



Leicester
City Council

Adoption Services **East Midlands**

Provided by Leicester City Council

Telephone: 0116 454 4540/4500

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE 2016 / 2017

**Fostering and Adoption Centre
11 Friar Lane
LEICESTER
LE1 5RB**

Revised 22nd May 2017

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1. Introduction

This Statement of Purpose explains the aims, objectives and services provided by the Adoption Service for The Children and Young People's Services of Leicester City Council. This is part of the responsibility in fulfilling the requirements of the Adoption and Children Act 2002. Adoption National Minimum Standards 2014, Adoption Agency Regulations 2005, The Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003 and Care Standards Act 2000. Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012. The Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013.

Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2014 and Statutory Adoption Guidance to the Children Act 1989

Adoption Support Services (Amendment) Regulations 2014

Adoption and Children Act Register (Search and Inspection) Regulations 2014

Children Act Register Regulations 2014

Children Act 2014

The Statement of Purpose is available to all staff within the adoption agency, prospective adopters, children and young people, parents and other professionals.

The addresses of the Leicester City Council, Adoption Agency is:

Leicester City Council
Education and Children's Services Department
City Hall
115 Charles Street
Leicester, LE1 1FZ

2. Aim of the Adoption Service

The primary aim of the Adoption Service is to ensure that children, who are referred for an adoptive placement, are placed as a matter of priority, within a loving and supportive family that can meet their needs during childhood and beyond.

Additionally, the aim of the service is to:-

- Place children at the centre of the adoption process and act in their best interests at all times, ensuring the process is timely and avoids delay.
- Recruit high quality adoptive families to meet the needs of children referred for adoption, whilst recognising that family life can be achieved in families headed by married couples, single people and couples in same sex relationships. Adults with and without birth children can provide suitable placements
- Provide advice and training for Child Care Social Workers on matters related to applying for an adoptive placement.

- Provide a range of services and information to adoptive families, birth families and adoptive children.
- Provide a range of support services for families and children to ensure adoptive placements are successful.
- Provide a service that meets or exceeds statutory requirements and National Minimum Standards

3. Objectives of the Service

- To ensure children's needs have been fully assessed and an adoption plan is in the child's best interest.
- To provide a suitable adoptive placement for every child with a plan for adoption
- To ensure, that the views of children and young people have been listened to and have been given due consideration in any decisions that are taken about their future.
- To regularly publicise adoption services to enable all members of the community to consider adoption as a positive option and to recruit carers from a wide variety of backgrounds to meet children's diverse and specialist needs.
- To recruit adopters who will respect a child's birth and family origins and who will bring up an adopted child knowing and understanding their origins.
- To recruit adopters who will respect the diverse cultures and life styles within society and who will bring up children who will respect these differences.
- To recruit adopters who will respect a young person's choice in terms of sexuality and religion.
- To recruit, train and retain highly skilled and appropriately qualified staff are able to make and support family placements, and understand the effects the adoption process can have on all parties.

4. Principles

The Adoption Service believes that:-

- Children are entitled to grow up as part of a loving family which can meet their needs during childhood and beyond.

- It is best for children where possible to be brought up by their own birth family.
- The child's welfare, safety and needs are at the centre of the adoption process.
- The child's wishes and feelings will be actively sought and fully taken into account at all stages of the adoption process.
- Delays in adoption can have a severe impact on the health and development of children and should be avoided wherever possible.
- Children and young people's ethnic origin, sexuality, religion and language should be fully recognised and positively valued and promoted when decisions are made about them.
- The particular needs of disabled children should be fully recognised and taken into account when decisions are made.
- The role of adoptive parents in offering a permanent family to a child who cannot live with their birth family should be valued and respected.
- Children have the right to grow up knowing they are adopted and should have access to information about their family of birth.
- Where appropriate children should continue to have contact, either directly or indirectly, with those family members who are significant to them.

5. **Management Structure and Staff Group**

Name of Manager: - Georgina Oreffo

Address: - Fostering and Adoption Centre
11 Friar Lane
Leicester, LE1 5RB

The experience and qualifications of the Manager are:-

Georgina has a BSc (Hons) in Social Admin and CQSW, and an ILM Management Qualification. She has over thirty years' experience as a social worker and social work manager, having worked both in Cardiff the USA and Leicester in both fieldwork and children's resources. Georgina is the Adoption Agency Adviser for the adoption panel and Adoption Support Services Adviser.

The registered provider is Leicester City Council, Education and Children's Services Department, the adoption service is called 'Adoption Services East Midlands provided by Leicester City Council'.

The Agency Decision Maker on behalf of the Local Authority is David Thrussell, Head of Service, Looked After Children.

6. The Adoption Team

The Adoption Assessment Team employs a number of qualified and experienced staff as follows:-

- Team Manager: Sara Draycott is responsible for the day to day work of the Adoption Assessment Team. Sara has a social work qualification and Executive Diploma in Management (ILM 5) obtained in 2011 and extensive experience of child care and adoption services over many years.
- Two full-time and five part-time qualified, Health and Care Professions Council registered social workers with experience in adoption work.
- One full time Adoption Support Worker.
- One full and one part time panel and court order coordinator and two clerks provide administrative support to the team.

