

THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY (Please note that 'Information Only' reports do not require Equality Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance comments as no decision is being taken)

Title of meeting: CFE Cabinet Member Decision Meeting

Subject: Yearly Adoption Agency Activity Report, April 2023 - March 2024

Date of meeting: 16.10.24

Report by: Renee Eddy, Service Lead Building Your Futures and Adoption

Cabinet Member: Councillor Suzy Horton, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education

Wards affected: All

1. Requested by:

1.1. It is required by Standard 25.6 of the Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011 for Local Authority Adoption Services that the executive receives a yearly written report outlining the management and performance of the adoption agency which have been provided. This report provides twelve months of information, the summary information for April 2023 - March 2024, updating the previous six-monthly report for the period of 1st April 2023 - 30th September 2023.

2. Purpose

2.1. This report will update the Lead Member on the activity of the Portsmouth Adoption Service for the period from 1 April 2023 to 31st March 2024, as required by the Adoption regulations.

2.2. The Portsmouth Adoption Service is provided directly by the Adoption Team within the Council and the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA), Adopt South who find, assess and support adopters.

2.3. This report will describe the work of the in-house adoption team and Adopt South and provide data to support the outcomes achieved in the previous year 2023/24.

2.4. Lastly, it will provide an update on the progress on the priorities set out in the previous report and the priorities for the year ahead.

3. Background

- 3.1. In 2016, Authorised Authorities and Voluntary Adoption Agencies joined together to form Regional Adoption Agencies (RAAs). As a result, Hampshire County Council (HCC), Isle of Wight Council (IOW), Portsmouth City Council (PCC) and Southampton City Council (SCC) Adoption Services came together, along with the voluntary adoption agencies Barnardo's and Parents and Children Together (PACT), to establish the Adopt South Regional Adoption Agency (RAA). Adopt South went live on 1 April 2019.

4. Portsmouth Adoption Team

- 4.1 The Portsmouth Adoption Team take responsibility for children who have a plan for adoption until the point of the Adoption Order being made. The team undertakes the work that achieves that plan, prepares children for permanence, and concludes the legal requirements that changes a child's legal status to allow adoption to take place. The team comprises of three full time social workers, three part time social workers, a social work assistant and a team leader.
- 4.2 The social workers in the Adoption Team begin working with children who are identified as needing a parallel plan of adoption as one of the possible permanent outcomes.
- 4.3 A Parallel Plan ensures that a child who is unable to return to their birth parent(s) or wider family have an alternative permanence plan by means of adoption. This parallel plan avoids any delay in decision making and ensures we are considering both options alongside each other.
- 4.4 The Adoption Team, work with the allocated child's social worker to gather information about the child and their family. They are responsible for compiling all the relevant documentation which is used to complete a child's permanence report (CPR). This report forms part of the documentation provided to the Agency Decision Maker who is responsible for the consideration and potential agreement of an adoption plan. It must stand the test that nothing else, other than adoption, will reasonably do for a child.
- 4.5 The working relationship between the adoption social worker and child's social worker enables a smooth transition for the child, should they be made subject to a Care and Placement Order at a final court hearing. It is at this point that the adoption social worker becomes the allocated social worker. Family finding completed during the care proceedings enables a match to be made at the earliest opportunity. A linking meeting is held when a potential family has been identified for the child. The adoption social worker will then meet with the prospective adopters, and the adopter's social worker

from Adopt South, and will begin the process of progressing to a linking Panel. Following a successful Linking Panel recommendation, the team begins the work of moving the child to live with their forever family. There is careful and considered work undertaken as to when and how introductions are made. The team work to support the child, their prospective adoptive family, and their birth family to the point of an Adoption Order being made. Life story work and memory boxes are prepared by the team during this period to support them in moving to their forever family and to support their identify in moving forwards.

