care is 'full care order', however it should be noted that the only legal status to continually rise over the three years is 'placement orders' in contrast to those children on 'interim care orders' which has fallen 'sharply' in 2012/13...

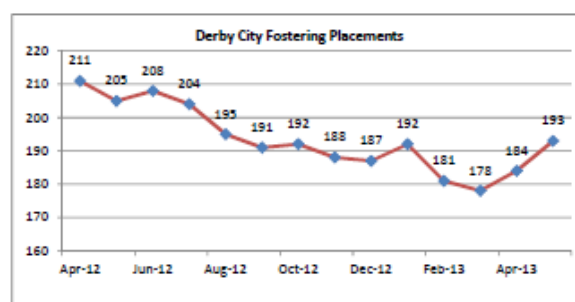
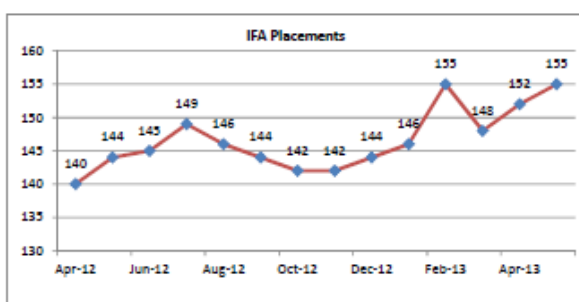
Number of children looked after at <u>31st March</u> by legal status	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Interim care order (C1)	70 (15%)	77 (16%)	39 (8%)
Full care order (C2)	207 (45%)	194 (40%)	209 (45%)
Freeing order granted (D1)	7 (2%)	5 (1%)	5 (1%)
Placement order granted (E1)	93 (20%)	114 (24%)	133 (29%)
Single period of accommodation under section 20 (V2)	83 (18%)	90 (19%)	78 (17%)
Other	1	0	1

- 4.7 At the end of March 2013 the largest proportion of children were placed with a foster carer, which has been a notable trend over the last three years...

Number of children looked after at <u>31st March</u> by placement type	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Placed for Adoption	38 (8%)	31 (7%)	48 (10%)
Secure unit (K1)	2	2	1
Children's Homes (K2)	48 (10%)	45 (9%)	45 (10%)
Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility (P1)	22 (5%)	21 (4%)	18 (4%)

Independent living with or without formal support (P2)	21 (5%)	23 (5%)	15 (3%)
Foster placement (with carer, relative or friend (Q1 and Q2))	327 (71%)	353 (74%)	331 (71%)
Other	3	5	7

- 4.8 Of the total number of children in a foster care placement 54% were placed with a Derby City carer at the end of the March 2013. The recruitment of foster carers was highlighted by Corporate Parenting as an area for further consideration during 2012/13 and as such it was considered at a Performance Surgery in December 2012 by Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board. Going forward the recruitment of 'in-house' foster carers is a priority for Children's Services during 2013/14 and regular updates will be presented to Corporate Parenting as the use of Independent Fostering Agencies continues to rise.



- 4.9 In addition to this, it should be noted that the number of looked after children placed inside of the city boundary has remained constant at 55% for the last two years, however this does represent a drop from March 2011 when nearly two thirds of looked after children remained within Derby (64%). Understanding the impact of children living more than 20 miles from their original home address will be a theme of an Ofsted inspection of Derby's services in July 2013, the results of which will inform a national view on looked after children placed a long way from home.

5 Outcomes for Children in Care – A Review of the Looked After and Adopted Children and Young People Strategy

- 5.1 The Looked After and Adopted Children and Young People's Strategy was published during 2012/13 and aimed to improve outcomes in three priority areas...

- Raising education achievement and attainment.
- Improved health and well-being.
- Promoting safeguarding and reducing vulnerability.

- 5.2 In addition to this, the Strategy highlighted three 'development areas' that underpin the achievement of positive outcomes for looked after children and young people...

- Engagement and influence of children and young people.