7. The Work of the Adoption Service

Adoption Services East Midlands is based at:-
Fostering and Adoption Centre
11 Friar Lane
Leicester, LE1 5RB

The service provides the following services:-

- Recruitment and assessment of adoptive families; including publicity, information giving and attendance at regular drop-in sessions across Leicestershire.
- Assessment and preparation of prospective adoptive families, which includes visiting their homes, undertaking a home study assessment, references, checks, and preparation groups.
- Support for approved families awaiting placement.
- In conjunction with the Children and Families Support Team (CFST), Advice, guidance and support to adoptive families during the matching process and post placement, this includes workshops and events for adoptive families.
- Running training and educational events and providing guidance for departmental staff who are preparing and supporting children, their parents and carers during the adoption process.
- Provision of adoption support services to adoptive families and birth relatives.
- The facilitation of direct and indirect contact arrangements and in a strictly limited number of cases, supervision of contact.

- The provision of a specialist consultation and advice service.
- Counselling, information, and advice in relation to the following individual situations:-
 - Birth parents whose children might be adopted.
 - Prospective adopters.
 - Adults who have been adopted, including access to birth records counselling.
 - Non-agency adoptions including step-parents who wish to adopt their partner's children.

8. Inter Country Adoption

Inter-Country Adoption has increasingly become a complex and difficult area as each country has different adoption rules that change from time to time. In order to give a better service to people wishing to adopt children from abroad a service level agreement exists with The Yorkshire Adoption Agency. This adoption agency has developed a good level of expertise in this area of work and deals with all enquiries referred from Adoption Services East Midlands in respect of Inter-Country Adoption.

9. Enquiries about Adopting a Child: (Recruitment of Prospective Adoptive Families)

In addition to our comprehensive website, an information leaflet, brochure and DVD is available to explain to people what adopting children is all about and the processes that prospective adopters will need to go through. The Adoption Service welcomes enquiries from people from all backgrounds, whether single, in a relationship, or married, and regardless of sexual orientation, race or religion. There is no upper age limit for a prospective adopter(s) but adopters need to be in good general health with lots of energy and love to give to a child.

Additional information about adoption can be obtained from our Website at:

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/adoption>

The Adoption Service has a well-defined recruitment strategy whose aim is to prioritise the recruitment of adopters who can best meet the needs of all children requiring adoption.

In addition to our own comprehensive information on adoption, "First4 Adoption", the Government's 'adoption gateway' provides information for those interested in adopting. The national helpline is on 0300 222 0022 and their website is found at:

<http://www.first4adoption.org.uk/>

10. East Midlands Adoption Consortium

Leicester City Council is a member of the East Midlands Adoption Consortium. The central aim of the consortium is to share practice and innovation to improve adoption services across the entire region. A new website for the consortium was launched in May 2015 and provides more information about the work of the consortium and its partner agencies:

<http://www.adoption4eastmidlands.co.uk/>

You can find up-to-date information about adoption on the website, but also upcoming information events held by our service – Adoption East Midlands provided by Leicester City Council and partner agencies across the East Midlands.

The East Midlands Adoption Consortium is currently developing its services and structure to become one of the country's first regional adoption agencies. This is in response to the Government's paper issued in June 2015 called "Regionalising Adoption". Leicester City is a key member of the East Midlands Adoption Consortium and will be a central part of the new regional agency once it is launched.

11. Local Authority Adoption Panel and Decision-Making Responsibilities

The Local Authority as a statutory Adoption Agency has an Adoption Panel, it has responsibility to:-

- Consider the assessment of prospective adoptive parent(s) and recommend whether they should be approved.
- Agree the matching of children to a particular family.
- Take an interest in the general running of the adoption service and to receive reports giving over-view information about the general running of the team.

As from 1st September 2012, and the introduction of the Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012, the adoption panel's former function in considering and making recommendations as to whether a child should be made subject to an adoption plan has been removed in all cases, except those children who have been voluntarily relinquished for adoption by their parent(s).

The attendance of prospective adopters and approved adopters who are to be matched with a child is part of the established procedure for the panel

The Adoption Panel is governed by guidance and regulations. Panel members include:

- An independent chair;

- Independent Vice Chair;
- Social workers with experience of adoption and other relevant specialisms;
- Medical adviser;
- Independent Members (not employed by the Adoption Service and who may have personal experience of adoption, or other relevant experience).

Also in attendance:

- Adoption Agency Adviser
- Panel Adviser

The adoption panel meets at least monthly and frequently twice monthly to ensure the adoption work of the Leicester City Council Adoption Agency is never delayed.

Following a recommendation of the Adoption Panel, the papers and minutes of the meeting will be passed to the “Agency Decision Maker” who has responsibility for decision making on behalf of the Agency. The decisions are made following consultation with the panel adviser and access to the panel minutes. Decisions are made within seven days of the panel recommendation. The decision will be put in writing to the prospective adopter(s).

Following the introduction of the Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012, (see point 10 above), reports on children for whom an Adoption Plan is proposed are considered directly by the Adoption Decision Maker after a comprehensive quality assurance process.