- 4.6 Involvement of adopters in the recruitment, assessment, and approval of prospective adopters continues to be expanded upon. It is evident that adopters telling their stories and their experiences, provides prospective adopters with real life messages as to how they can embrace the adoption experience and support their child's identity. Feedback is regularly sought from prospective adopters and adopters during the assessment and matching stages.
- 4.7 In this reporting year, the Portsmouth adoption team joined the Coram BAAF pilot along with a number of other Local Authorities and RAAs, to look at the child permanence report (CPR). The report has been developed to reflect the changes in post adoption Keeping In Touch arrangements where there is an expectation that direct contact is considered in all cases. The report provides an opportunity to explore the options for post adoption contact in more detail and throughout the report there is more focus on the child's voice and bringing them alive.
- 4.8 The new report has now been used successfully through the whole process from ADM decision regarding a plan of adoption, to ADM agreement for linking. Feedback is being sought from all parties involved to inform the pilot which will continue until the end of the year.
- 4.9 The team has also been increasingly creative in developing keeping in touch arrangements between birth parents, children and adoptive parents. One little girl who has recently had her adoption order made has four times per year face to face get togethers with her birth parents and adoptive parents. The families were able to build a relationship with the support of the social workers in the team over a number of months pre-order, until they got to a point where they felt confident to manage this all with minimal support.
- 4.10 The team have children who are living with their Early Permanence Carers where the parents and carers are spending time together in the supervised contact sessions so that they can build relationships prior to formal linking with the plan that they will go on to have ongoing face to face meet ups. All parties feel extremely positive about the plans and can see how it benefits the children at the centre.

5. Adopt South

- 5.1 The key functions for Adopt South are the recruitment, assessment and support of prospective adoptive families, and the post adoption support services for adopted children and their families. The Adopt South Children's Family Finding team is directly linked to each local authority Children's Adoption Team to ensure suitable potential adoptive families are identified as soon as possible, promoting timely matching and placement for those children. Those children adopted, and their families have access to Adopt South's comprehensive post adoption support service.
- 5.2 Adopt South compares very well to the other 31 Regional Adoption Agencies. The timeliness of the work remains well within government expectations, enabling children to secure permanent families more quickly and all children during this reporting period being placed with in house adopters.
- 5.3 The close working relationship between Adopt South and the Children's Adoption Team allows for the early identification of additional support if required. It also allows for children to be placed locally to their area of birth if safe to do so.
- 5.4 Since the launch of Adopt South in April 2019 there have been 553 children formally linked with 517 families approved, which included 79 sibling groups. Of these 553 children, 92 were Portsmouth children.
- 5.5 In this reporting period families have been identified for 105 children (confirmed matches which are proceeding/have proceeded to panel). Positively this included matching for 49 children who were assessed as harder to place. Of these 49 children, 21 were Hampshire children; 3 Isle of Wight; 16 Southampton, and 9 children we care for from Portsmouth.
- 5.6 The Adopt South region saw an increase in the numbers of sibling groups with 22 in this reporting period. This includes 20 sibling groups of 2 children (2 of which were Portsmouth children under the age of 5), and 2 sibling groups of 3. Of these 22 sibling groups, 15 children were over the age of 5 in the Adopt South region.
- 5.7 Information from Adopt South's annual adoption report for April 23 - March 24 tells us that regionally, sibling groups continue to make up a large percentage of children waiting, and this reflects the high number of sibling groups referred during the same period. In response, the specialised team in Adopt South have continued to encourage new applicants to consider siblings and older children, and children with additional needs, so the region can match the children we have waiting.

6. Adoption Activity

- 6.1. The adoption activity for the period of 2019 - March 2024 is detailed in appendix 1.

The most recent data tells us:

- There were 18 children adopted in the year 2023/2024
- Within this reporting period there were 25 children linked with prospective adopters
- 24 children had placement orders granted
- 21 children had plans of adoption agreed
- 6 placements were made under fostering for adoption

6.2 For some young children unable to live with their birth family it is possible for them to be placed in Early Permanence Placements (previously referred to as Fostering to Adopt Placements). These are adoptive families who are also approved temporarily as foster carers for a specific child. Early Permanence Placements can offer the best opportunity for the child if the court decides they need to be adopted, as the child can be placed with an approved adoptive family whilst parents and wider family members are being considered. The child remains in one placement whilst decisions are being made, rather than being placed with a foster family and then moved to an adoptive family should the court decide the child needs adoption.

6.3 The data for last year (April 2022 to March 2023) tells us there were 25 plans of adoption agreed for children we care for in Portsmouth. The journey for Portsmouth children shows:

- 26% increase in Placement Orders since 2022/23
- 39% more children formally linked than 2022/23
- 22% more children placed than 2022/23
- 38% more children with Adoption Orders (18) compared to 2022/23
- 0 disruptions in Year 5
- Just 3 children waiting at the end of Year 5 without a potential link
- With the exception of two, all children matched with inhouse adopters, including two sibling groups of 2
- An excellent Scorecard (the average time between entering care and children moving in with their adoptive family), which is well within the Government threshold of 426 days (324 days)

6.4 During this reporting period, there were 2 Portsmouth children placed outside of the region. Across the Adopt South region there were 6 children in total being placed outside of the regional area. In comparison to the other 31 RAA's, there was an average of 31% of children placed externally, compared to just 3.7% for Adopt South.