- Adopted children.
 - Integrated placements and placement stability.
- 5.3 Set out in **Appendix 3** is a summary of performance against key measures for each of the three priorities and three development areas. In addition to this, any areas of performance not currently scheduled for consideration as part of the 2013/14 Corporate Parenting forward plan have been highlighted in 'yellow'.
- 5.4 Overall, of the 21 performance measures for looked after children 71% have improved between the end of March 2012 and March 2013, with 42% exceeding the targets that were set for 2012/13. 50% of measures are now also above comparator authority averages (where comparisons are available).
- 5.5 One of the key areas of performance for Corporate Parenting to consider is outturns in relation to health outcomes for looked after children. A turning the curve report was considered by the Board in April 2013 when the provisional end of year results indicated that the target of 75% was not going to be achieved. Following the Board meeting, professionals from social care and the health service worked collectively to ensure that performance was being accurately represented. The final position for 2012/13 was 88.9%, with performance against all sub-measures now exceeding the previous year's position and with the exception of development assessments, both national and comparator averages.
- 5.6 To ensure that performance in relation to health outcomes for looked after children is sustained a mapping session took place on 22 July 2013 to review current processes and identify any opportunities for further improvements. An update on performance in relation to this measure will be reported to Corporate Parenting at the end of Quarter 2. Targets for 2013/14 have been set to maintain the high-levels of performance recorded at the end of 2012/13.
- 5.7 Additional positive outcomes for the Board to note include...
- The percentage of looked after children gaining 5 or more A*-Cs including English and Maths is the highest result recorded and exceeds the comparator average.
 - The percentage of looked after children aged 10-years or over given a final warning / reprimand or convicted of an offence has improved significantly from 9.9% to 4.7% and is now below both national and comparator averages.
 - The percentage of looked after children participating in their statutory review has increased to 94.6% following a turning the curve exercise that was considered by the Improvement Board in October 2012. A pilot in relation to the engagement of looked after children also ended at the end of June 2013 and the findings will be available by the end of September 2013 (the pilot is linked to a recommendation from the SLAC inspection in May 2011).

5.8 To make sure the Board have the opportunity to further challenge performance the 2013/14 targets are also included within Appendix 3. Key areas for improvement during 2013/13 will include...

- The stability of placements (a turning the curve report has being drafted and will be reviewed and challenged by the CYP Improvement Board in August 2013). Regular reports on looked after children will also be considered by the Children in Care Commissioning Group throughout 2013/14.
- The timeliness of adoption placements. It should be noted that the measures set out in Appendix 3 are being replaced by a new set of measures for 2013/14 that align closer to the Adoption Scorecard. An update on performance in relation to the Adoption Scorecard timescale measures for 2010 - 2013 is set out in **Appendix 4**. Provisional quarter 1 data for 2013/14 indicates improvements are being made however this measure will continue to be impacted by cases that have significantly longer timescales than the 'average' (i.e. where a child is adopted by a long-term foster carer).
- The recruitment of carers (including in-house foster carers and adopters) has been identified as a standing item for the Board. A turning the curve session scheduled for 2 August 2013 will commence the development of a 'recruitment pathway' for all carers. Alongside this the Adoption Reform Grant will be used to improve performance in priority areas including; the development of a clear Marketing Strategy, updated recruitment material and a new website.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Andrew Bunyan – Strategic Director Children and Young People Mark Barratt - Service Director for Specialist Services Frank McGhee – Director of Commissioning Hazel Lymbery – Head of Children in Care and Regulated Services Jackie Colley – Head of Commissioning Heather Greenan – Head of Performance and Improvement
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Sarah Walker – Improvement Partner - Children and Young People 01332 643466 e-mail sarah.walker@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Demographic profile of LAC

	Appendix 3 – Performance review for 2012/13 Appendix 4 – Adoption Scorecard Update
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Financial implications relating to looked after children are monitored and managed by Service Directors within Children and Young People and will be reported to the Board separately.

Legal

- 2.1 Information relating to the legal status of children in care is set out in paragraph 4.6.

Personnel

- 3.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Information relating to the profile of children in care is set out in paragraphs 4.4 and in **Appendix 2**. Overall, it should be noted that the numbers of looked after children from certain groups are relatively small but the overall proportion of children in care from minority groups is slightly under represented compared to the local population.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None.

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 None.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 Three of the Council's outcomes relate to looked after children and have specific actions under them to protect vulnerable children from harm, narrow the gaps and achieve better mental health and well-being...
- Achieving their learning potential.
 - Good health and well-being.
 - Being safe and feeling safe.

Demographic Profile – Looked after Children

The tables below illustrate demographic trends for children looked after in Derby over the last three years. Notable trends have been highlighted in 'grey'.