12. Monitoring the Quality of the Adoption Service

The quality of the Adoption Service’s work and standards will be regularly monitored:-

- The managers of the service ensure that the staff is appropriately skilled, trained and supervised in accordance with the City Council policy to ensure they fulfilling statutory compliance and meeting the quality standards required by Leicester City Council.
- The work of the adoption team is governed by Adoption Standards, Guidance and Regulations. The local authority will submit information on achievements against performance indicators.
- The work of the adoption team will be monitored to ensure appropriate timescales are adhered to where ever possible.
- The Adoption Panel will independently scrutinise all assessments and judgements made about voluntarily relinquished children being considered for adoption and those of prospective adoptive parents. The Adoption panel will continue to scrutinise all reports on children at the point of matching for adoption. The Adoption Panel has a critical role to play in the provision of independent expert oversight.

- Adoption panel members will be appraised annually and the performance of the panel reviewed to ensure that it carries out its role efficiently and effectively.
- The Agency Decision Maker will observe one panel each year and attend relevant training days.
- The Adoption Service is subject to inspection by Ofsted according to national guidelines.
- Feedback will be gathered from a variety of service users through evaluation and questionnaires.
- Case files are subject to regular internal quality assurance audits.
- The performance of the adoption team and Leicester City Council as an Adoption Agency is published by the Department for Education on behalf of the Government. (see Section 15)

13. Complaints Procedure

The Local Authority has a complaints procedure. Copies of the procedure and complaints forms can be requested from the Adoption Team at Eagle House, 11 Friar Lane, Leicester, ☎Tel: 0116 454 5440. Alternatively information about the Leicester City Council complaints process can be obtained on our Website at:

<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/council-and-democracy/comments-compliments-and-complaints/>

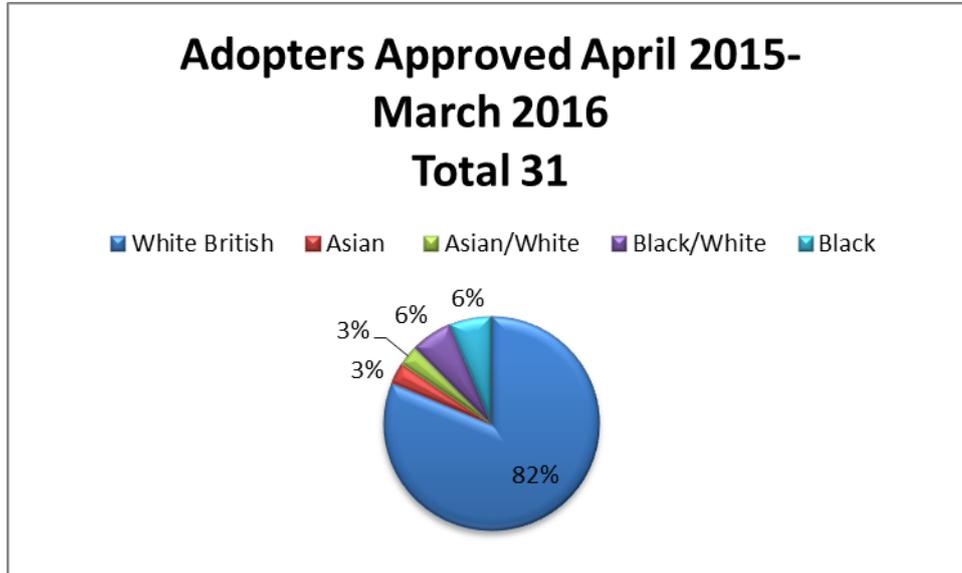
All complaints and matters of concern will be treated with respect and will be dealt with as promptly as possible, within specified timescales. The adoption service aims to resolve problems in the first instance by informal negotiation. A central record will be kept of all complaints as part of the agency's quality management process; these records are open to inspection by Ofsted.

Children who are already placed in adoptive placements (i.e. children in care of the Local Authority) will have access to the Council's Children's Rights Officer, who will assist any child in making a complaint if they wish, and support them throughout.

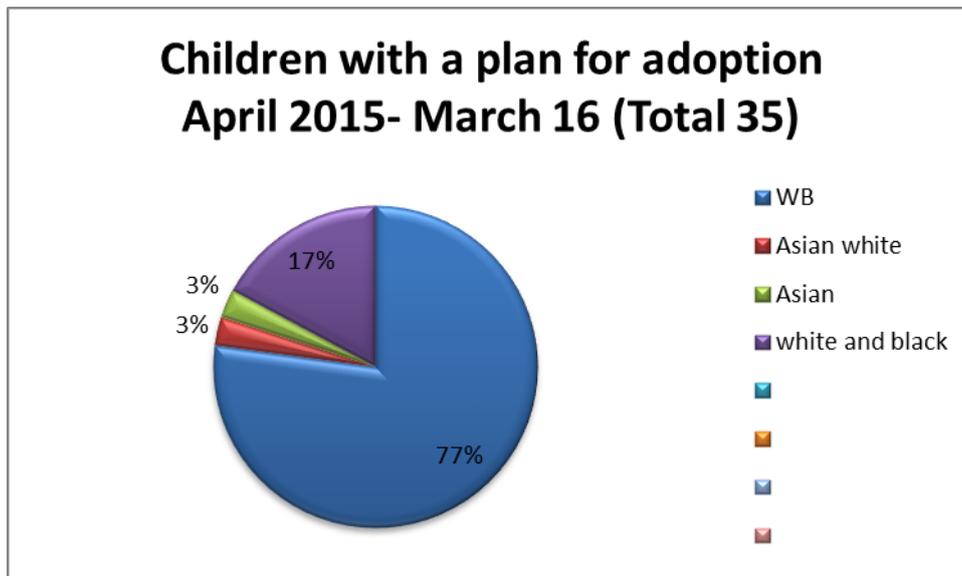
Messages of commendation are also logged centrally.

