

# Adoptions Service Performance Report

Children and Younger Adults Department

This report provides a statistical overview of the performance within the Adoptions Service in the Children and Younger Adults Department.

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# Adoptions Service Performance Report

*Derbyshire County Council*

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## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>Background .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Indicators published by DfE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	The percentage of children who ceased to be looked after during the year that were adopted .....	4
2.2	NI61 Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption.....	4
2.3	Adoptions of Children Looked After (former PAF C23) .....	5
<b>3</b>	<b>Children Adopted In Each Year .....</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Numbers .....	6
3.2	Percentages by Gender and Average Timescales From PFA Decision To Adoption.....	6
3.3	Percentages by Age Group .....	7
3.4	Percentages by Ethnicity .....	8
3.5	Children Adopted Who Were Part of a Sibling Group – Percentages White British Vs Minority Ethnic Backgrounds .....	8
3.6	Percentages by Legal Status of Adopters .....	9
3.7	Percentages by Whether Adopted By Former Foster Carers .....	10
<b>4</b>	<b>Children Newly Placed For Adoption.....</b>	<b>11</b>
4.1	In Each Year – By Category Of Need.....	11
4.2	NI61 Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption.....	12
<b>5</b>	<b>Timescales.....</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1	Average Number of Days between PFA Decision Date and Placement for Adoption (For Children Adopted In Each Year) – By Age Group.....	13
5.2	Average Number of Days between PFA Decision Date and Placement for Adoption (For Children Adopted In Each Year) – White British Vs Minority Ethnic Backgrounds .....	14
5.3	Percentage of children adopted in each year who had no placement moves following their PFA decision until the date they were placed for adoption.....	16
5.4	Average Number of Days between Placement for Adoption and Date of Adoption (For Children Adopted in Each Year) – By Age Group.....	16

## 1 BACKGROUND

Derbyshire has seen increasing numbers of children in care over the last 5 financial years from 498 at 31/03/07 to 660 at 31/03/11. The numbers of children in care with a 'Place for Adoption' (PFA) decision has also increased but has decreased as a percentage of overall numbers of children in care (16.9% at 31/03/07 falling to 15.8% at 31/03/11).

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
No. Of CiC at 31 <sup>st</sup> March	498	546	534	632	660
No. Of CiC at 31 <sup>st</sup> March who had a PFA decision	84	99	90	67	104
% Of CiC at 31 <sup>st</sup> March who had a PFA decision	16.9%	18.1%	16.9%	10.6%	15.8%

The number of adopters households approved during the year has not changed significantly since 2006-07, varying between 22 and 28 households approved. During this period (2006/07 to 2010/11) the overall numbers of children in care rose by 4.4% and the number with a PFA decision rose by 55.2%. At 31/03/11, 75 children with a PFA decision were still waiting for a placement, an increase of 31.6% when compared with the position at 31/03/07. At 31/03/11 there were 45 approved Adopters households, an increase of 60.7% when compared with the position at 31/03/07. However, at 31/03/11, 13 households approved as adopters had not yet had children placed with them, a decrease of 13.3% when compared to 31/03/07.

Financial Year	Adopters Households Approved In Each Year	Approved Households At Year End	Approved Households At Year End With No Children Placed	Number of Children Waiting For An Adoptive Placement At Year End
2006/07	22	28	15	57
2007/08	26	34	18	64
2008/09	24	39	24	58
2009/10	28	52	33	56
2010/11	28	45	13	75

## 2 INDICATORS PUBLISHED BY DFE

### 2.1 The percentage of children who ceased to be looked after during the year that were adopted

During 2010/11 14.2% of children who were discharged from care in Derbyshire were adopted. This was an increase from 9.1% in 2006/07 but a significant decrease from 21.7% in 2009/10. Derbyshire's performance for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 was above the averages for our Statistical Neighbour group of authorities and the national average (2010/11 figures not published at time of writing).