Gender

Year	Total	Male		Female	
		Number	Percentage (%)	Number	%
2010/11	461	249	54%	212	46%
2011/12	480	274	57%	206	43%
2012/13	465	268	58%	197	42%

Over the last three years the gap between males and females has continued to widen, with there being more a greater number of males, despite a slight reduction in the total number of children in care.

Age

Year	Total	Under 1		1 to 4		5 to 9		10 to 15		16 years +	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2010/11	461	31	7%	76	17%	94	20%	171	37%	89	19%
2011/12	480	33	7%	88	18%	101	21%	159	33%	99	21%
2012/13	465	28	6%	82	18%	110	24%	174	37%	71	15%

The 'peaks' in relation to the age of looked after children have been consistent over the last three years with the largest proportion of looked after children being aged 10 years and over however it should be noted that the trends for 2012/13 indicates a slight shift in the profile with a gradual increase in those aged 5 to 9 years over the last three years. There has also been a drop in those aged 16 years and old between 2011/12 and 2012/13, which is likely to be a reflection of a large number of care leavers turning 18 years of age during 2012/13 reflected in the higher cohort of 16 years + in 2011/12.

Ethnicity

Year	Total	Asian or Asian British		Black or Black British		Dual Heritage		Other		White British	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2010/11	461	15	3%	15	3%	56	12%	9	2%	366	79%
2011/12	480	16	3%	14	3%	54	11%	12	3%	384	80%
2012/13	465	11	2%	14	3%	55	12%	16	3%	369	80%

The trends relating to ethnicity have remained constant for the last three years and whilst the total population of Derby is reflective for the number of children on a child protection plan when the total number of looked after population are compared to the city demographic there are a lower number of children from minority groups represented in the 'looked after' cohort.

Outcomes for Children in Care
A Review of the Looked After and Adopted Children and Young People Strategy – 2012/13

Priority / Development Areas	Performance Measure	Historical Performance		2012/13				2013/14
		2010/11	2011/12	Actual	Direction of travel*	Target	Comparators	Target
Priorities								
Raising education achievement and attainment	Level 4+ at Key Stage 2 English and Maths: percentage of looked after children achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2 Maths	43%	27.0%	43.0%	Improving	N/A	2012 Comparator 53.2%	N/A
	Level 4+ at Key Stage 2 English: percentage of looked after children achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2 English	69.2%	33%	50.0%	Improving	62%	2012 Comparator 63.1%	50%
	Level 4+ at Key Stage 2 Maths: percentage of looked after children achieving Level 4+ at Key Stage 2 Maths	61.5%	47%	43.0%	Declining	64%	2012 Comparator 58%	45%
	5+ A*-C (including English and maths): percentage of looked after children achieving 5+ A*-C (including English and maths)	6.7%	16.7%	24.3%	Improving	18%	2012 Comparator 23%	23%
	5+ A*-C Key Stage 4: percentage of children looked after achieving 5+ A*-C at GCSE or equivalent	N/A	54.3%	45.9%	Declining	N/A	2012 Comparator 42.3%	N/A
	PEPs: Percentage of looked after children with a personal education plan**	92.9%	96.9%	93.6%	Declining	90%	N/A	90%
Improved health and well-being	Percentage of looked after children who had their statutory health needs met**	72.6%	74.5%	88.9%	Improving	75%	N/A	85%
	CIC annual health assessments**	73%	73.9%	87.4%	Improving	N/A	2011/12 Comparator 85.1% National 86.3%	87%
	Development assessments (5 years and under)**	54%	38.%	68.0%	Improving	N/A	2011/12 Comparator 75.4% National 80.2%	75%
	CIC Immunisations**	95%	92.8%	95.6%	Improving	N/A	2011/12 Comparator 91.2% National 83.1%	95%

Priority / Development Areas	Performance Measure	Historical Performance		2012/13				2013/14
		2010/11	2011/12	Actual	Direction of travel*	Target	Comparators	Target
	CIC dental checks**	70%	75.4%	94.2%	Improving	N/A	2011/12 Comparator 80.2% National 82.4%	94%
	Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children – Percentage of children looked after at 31 March for whom a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was completed	66%	38.0%	62.5%	Improving	N/A	2011/12 Comparator 66.5% National 70%	N/A
	Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children – children looked after at 31 March average Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) score	16.4	16.9	16.6	Improving	N/A	2011/12 Comparator 13.9 National 13.8	N/A
Promoting safeguarding and reducing vulnerability	Final warnings / reprimands of children looked after: percentage of children looked after given a final warning / reprimand or convicted of an offence	9.8%	9.9%	4.7%	Improving	N/A	2011/12 Comparator 7.2% National 6.9%	N/A
	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	84.6%	91.4%	87.2%	Declining	91%	2011 90.4% DfE Comparator Group average	
	Care leavers in employment, education and training	57.7%	62.9%	64.1%	Improving	67%	2011 54.6% - DfE Comparator Group average	70%