14. Key Statistics

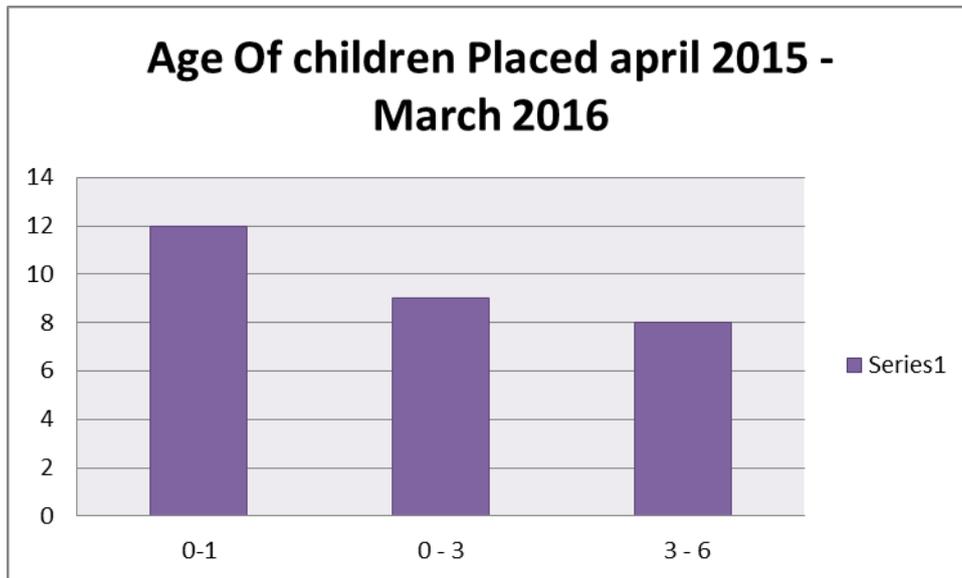
The number of adopters approved in the last year has increased over the previous year by 8. The ethnicity of adopters approved corresponds roughly to the ethnicity of children with a plan for adoption.



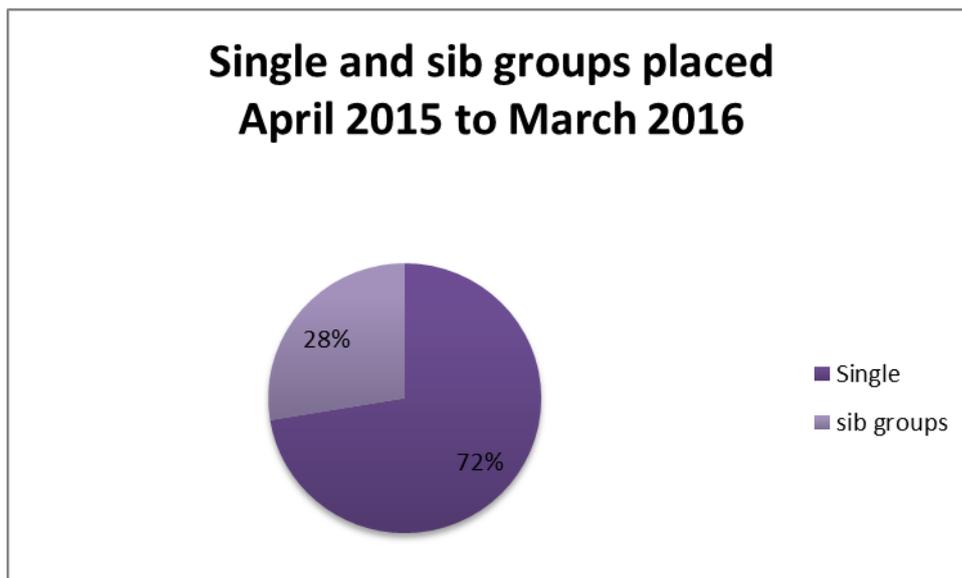
The number of children with a plan for adoption has increased slightly over the previous year, up by 3. The proportion of White British children has increased by 17%.