6.5 The continued placement of children within the region has enabled Adopt South to remain within budget for any interagency spend. In addition, there has been an income generated on other regional agencies using approved adopters from Adopt South with 7 in total providing an income of £227,000.

7 Adopters' Journey

- 7.1 A total of 84 new households have been approved during this reporting year. Stage 1 of the process has a dedicated team which continues to be a strength. Adopt South are the only RAA with a dedicated Stage 1 team. This early stage in the process of assessment continues to provide potential adopters with time to understand the needs of children being considered for adoption and the requirement of providing therapeutic parenting. The team continue to focus on applicants considering placements of siblings and older children and those with additional needs, giving greater scope with targeted training to support at Stage 1 and 2.
- 7.2 This reporting year continues to show both Stage 1 and Stage 2 assessment timescales are well within government expectations, with Stage 1 - 1.8 months, and Stage 2 - 3.8 months, with the overall adoption journey at 5.3 months. Adopt South are 1 of just 2 RAA's who achieved Stage 2 in the 4 monthly timescale.
- 7.3 The ASGLB¹ data shows that Adopt South was 1 of only 2 adoption agencies achieving both stages of the adopter journey within timescales.
- 7.4 The ASGLB also shows that Adopt South continues to have the shortest adoption journey of all the 32 regional adoption agencies.

8 Childs Journey

- 8.1 This reporting year has seen a decrease in the number of children's plans being considered by the Agency Decision Maker across Adopt South region compared to last year. In comparison Portsmouth saw an increase of 26%. Portsmouth numbers increased from 19 to 24 in total of Placement Orders granted.
- 8.2 Information on Portsmouth children with orders granted for adoption in this reporting year indicates that the 18 children adopted were all age 5 years and under. In the same period there was 1 child aged 5 years and over subject to a Placement Order.
- 8.3 In terms of child characteristics of Portsmouth children adopted the information shows us that of the 18 children adopted:
- 6 children were female and 12 male
 - 4 children are of Black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds, or 22%
 - In respect of approved adopters that were linked to Portsmouth children during this period; 21 adopters are white British, and 3 Black, Asian or minority ethnic background
 - 1 child has a disability
 - there were 2 sibling groups of 2
 - There were 0 children over the age of 5, adopted in this reporting period

¹ The Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board (ASGLB) collects and reports data related to adoption and special guardianship in England.

- 8.4 Children who are Black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds, have a disability, are over the age of 5, or are part of a large sibling group, are considered as harder to place children. The information gathered from the data indicates that 9 children who had families identified during this reporting year were children who are considered as harder to place.

9 Adoption Support

- 9.1 Many children placed for adoption come from families with complex backgrounds where they have experienced trauma due to ongoing neglect, and families experiencing domestic abuse and drug and alcohol abuse. The adoption support provided includes interventions such as family therapy, play therapy and birth parent counselling. Research tells us of the significant impact on a child's development of early childhood trauma and it is imperative that families can access support in a timely manner. This provides support as they progress through their minority and onto adulthood. Support can ensure an increased resilience for both the child and their adoptive parent(s) to enable children to adjust and repair from their early experiences.

The four teams consist of:

- The Adopt South Family Hub
- The Adopt South family support and assessment team
- The Adopt South family connections team
- Adoption support for adults

- 9.2 Information from the Adopt South Progress Summary Report attached highlights some examples of the support taken up:

- 267 new enquiries
- 91 families attended an Adoption Support Summer Family Fun Day, and 96 families attended the Winter Fun Day. Both family activities and events to provide space to come together and build on their adoption support network
- 57 parents have attended a therapeutic parenting program
- 131 families accessed a workshop
- 11 Video Interaction Guidance packages have been allocated
- £36,707 of income generated from therapeutic courses
- 2,469 active exchanges processed with additional support to adoptive parents

- 9.3 Portsmouth adoption support for families includes Family Hub events and services, of which offer the most current needs to families in Portsmouth, which include:

- Support groups
- Life story workshop
- Sensory workshops

- Social events for adoptive families

10 Regional picture

- 10.1 This reporting year has seen a decrease in the number of children's plans being considered by the agency decision maker across Adopt South region, seeing a 33% decrease compared to last year. In this reporting period, Adopt South saw 100 Placement Orders granted across the region, a 26% decrease compared to last year. Hampshire saw the largest reduction (37%), the Isle of Wight saw a reduction of 30%, and Southampton saw a reduction of 29%. Portsmouth saw an increase of 26%. Portsmouth numbers increased from 19 to 24.
- 10.2 Adopt South has seen 105 families identified for children (where a confirmed match is proceeding or has gone to panel). And a further 49 matches identified for children considered as hard to place. The reporting year also saw 17 children with Placement Orders who currently have no links, 10 of these children were sibling groups who continue to make up a large percentage of those waiting and is reflective on the high number of sibling groups referred.
- 10.3 The data on the number of children and adopters waiting to be matched shows for the first time since 2020, a sufficiency gap, with many Regional Adopt Agencies struggling to recruit, with high numbers of children waiting nationally. The information from Adopt South region indicates that in comparison to the other 31 RAAs they remain in a strong position with the low number of children waiting and recruitment of adopters. The number of households progressing to assessment has remained high, similarly with strong approval rates.
- 10.4 The number of children's plans referred to the Agency Decision Maker for this reporting period was 102, with 100 Placement Order's and 125 Adoption Order's made across the Adopt South region. Adopt South continues to see an increase in adoption orders across the region.
- 10.5 During this reporting year Adopt South region has seen 6 children placed externally, which included 2 Portsmouth children, and have seen an increase in this reporting year across the region. Adopt South compare well across the other 31 RAA's with more children placed within their region.
- 10.6 Learning events continue to take place with the RAA to ensure practitioners are aware of any changes needed in practice in moving forwards.

11 For local consideration

- 11.1 For the last reporting period it was highlighted the number of children needing adoption had reduced and Portsmouth had seen a reduction in the number of children with a court agreed adoption plan (Placement Order). Appendix 1 shows that there are now 24 children with a Placement Order having been granted, which is an

increase of 26% in this reporting period. In comparison the past 2 years had remained stable with 19 in total over the same years.

- 11.2 Portsmouth also saw an increase in the number of Adoption Order's being made in comparison to last year. However, the number of children for this reporting year is comparable to the number of children adopted over a two year period between 2019-2021.
- 11.3 Portsmouth did see a decrease in the number of children's plans sent to the Agency Decision Maker; there were 21 in this reporting period compared to 25 in the previous reporting year, which is in line with Adopt South region where all Local Authorities saw and decrease.
- 11.4 Portsmouth Children's Social Care continues to maintain a parallel planning process which is tracked and monitored through the care proceedings tracker and Children we Care for reviews. This shows that work is completed in a timely manner for those children identified as needing to be considered for adoption and have a parallel plan in place.
- 11.5 We also know permanence has many possible outcomes and can include placement with birth parents, special guardians, relatives, long-term fostering, in addition to adoption. Subsequently, Portsmouth completed a review of the Children we Care for to ensure confidence that all children unable to return to their birth families have adoption considered as part of their permanence planning.
- 11.6 Of the current 21 children who have families identified, there were no children over 5 years, 7 who are age between 2-5 years, and 14 children who are under 2 years of age, which included 3 sibling groups identified with families. In this reporting year Portsmouth had 3 out of the 21 children with no potential links. Portsmouth needs to be assured that we are aspirational for all our children including those harder to place children. Adopt South have demonstrated in their regional data that children harder to place can be afforded with a forever family, and it is imperative that these children have the opportunity of a focused period of time where this is explored for them as a parallel plan.

12 Review of previous priorities 2023/24

- 12.1 The priorities for the previous reporting period were:

To implement and embed a robust permanence tracking process

- 12.2 This action has been fully addressed. There is now a quarterly permanence overview meeting that takes place. This examines permanence arrangement for certain cohorts of children to ensure robust planning and prevent drift of children's plans.