Development Areas

Engagement and influence of children and young people	Participation of children looked after in their statutory reviews**	91.8%	81.9%	94.6%	Improving	90%	N/A	94%
Adopted children	Percentage of looked after children that were adopted	11.6%	13%	10.8%	Declining	12%	N/A	10%
	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption (% of looked after children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision)	75.9%	30.0%	44.4%	Improving	60%	N/A	N/A

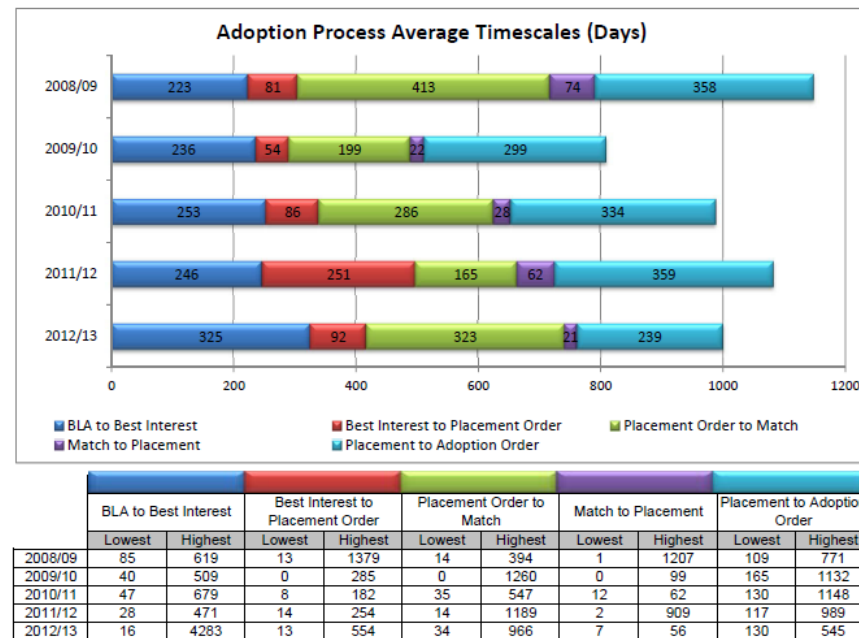
Priority / Development Areas	Performance Measure	Historical Performance		2012/13				2013/14
		2010/11	2011/12	Actual	Direction of travel*	Target	Comparators	Target
	that they should be placed for adoption, and who remained in that placement on adoption)**							
Integrated placements and placement stability	Stability of placements of children looked after: number of placements (% of children looked after with three or more placements during the year)	6.7%	9.6%	7.9%	Improving	9%	2011 Comparator 10% National 10.7%	8%
	Stability of placements of children looked after: length of placement (% of children looked after for more than 2.5 years living continuously in the same placement for at least 2 years)	69.0%	66.5%	63.2%	Declining	69%	2011 Comparator 70.3% National 68.6%	68%

NOTES -* 2012/13 compared to 2011/12.** Has been the subject of a turning the curve exercise and / or performance surgery during 2012/13. If 2012/13 performance has improved or exceeded comparators it is categorised as 'green' if it has declined or is below it is 'red'. Where there were targets for 2012/13 the final classification has been included.

Appendix 4

Adoption Scorecard Provisional Timescales for 2010 to 2013

Adoption Scorecard Timescale Analysis



Average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted (days)

- This has now increased up to **715** for 2010-13 (3 year average). This compares to 672 in 2009-12 and 636 in 2008-11. The national average for 2009-12 was 636 days

Average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family (days)

- This has remained quite static moving from 319 days in 2009-12 to 320 days in 2010-13. Performance in 2008-11 was 245 days. The national average for 2009-12 was 195 days

Percentage of children who wait less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (3 year average 2010-13)

- This has deteriorated down to 50% compared to 58% in 2009-12 scorecard. The national average for 2009-12 was 56% and the comparator authority average was 57.8%