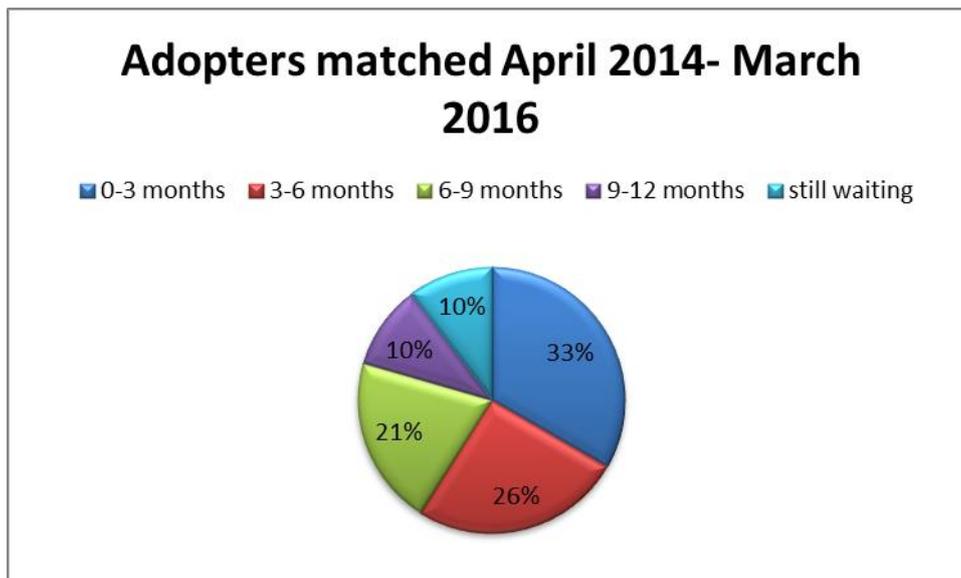
29 children were placed for adoption in the last year, this is identical to the previous year. A total of 42 Adoption Orders made in the last year, up by 3 on the previous year. There was an increase in the number of children under one year old placed for adoption, reflecting good performance in the adoption scorecard (see Section 15).



Nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of children placed were single children, in the previous year 83% were single children. Two sibling groups of 2 and one group of 4 were placed during the year.



Over the last two years exactly $\frac{1}{3}$ were matched with children within 3 months of approval. 90% of adopters have been matched within 1 year of approval.



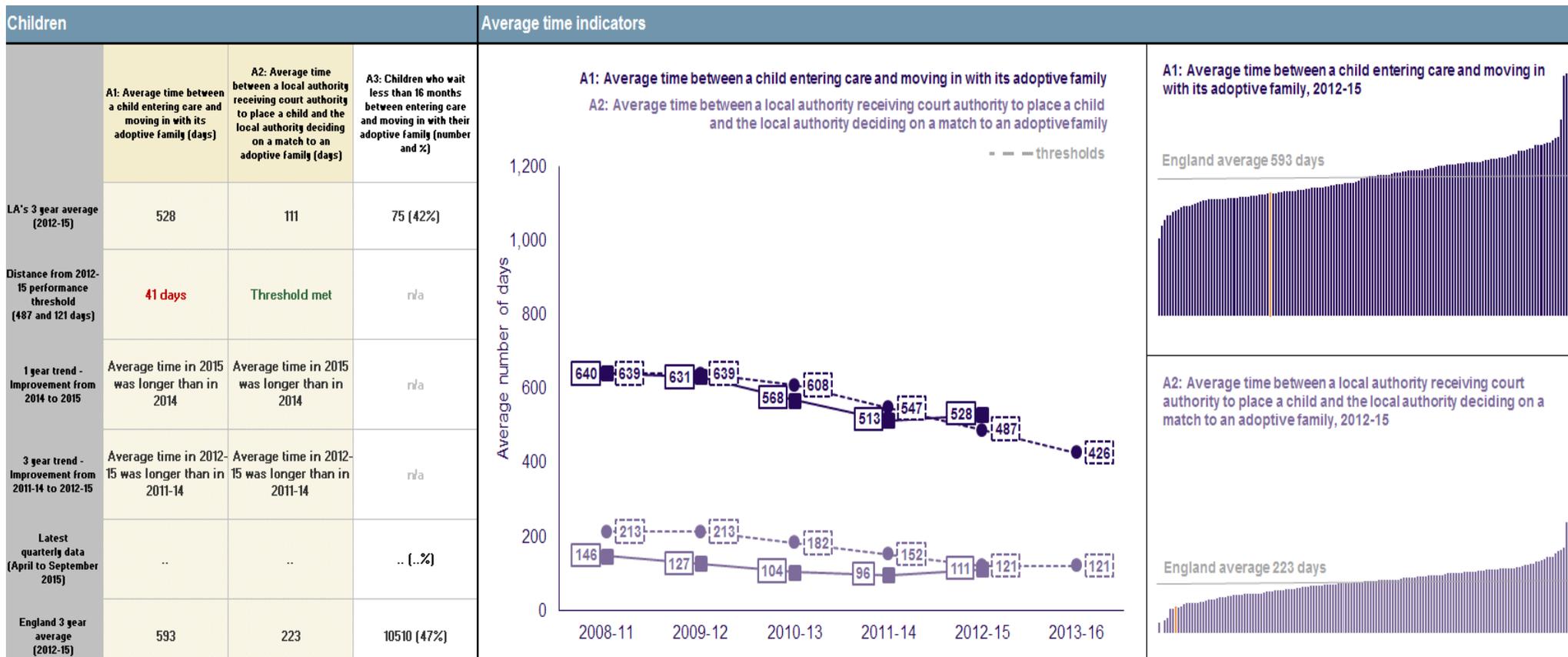
15. The Adoption Scorecard and the Government's Adoption Action Plan.