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Derbyshire	9.1%	15.6%	18.1%	21.7%	14.2%
Stat Neighbour Average	15.0%	15.0%	16.0%	15.0%	
England	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	

### 2.2 NI61 Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption

Timeliness of placements for adoption in Derbyshire, as measured by NI61, has fallen over the period 2006/07 to 2010/11. During 2006/07, 81.8% of children adopted were placed for adoption within 12 months of their PFA decision. For 2010/11 this was 69.2%. Derbyshire's performance has varied over the period 2006/07 to 2009/10 when compared with our Statistical Neighbour group and National averages. However, it should be noted that the Statistical Neighbour average (76.2% in 2006/07 and 70.0% in 2009/10) and the National average (75.1% in 2006/07 and 72.4% in 2009/10) have also fallen over the period (2010/11 figures not published at time of writing).

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Derbyshire	81.8%	59.0%	77.8%	69.1%	69.2%
Stat Neighbour Average	76.2%	75.7%	71.5%	70.0%	
England	75.1%	75.6%	75.0%	72.4%	

## 2.3 Adoptions of Children Looked After (former PAF C23)

Derbyshire have also continued to monitor outcomes as they would be measured against the old 'PAF C23 Adoptions of Children Looked After' indicator that measures children who ceased to be looked after during the year because they were adopted or had special guardianship granted, as a percentage of children looked after at year end who had been in care for at least 6 months.

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Number Adopted (or Special Guardianship Granted) in Year	23	46	48	60	44
Children Looked After for 6 Months or More at Year End	418	453	438	453	539
Percentage Outcome	5.5%	10.2%	11.0%	13.2%	8.2%

The outcome for 2010/11 shows an improvement when compared with 2006/07, but is lower than the outcomes for 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10. This should be considered alongside the increased numbers of children in care (a 28.9% increase in the number in care for 6 months or more at year end when comparing 2010/11 with 2006/07). This figure may include children whose placement was made a year prior to the adoption order as these are dependent on the adoptive parents making the application.

### 3 CHILDREN ADOPTED IN EACH YEAR

#### 3.1 Numbers

During 2010/11, 39 children were adopted. This was a 77.3% rise when compared to 2006/07 (22 children adopted), but a decrease of 29.1% when compared with the previous financial year (55 children adopted in 2009/10). This should be considered alongside the numbers of Special Guardianships granted in each year. During 2010/11, 5 children had Special Guardianships granted, no change from 2009/10 but a 66.7% increase over 2008/09.

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Adoptions In Year	22	39	45	55	39
Special Guardianships In Year	1	7	3	5	5
Adoptions In Year – Stat Neighbour Average	40	40	40	40	
Special Guardianships In Year – Stat Neighbour Average	5	10	10	9	
Adoptions In Year – England	3300	3200	3300	3200	
Special Guardianships In Year - England	740	1120	1220	1260	

#### 3.2 Percentages by Gender and Average Timescales From PFA Decision To Adoption

In 2006/07, 77.3% of children adopted were girls. However, in each of the subsequent years the split between boys and girls has been more even (53.8% girls Vs 46.2% boys in 2010/11). Over the five year period (2006/07 to 2010/11) 200 children were adopted, 52% of these children were girls and 48% boys. The average timescales between PFA decision and adoption, whilst showing some variations, is similar for both girls and boys. For the five year period the average timescale for girls was 100 weeks between PFA decision and adoption. For boys this timescale was 99 weeks.

Gender	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Overall for 5 Year Period
Female	77.3%	43.6%	51.1%	47.3%	53.8%	52.0%
Average Number of Days From PFA To Adoption (Females)	483 (69 Wks)	706 (101 Wks)	707 (101 Wks)	823 (118 Wks)	767 (110 Wks)	697 (100 Wks)
Male	22.7%	56.4%	48.9%	52.7%	46.2%	48.0%
Average Number of Days From PFA To Adoption (Males)	754 (108 Wks)	712 (102 Wks)	719 (103 Wks)	590 (84 Wks)	700 (100 Wks)	695 (99 Wks)
Average Number of Days From PFA To Adoption (All Children)	548 (78 Wks)	710 (101 Wks)	713 (102 Wks)	700 (100 Wks)	736 (105 Wks)	681 (97 Wks)

### 3.3 Percentages by Age Group

The majority of children adopted were in the 1 to 4 and 5 to 9 age ranges. In 2006/07, 1 to 4 year olds made up 36.4% of adoptions. This rose to 59.0% in 2010/11. In 2006/07, 5 to 9 year olds made up 27.3% of adoptions. This rose to 30.8% in 2010/11. No children over the age of 13 were adopted over the last 5 years.