Permanence planning meetings and final care planning meetings to be embedded

- 12.3 Final care plans are agreed through Legal Gateway², with a workflow created on children's records to ensure evidence of permanence planning and oversight.
- 12.4 Portsmouth have continued to identify children through the permanence process where the parallel plan is adoption so that children can be placed with a family at the earliest point, should this be the outcome of the court, alongside all necessary support that may be required. This includes reducing the time between placement order and matching. Early permanence planning has been evidenced through the maintained number of agency decisions for children to be adopted (25). The timeliness of the child's journey to adoption remains strong.
- 12.5 Permanence tracker was developed and is now in place to allow scrutiny at a senior management level to ensure this is progressing. We will continue to review our permanence planning process to ensure we are aspirational in our planning for all children unable to return to their birth families which will include children that wait, such as older children and those within sibling groups.

Portsmouth will be actively involved in a new early permanence work stream being progressed by Adopt South

- 12.6 This has been completed; the early permanence project was progressed by Adopt South to support early permanence planning. The aim of the project was to increase the profile and value of early permanency withing care planning for children in the region. This included a full time Early Permanence Children and Families support worker in post. In addition, all referrals for early permanence placements are now discussed with this worker who can offer bespoke support to all early permanence families in the region.

Training to focus on sibling assessments and early permanence planning

- 12.7 As above, Adopt South have progressed with the early permanence project. They have also specifically recruit adopters for sibling groups, and this work has continued to be successful across the region with an increase in the number of new adoptive households being approved for siblings; an increase of 39% on last year.

Portsmouth to be working closely with the new early permanence workstream and appointed officer in Adopt South in the Autumn 2023

- 12.8 The Portsmouth adoption team have met and work with the new early permanence worker recruited by Adopt South to support planning for children and families.

² Legal Gateway: A formal meeting where key professionals involved with a child come together to assess whether legal intervention is required to protect a child at risk of significant harm.

To report on the impact of the work for children considered harder to place of adoption

- 12.9 Children that wait or are considered as harder to place are reported on monthly by Adopt South and included in the quarterly Permanence Overview Meetings.

Ongoing training will be provided in conjunction with Adopt South to ensure practitioners are updated about recent research and practice

- 12.10 Adopt South have specifically targeted to recruit adopters for sibling groups which has continued to be a success with 39% of new adoptive households being approved for siblings. It is planned that Adopt South will undertake a workshop looking at latest adoption research.

13 Conclusion and plans for 2024/25

- 13.1 Adopt South continuously updates the recruitment strategy including developing prospective adoptive parents' knowledge, understanding and support to promote matching with the children with complex needs. This work is enabling the identification of prospective adopters and subsequent matching particularly for those children with complex needs and deemed harder to place with particular focus on sibling groups in this reporting year.

- 13.2 In summary the strengths of Adopt South for Portsmouth:

- Lowest Number of Waiting Children: Adopt South has the lowest number of children waiting for adoptive families and has approved the 2nd highest number of adopters across all RAAs, ensuring a robust recruitment pool.
- Shared Recruitment Pool: The recruitment pool is shared across all four regions, providing immediate access to a wider pool of adoptive families for children in Portsmouth and across the region. This collaborative approach reduces the need for out-of-area adoptions and decreases reliance on purchased placements.
- Efficiency in Matching and Timeliness: Adopt South has the *lowest number of children waiting* for adoptive families, reflecting their effectiveness in quickly finding suitable matches. They are also the only RAA to achieve Stage 1 timescales and one of just two RAAs to achieve Stage 2 timescales. Additionally, Adopt South adopters experience the shortest journey from enquiry to approval compared to other RAAs.
- High Adopter Approval Rates: Adopt South ranks 4th highest in the number of approved adopters, contributing to a larger pool of prospective adoptive families. This wider pool is shared across all four regions, allowing for fewer out-of-area adoptions and minimising the need for purchased placements.
- Localised Placement and Support: A higher proportion of children are placed with in-house adopters within the region, which promotes efficiency in delivering local adoption support services. This localisation enhances access to specialist providers and strengthens the support available to adoptive families.

- Comprehensive Adoption Support: Regionalisation enables Adopt South to offer adoptive families robust support packages, mitigating the risk of placement disruption, particularly for children with complex needs. The focus on supporting families beyond placement ensures stability and security for children throughout their childhood and beyond.
- Building on Local Expertise: By continuing to build on the strong practices and expertise within local authorities, Adopt South ensures that prospective adopters are well-prepared, matched appropriately, and supported in their journey to provide a stable and nurturing environment for the children placed with them.