During the early part of 2012 the Government announced its Adoption Action Plan "Tackling Delay in Adoption". A range of proposals were contained within the Government proposals which included measures to speed up adoption through changes in the way adoption agencies operate, but also changes in legislation and recommendations arising from the national Family Justice Review.

Several changes have been implemented since 2012, such as the Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012. The Government also now publish Adoption Scorecards which report on the performance of Local Authorities as Adoption Agencies. The Government has set tough new targets for the 3 year average time taken for children to be placed for adoption and the scorecards report on the performance of all local authorities. As yet, not all statistical data has been reported within these scorecards.

In the last scorecard published in March 2016 (see following page), Leicester City met the threshold for the time taken to place children from the date authority is given for the child to be placed (A1). For the first time in three years the overall time taken for children to be placed has slipped outside the government threshold target by 41 days (A2).

However, Leicester remains well below the national average for both indicators and is performing well ahead of its statistical neighbours.



The Adoption Scorecard and comparators can be viewed at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/a00208817/adoption-scorecards>

Adoption Activity Days

Adoption Services East Midlands provided by Leicester City Council is a member of East Midlands Adoption Consortium (EMAC). We have been an integral part of the piloting and development of Adoption Activity Days. Channel Four television featured one of these events in a programme called "Finding Mum and Dad". We will continue to be actively involved in the running of these events, although at the time of reviewing this Statement of Purpose (April 2016), it has been decided to continue to postpone organising further Adoption Activity Days for a year, as the need for these days has diminished due to fewer children being available for adoption relative to the numbers of adopters available.

Leicester City continues to seek matches through AdoptionLink, the Adoption Register, the consortium, profiling days and other similar initiatives.

More information can be found about Adoption Activity Days at:

<http://www.baaf.org.uk/ourwork/activitydays>

16. Adoption Support

As indicated above, post adoption support is provided by the Children and Families Support Team (CFST).

The team is based at 11 Friar Lane, Leicester LE1 5RB.

- The Team Manager post is held by Neil Martin.
- There are currently 6 qualified social workers within the team providing post adoption support services alongside other placement services.
- The team also has two Mental Health Practitioners, a Child Care Support Worker and an Adoption Support Worker.

The City's Children and Families Support Team is able to intervene directly, to work with children and families and continues to be highly regarded as a beneficial resource by adoptive families. The team works with children and families from placement onwards if required.

The team provides support not only to adoptive families seeking an assessment of need, intervention, advice and support but also provides support to adopted adults and people affected by adoption, who request a variety of services, but commonly are seeking access to their birth records or want help in tracing their birth or adopted relatives.

The support provided to adopted families generally requires the greatest expenditure of social work time and can be complex. The needs of adoptive families are often urgent and invariably centre on families who are trying to care for extremely troubled adopted children and young people. The team undertakes post adoption assessments of need and makes applications to the

Adoption Support Fund where appropriate to support adoptive families requiring evidence based therapeutic intervention

We keep in touch with adoptive families through our regular newsletter called "A Different View". This provides details of organised activities and includes relevant articles about adoption.

The team run various support groups and drop-in sessions for adoptive parents. These groups run at different times and include "Play and Stay" sessions and 'Walk and Talk' sessions in local parks in the summer. Attendance at the support groups has increased this year and this may relate to the increased number of young children being adopted over the last two years. Feedback about these groups is positive and this clearly indicates the benefit to adopters and children of these sessions. Social events such as the Family Fun day for children and parents are other occasions in which there is an opportunity for adoptive families to meet up and support each other.

The Children and Families Support Team have been working in partnership with Coram East Midlands and Leicestershire Adoption Team to deliver the 'Incredible years parenting programme' over the past 18 months. This has been well received by adopters, providing ideas, strategies and support for parents of children of 3-8 year olds. Many attendees have gone on to form informal support networks.

The service continues to organise a rolling programme of seminars two or three times a year by Sue Golding, a clinical psychologist, on attachment issues and resolutions. These have been well attended by adoptive parents and have greatly enhanced their understanding of attachment issues as well as their skills to parent damaged children. Learning in the company of other adopters is experienced as supportive and sometimes useful on-going contacts are established between them. Other professionals including school teachers, health visitors, adoption panel members and social workers can also attend this training and helps build positive professional relationships which are supportive of adopted children and families.

The adoption support workers also provide a rolling programme of training to other departmental staff on the important task of writing 'Life Story Books' and support workers engaged in this activity. Training has also been provided on the complex and sometimes contentious issue of whether or not to place siblings together.

An information booklet for schools on adoption issues has been produced and is available to schools attended by children who have been adopted. Training is also provided to schools by the team on attachment issues and how to respond to these. There has been a very positive response to these initiatives.

The Virtual School Team (Looked After Children) are able to provide additional advice and support in school to assist adoptive children's transition to a new school.