Age Group	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Overall For 5 Year Period
Under 1	13.6%	2.6%	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	2.5%
1 To 4	36.4%	48.7%	62.2%	54.5%	59.0%	54.0%
5 To 9	27.3%	35.9%	37.8%	34.5%	30.8%	34.0%
10 To 15	22.7%	12.8%	0.0%	9.1%	10.3%	9.5%
16 And Over	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

### 3.4 Percentages by Ethnicity

The majority of children adopted were from White British ethnic backgrounds, typically around 90%. This compares with the overall 0-15 year old population in Derbyshire, ONS 2007 mid-year statistics show that 94.6% are from White British ethnic backgrounds.

Ethnicity						Overall For 5
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Year Period
Any Other Mixed Background	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	0.5%
Any Other Asian Background	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
Pakistani	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
White & Asian	0.0%	5.1%	6.7%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%
White & Black African	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.6%	0.0%	1.0%
White & Black Caribbean	4.5%	0.0%	4.4%	0.0%	7.7%	3.0%
White British	90.9%	94.9%	86.7%	96.4%	89.7%	92.0%

### 3.5 Children Adopted Who Were Part of a Sibling Group – Percentages White British Vs Minority Ethnic Backgrounds

The percentage of children adopted during the five year period (2006/07 to 2010/11) who were part of a sibling group (where 2 or more siblings were adopted) was slightly higher for children from Minority Ethnic groups (43.8%) than for children from White British backgrounds (36.4%).

Ethnicity						Overall For 5 Year
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Period
Minority Ethnic backgrounds	0.0%	100.0%	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	43.8%
White British	10.0%	35.1%	28.2%	60.4%	25.7%	36.4%
<b>All Children</b>	<b>9.1%</b>	<b>38.5%</b>	<b>31.1%</b>	<b>58.2%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>	<b>37.0%</b>

### 3.6 Percentages by Legal Status of Adopters

Over the five year period, 2006/07 to 2010/11, 4% of children adopted were adopted by same gender couples, 6.5% by single adopters, and 89.5% by different gender couples.

Adopters Legal Status	Overall For 5					Year Period
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
Civil Partnership Couple	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	7.7%	2.0%
Different Gender Unmarried Couple	0.0%	2.6%	2.2%	1.8%	15.4%	4.5%
Married Couple	86.4%	87.2%	91.1%	90.9%	66.7%	85.0%
Same Gender Couple Not In A Civil Partnership	0.0%	5.1%	0.0%	3.6%	0.0%	2.0%
Single Adopter	13.6%	5.1%	4.4%	3.6%	10.3%	6.5%

### 3.7 Percentages by Whether Adopted By Former Foster Carers

The percentage of children who were adopted by their former foster carers has risen slightly since 2006/07 from 13.6% to 15.4% in 2010/11. This should be compared to the percentage of children who had a special guardianship made to their former foster carers (80% in 2010/11, 42.9% for the five year period 2006/07 to 2010/11).

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<b>Not</b> Adopted By Former Foster Carers	86.4%	74.4%	82.2%	94.5%	84.6%
Adopted By Former Foster Carers	13.6%	25.6%	17.8%	5.5%	15.4%

#### Children with Special Guardianship Granted in Each Year – Percentages by Whether Special Guardianship made to Former Foster Carers

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Special Guardianship <b>Not</b> made to Former Foster Carers	0.0%	71.4%	100.0%	60.0%	20.0%
Special Guardianship made to Former Foster Carers	100.0%	28.6%	0.0%	40.0%	80.0%

## 4 CHILDREN NEWLY PLACED FOR ADOPTION

During the 2010/11 financial year 48 children were newly placed for adoption. This was a 45.5% increase from the previous financial year. Also the percentage of these children who were placed for adoption within 12 months of their PFA decision rose from 60.6% in 2009/10 to 81.3% in 2010/11.