14 Priorities for 2024/25

- 14.1 Information from Adopt South's annual adoption report for April 23 - March 24 tells us that regionally sibling groups continue to make up a large percentage of children waiting, and this included Portsmouth children. Children who wait (are considered hard to place children) also include children with a disability, and children of Black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds. Portsmouth will need to continue to ensure that these children's plans are reviewed regularly and that all options are explored including outside of the RAA where suitable in-house matching is not found. Quarterly Permanence Overview Meetings will continue to include all children that wait or are considered as harder to place and their planning updated on and reviewed in permanence planning meetings.
- 14.2 Portsmouth will have ongoing training provided in conjunction with Adopt South to ensure practitioners are updated about recent research and practice, including developing the skills to assess siblings staying together or apart as they move onto permanence.
- 14.3 A review of our permanence planning processes is planned in Q3 of 2024/25. The information from this review will be fed back to the service at Portsmouth Performance Overview Meeting to ensure any actions and learning are actioned.

Signed by:

Sarah Daly
Director – Children, Families and Education (DCS)

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Adoption Activity 2019 - March 2024	End of document
Adoption Scorecard	End of document
Adopt South Progress Summary Report 2023/24	

Appendix 1 Adoption activity April 2019 – April 2024

Year 1 April - 31 March	Adoption orders No. of children adopted	Children's plans for adoption agreed	Placement Orders granted	Children linked with adoptive family	Prospective adoptive families approved	FfA placements	Placements disrupted	Changes to plans
2019/20	25	27	20	21	34 (Portsmouth number)	2	2	
2020/21	18	16	16	19	117 (Adopt South)	5	0	
2021/22	18	23	19	10	101	7	0	
2022 / 23	13	25	19	18	94	6	0	
2023/24	18	21	24	25		6	0	2

Appendix 2 - Adoption Scorecards

The details below are from the ASG data submitted for the year April 2023 to March 2024.

	2021 - 2024	Last 12m
A10 ; average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, adjusted for foster carer adoptions	358 days	324 days
A2 ; average time between an LA receiving court authority to place a child and the LA deciding on a match to an adoptive family	204 days	199 days
A20 ; average time between a child entering care and an LA receiving court authority to place a child	208 days	195 days
A3 ; children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and their adoptive placement	45 (56%)	28 (56%)
A3(i) ; children adopted who waited less than 14 months between entering care and their adoptive placement	30 out of 49	13 / 18
A3(ii) ; children placed but not adopted who waited less than 14 months between entering care and their adoptive placement	3 out of 10	3 / 10
A3(iii) ; number of children waiting to be placed who have waited less than 14 months since entering care	12 out of 22	12/22

Child Characteristics

	Aged under 5 years old	Aged 5 years old and over	Female	Male	BME	disabled	Part of a sibling group	Harder to place
Number adopted in last 12 months	18	0	6	12	3	1	0	4
Number waiting with a PO...	18	1	8	11	2	1	8	11
... of which have been waiting at least 18 months since BLA	8	0	4	4	1	0	5	6

Average days waiting since becoming looked after (BLA) for all children waiting to be placed by characteristic

Characteristics	Age as at 31 March 2024						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	>5
White / single child / no disability	311	381	619	247			
BME / single child / no disability			1024	381			
White / single child / with disability							247
BME / single child / with disability							
White / sibling group of 2 / no disability	201	596	115	464	594		

Characteristics of all children waiting to be placed

Characteristics	Age as at 31 March 2024						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	>5
White / single child / no disability	2	2	3	1			
BME / single child / no disability			1	1			
White / single child / with disability							1
BME / single child / with disability							
White / sibling group of 2 / no disability	1	2	1	3	1		

Characteristics of children waiting to be placed and in care at least 18 months

Characteristics	Age as at 31 March 2024						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	>5
White / single child / no disability			2				
BME / single child / no disability			1				
White / single child / with disability							
BME / single child / with disability							
White / sibling group of 2 / no disability		2		2	1		

Characteristics of children waiting to be placed, currently family finding / no FF code only

Characteristics	Age as at 31 March 2024						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	>5
White / single child / no disability		1		1			
BME / single child / no disability							
White / single child / with disability							1
BME / single child / with disability							
White / sibling group of 2 / no disability		1	1	1	1		

Characteristics of children waiting to be placed, and in care at least 18 months, currently family finding / no FF code only

Characteristics	Age as at 31 March 2024						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	>5
White / single child / no disability							
BME / single child / no disability							
White / single child / with disability							
BME / single child / with disability							
White / sibling group of 2 / no disability		1			1		