The CAMHS Service has funding for two posts within the Young People's Team to respond to the needs of adoptive families. The Educational Psychology Services from the city and the county contribute to post placement support.

Leicester City Council is also a subscribing member of 'New Family Social' which is a UK-wide support network run by, and for, lesbian and gay adopters and prospective adopters. More information about the support network can be obtained on their website together with clear information about the adoption process:

www.newfamilysocial.co.uk/

17. Adoption Support Fund

Adoption Services East Midlands provided by Leicester City Council was one of 10 local authorities involved in piloting and developing the Adoption Support Fund Prototype with the Department for Education. The Adoption Support Fund has now been launched nationally. This enables adoptive families to be able to access therapeutic adoption support, following assessment of support needs after the child is made subject to an Adoption Order. More information can be found about the Adoption Support Fund at:

<http://www.first4adoption.org.uk/adoption-support/adoption-support-fund/>

18. Services to Adopted People (Birth Records Counselling and Intermediary Services)

Adults who have been adopted can approach the Registrar General when they are 18 years old and ask for details from their original birth certificate. Once they have obtained this information a request can be made to the service for a Birth Records Counselling service (BRC). This involves obtaining a file from either the local archive or from another adoption agency. The amount in the file can vary considerably but has to be carefully considered in terms of sharing the contents with an adopted person. This work is provided on a statutory basis.

Once this information has been obtained many people then request assistance with tracing their birth relatives and with achieving a reunion. The team has continued to suspend assistance with tracing and reunion, which is not a statutory service, to focus efforts on keeping waiting time for BRC at an acceptable level. This decision will be subject to on-going review.

19. Services to Birth Families

A requirement of National Adoption Standards is to offer independent counselling to birth parents during care proceedings where a plan of adoption is proposed. Counselling for birth parents, independent of the adoption process is provided in Leicester through the Children and Families Support Team.

20. Contact Services

There are now over 500 adoption post box arrangements. The post box enables written (indirect) information to pass between adoptive families and children's birth families via the adoption team, these arrangements eliminate the possibility of birth families discovering the whereabouts of adoptive families. These arrangements can sometimes involve the exchange of information from adoptive families between several birth relatives of the adopted child. An email facility is available and popular amongst adopters for the exchange of indirect contact material.

Of those contact arrangements in place 2% involve direct contact arrangements which require supervision and support from post adoption support services.

A leaflet on the Post Box Scheme is available.

21. Services to Children

Indirectly, we have supported children through services to their parents and through the Contact Scheme. We have access to a supply of books, and tapes and videos for direct work with children. Counselling is possible with older children. Children participate in social events such as the annual party, summer event and "Play and Stay".

We run a young people's forum, for teenagers to those in their early 20's.

22. OFSTED

Ofsted is responsible for inspecting the Adoption Agency, The last single service inspection took place in June 2013. The service was judged to be good.

The last inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers in Leicester City took place between the 14th January and the 4th February 2015.

Adoption performance was judged to be good

Ofsted will also receive and may investigate any complaints about the Adoption Service. They are can be contacted at:-

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD



0300 123 1231

Email

enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

Below is an overview of the adoption process. If you have any questions, or want to know more detailed information about any of the stages below, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us: 0116 454 4500.

1. Your initial contact with us

When you contact us we will ask some questions in order to learn more about you and your personal circumstances and we can answer any questions you may have.

We will then send out an information pack if requested within 10 days.

2. Registration of Interest Form

If, after receiving further information via a DVD or Information Session followed by a home visit (Initial Visit) you wish to proceed, you will then need to complete the Registration of Interest Form (ROIF)

3. Call from a Recruitment Team social worker

Once the Recruitment Team receives your ROIF we will contact you within 5 days of receiving it and a social worker from the service will have a detailed discussion with you. We will then let you know if we can accept you into Stage One of the process.

4. Stage One (Two months)

Statutory references and checks will be taken up. Stage One will usually be completed in 2 months but can be extended up to a maximum of 6 months. It will be very much an adopter led process and will move at your pace. If your application is not able to progress to Stage Two the adoption team will inform you in writing of the reasons and if appropriate refer you on to other agencies if applicable.

5. Plan and agreement

During Stage One the service will draw up a Stage One Plan (agreement) and ask you to sign an agreement setting out what the Recruitment Team will provide and it will detail what steps you need to take and what needs to happen for you to progress to Stage Two.

6. Stage Two (4 months)

You will be allocated a worker to complete your adoption assessment following completion of a Stage Two Agreement form. The agreement will set out details of each visit (minimum of 6) and you will be given a provisional panel date for your approval. You will receive further information and training in both Stage One and Stage Two which will include Adoption Preparation Groups. As part of the course

you will have the opportunity to speak to experienced adopters who share their knowledge of what it is really like to adopt a child. All of this information is brought together in the Prospective Adopters Report (PAR).

7. Adoption Panel

This happens on completion of the adoption assessment. At the end of the assessment, your PAR is presented to the Adoption Panel, which meets at least monthly. Adopters are invited to attend. You will be given the panel's recommendation on the day. This then goes to the Agency Decision Maker who formally considers the recommendation and makes a decision within seven days.