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Number of children newly placed for adoption	34	46	44	33	48
Number of children newly placed who were placed within 12 months of PFA decision	30	33	28	20	39
Percentage of children newly placed who were placed within 12 months of PFA decision	88.2%	71.7%	63.6%	60.6%	81.3%

### 4.1 In Each Year – By Category Of Need

Children newly placed for adoption predominantly fall into the 'Abuse or Neglect' category of need (61.8% in 2006/07 rising to 75.0% in 2010/11). 'Absent Parenting' has decreased from 8.8% of children newly placed for adoption in 2006/07 to 2.1% in 2010/11.

Category of Need	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Overall For 5 Year Period
Abuse or Neglect	61.8%	67.4%	79.5%	60.6%	75.0%	69.8%
Parental Illness or Disability	8.8%	2.2%	4.5%	9.1%	6.3%	5.9%
Family in Acute Stress	8.8%	8.7%	4.5%	12.1%	6.3%	7.8%
Family Dysfunction	11.8%	15.2%	11.4%	15.2%	10.4%	12.7%
Absent Parenting	8.8%	6.5%	0.0%	3.0%	2.1%	3.9%

## 4.2 NI61 Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption

During 2010/11, 39 children were adopted. This was a 29.1% decrease from the previous financial year (55 children adopted during 2009/10). However, the percentage of children adopted who had been placed within 12 months of their PFA decision remained static (69.2% in 2010/11 and 69.1% in 2009/10).

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Number of children adopted	22	39	45	55	39
Number of children adopted who were placed within 12 months of PFA decision	18	23	35	38	27
Percentage of children adopted who were placed within 12 months of PFA decision	81.8%	59.0%	77.8%	69.1%	69.2%

## 5 TIMESCALES

The average number of days between a child's PFA decision and the date they were placed for adoption has risen from 175 (25 wks) days for children adopted in 2006/07 to 405 days (58 wks) for children adopted in 2010/11. The average for 2010/11 is raised substantially by 6 cases where the number of days between the child's PFA decision and the date they were placed for adoption was over 900 (129 wks) (excluding these cases the average was 253 days (36 wks)). These 6 children were made up of 2 sibling groups of 2 children and 2 individual children.

### 5.1 Average Number of Days between PFA Decision Date and Placement for Adoption (For Children Adopted In Each Year) – By Age Group

The evidence from the last 5 financial years' show that following their PFA decision younger children are placed for adoption more quickly than older children. Children adopted in the Under 1 and 1 to 4 age ranges were, on average, placed within 12 months (or less) of their PFA decision. Children adopted in the 5 to 9 and 10 to 15 age ranges, on average, were waiting for more than 12 months following their PFA decision before they were placed.

Age Group	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Overall For 5 Year Period
Under 1	50 (7 Wks)	81 (12 Wks)		68 (10 Wks)		66 (9 Wks)
1 To 4	211 (30 Wks)	271 (39 Wks)	183 (26 Wks)	222 (32 Wks)	191 (27 Wks)	216 (31 Wks)
5 To 9	262 (37 Wks)	553 (80 Wks)	547 (78 Wks)	376 (54 Wks)	629 (90 Wks)	473 (68 Wks)
10 To 15	87 (12 Wks)	552 (79 Wks)		926 (132 Wks)	959 (137 Wks)	631 (90 Wks)
16 And Over						
<b>All Children</b>	<b>175 (25 Wks)</b>	<b>403 (58 Wks)</b>	<b>321 (46 Wks)</b>	<b>336 (48 Wks)</b>	<b>405 (58 Wks)</b>	<b>328 (47 Wks)</b>

## 5.2 Average Number of Days between PFA Decision Date and Placement for Adoption (For Children Adopted In Each Year) – White British Vs Minority Ethnic Backgrounds

Timescales show that children from ethnic minority backgrounds were more difficult to place for adoption, with an average of 576 days between PFA decision and placement in 2010/11 (368 for children from a White British background).