8. Matching and Placement - This process can take from 4 weeks to several months.

We work with you to identify the right child and we will complete a Matching Plan Agreement with you. How long you have to wait depends on the needs of the children and what age and type of child you are best suited to. We try to place children as soon as possible and matches can take place as soon as a few weeks after approval but usually there is a wait of several months before a match is made. If you have not been matched within three months and with your agreement, your details will be referred to the Adoption Register, Adoption Link and the East Midlands Consortium which means potential matches for you could be made with children from across the country.

9. Matching Panel – Panels are held at least once every month

The adoption panel considers the appropriateness of the match between yourselves and the child/ren, it then makes a formal recommendation that the child can be placed with you and this is then subject to the Agency Decision Maker agreeing the match and this is done within seven days of the date of the panel. This process may be slightly different, if you have been matched with a child from another area, in which case you will attend the adoption panel in the area with responsibility for the child.

10. Introductions - Introductions usually take between 1 - 2 weeks.

Your child's placement is carefully planned and following a series of introductions they will move and become part of your family. Your social worker supports you as you get used to being an adoptive family and the local authority has a statutory duty to review the child's placement up until an adoption order is granted.

11. Adoption Order - This takes between 3 - 6 months

Following the placement of a child, or children, the granting of the Adoption Order usually takes three to six months, although in some cases it can take longer.

What Happens When You Are Being Adopted?



Adoption
Services **East Midlands**

Provided by Leicester City Council

Your foster family will continue to look after you while the court, your birth family and your social worker talk about what is going to be best for you.



A special meeting called a “review” is held when everyone will decide whether you need to go back to your birth family or if you will move on to a new forever family.



Your social worker will talk to you about moving on to a forever family and they will take lots of pictures and begin to make a life story book for you.



Your social worker will write a long report all about you and your family and the reasons why you need to be adopted. This is called a Child Permanence Report.



The Judge then makes a Placement Order which means that the adoption team can start looking for a new forever family for you.





When your new family has been found, you will get a book with pictures of your new forever family. This could take a little while because your social worker will want to make sure we find just the right family for you.

Your new forever family will come and see you for the first time in your foster home and then they will visit you lots of times and take you out so that you get to know them really well before you move.



When you have moved to your new forever family your social worker will still come and visit you for a while to make sure that you are happy.



Then you and your new family go to court to see a Judge to get an Adoption Order. This means that you will live with your new family forever.



The Adoption Team Will

Help you to understand what adoption is.

Listen to what you say and how you feel.

Remember that your religion and family background are important.

Keep brothers and sisters together where this is possible.

Help you to keep in touch with your birth family through the post box.

Find your forever family as quickly as we can.

The Post Adoption Team will keep on helping your birth family after you have moved.

The Post Adoption Team will keep on helping you and your new family after you are adopted.

Who to Contact for Help

You and your family can contact
the Post Adoption Team on
0116 4546540

The Childrens Rights Officer on
0116 4542425

An independent reviewing officer
on
0116 4542440

A Government Inspector on
0300616161

Fostering & Adoption Centre
Eagle House – 11 Friar Lane
Leicester LE1 5RB
Tel: 0116 454 4540
Email: adoption@leicester.gov.uk
www.leicester.gov.uk/adoption



*Something
on Your
Mind?*



**Adoption
Services** **East Midlands**
Provided by Leicester City Council

It's **OK** to have all these feelings

I wonder if anyone
knows how **I FEEL?**

Who could I talk to?

Does my **BIRTH
FAMILY** ever
think of me?

I sometimes feel really
ANGRY and other times
I feel very **SAD**, I can
feel **SCARED** too?

If I talk about my
birth family will it
**UPSET MY MUM OR
DAD?**

I feel confused
about **WHY I WAS
ADOPTED.**
Sometimes I think it
was **MY FAULT.**



Adoption Support says: “We are here to help!”

*Mums and Dads **DO** understand how you might feel, you could...*



- *Ask to go through your Lifebook with them and talk about your feelings*
- *If saying things out loud is hard to do, you could leave a note for them saying how you feel*
- *Talk to a friend you can trust, or a teacher you get on well with*
- *Paint or draw your feelings and thoughts*
- *Write some poems or start a feelings diary*
- *If you still feel worried or sad, phone us, or get your parent to call us. We can come to see you. We will listen and try and help you with your feelings*

You can get in touch by phoning 0116 4546540





I wonder if anyone knows
how **I FEEL?** Who could I
talk to?

If you are unhappy about anything there are lots of people you can speak to.

If you would like to speak to someone other than your Mum or Dad, you can call the Children's Rights Officer. Call anytime or leave a message.

Lesley Higgins – 0116 454 2425 or 0797 634 8391

Jessica Harding – 0116 454 2425 or 0779 155 1736

childrensrights@leicester.gov.uk

If you would like to speak to a government inspector about how you have been treated ring this number:

OFSTED 0300 616161

If you wish to speak to an Independent Reviewing Officer call
0116 454 2440

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Leicester LE1 5RB
Tel: 0116 454 4540

Adoption Statement of Purpose Revised 22nd May 2017

Next Review due Nov 2017

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