Ethnicity	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Overall For 5 Year Period
Ethnic Minority Backgrounds	423 (60 Wks)	714 (102 Wks)	220 (31 Wks)	445 (64 Wks)	576 (82 Wks)	476 (68 Wks)
White British	150 (21 Wks)	386 (55 Wks)	329 (47 Wks)	332 (47 Wks)	368 (53 Wks)	313 (45 Wks)
All Children	175 (25 Wks)	403 (58 Wks)	321 (46 Wks)	336 (48 Wks)	405 (58 Wks)	328 (47 Wks)

A number of reasons may be contributing to the increased timescales when placing children from ethnic minority backgrounds:

- As discussed above a greater percentage of children from ethnic minority backgrounds who were adopted were part of sibling groups (when compared with children from White British backgrounds) – see **'Children Adopted Who Were Part of a Sibling Group – Percentages White British Vs Minority Ethnic Backgrounds'** above.
- The limited information available regarding the ethnicity of adopters approved in each year suggests that insufficient adopter households are recruited from minority ethnic backgrounds (although it should be noted that 63.2% of adopters approved during the five year period, 2006/07 to 2010/11, had no ethnicity recorded). This information should be considered alongside figures from the 2001 Census that show 3.1% of 18 to 39 year olds in Derbyshire are from ethnic minority backgrounds, whereas only 1.9% of adopters approved in 2010/11 were from ethnic minority backgrounds.

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Percentage of Adopters approved from White British backgrounds	44.7%	36.2%	36.4%	27.6%	30.8%
Percentage of Adopters approved from minority ethnic groups	0.0%	3.4%	1.8%	3.4%	1.9%
Percentage of Adopters approved with no ethnic background recorded	55.3%	60.3%	61.8%	69.0%	67.3%

- The percentage of approved adopters at each year end, who have no children placed with them, that are from minority ethnic groups is also small.

#### Approved Adopters at Year End Who Have No Children Placed – Percentages By Ethnic Background

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Percentage White British backgrounds	32.1%	27.3%	25.0%	30.5%	32.4%
Percentage from minority ethnic groups	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%
Percentage with no ethnic background recorded	67.9%	100.0%	75.0%	69.5%	64.9%

This should be compared with the ethnic backgrounds of children with PFA decisions who are awaiting a placement.

#### Children Waiting For an Adoptive Placement at Year End – Percentages By Ethnic Background

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Percentage White British backgrounds	91.2%	84.4%	87.9%	87.5%	89.3%
Percentage from minority ethnic groups	8.8%	15.6%	12.1%	12.5%	10.7%
Percentage with no ethnic background recorded	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

### 5.3 Percentage of children adopted in each year who had no placement moves following their PFA decision until the date they were placed for adoption

Placements for Children in Care following a PFA decision tend to be stable. Of the children adopted during 2010/11, 92.3% had no placement moves following their PFA decision until the date they were placed for adoption (an increase from 70.9% for 2009/10).

2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
81.8%	84.6%	71.1%	70.9%	92.3%

### 5.4 Average Number of Days between Placement for Adoption and Date of Adoption (For Children Adopted in Each Year) – By Age Group

Once children were placed for adoption, the average timescale until the adoption order was granted was 370 days (53 Wks) for children adopted in 2006/07. This timescale had decreased to 331 days (47 Wks) for children adopted in 2010/11 (a 10.5% decrease).

Age Group	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Overall For 5 Year Period
Under 1	133 (19 Wks)	179 (26 Wks)		183 (26 Wks)		165 (24 Wks)
1 To 4	211 (30 Wks)	249 (36 Wks)	348 (50 Wks)	246 (35 Wks)	275 (39 Wks)	266 (38 Wks)
5 To 9	240 (34 Wks)	265 (38 Wks)	464 (66 Wks)	422 (60 Wks)	385 (55 Wks)	355 (51 Wks)
10 To 15	922 (132 Wks)	670 (96 Wks)		884 (126 Wks)	493 (70 Wks)	742 (106 Wks)
16 And Over						
<b>All Children</b>	<b>370 (53 Wks)</b>	<b>306 (44 Wks)</b>	<b>392 (56 Wks)</b>	<b>364 (52 Wks)</b>	<b>331 (47 Wks)</b>	<b>353 (50 Wks)</b>