

ADOPTION AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT
For Cambridgeshire County Council

For the period

1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 STAFFING/SERVICE STRUCTURE.....	4
1.2 THE ADOPTION PANEL	5
1.3 ADOPTION PANEL MEMBERSHIP	6
1.4 PANEL AND ADM ACTIVITY	6
1.5 CCA PANEL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT	7
SECTION 2 CHILDREN AND ADOPTION	7
2.0 CHILDREN REFERRED FOR ADOPTION.....	7
2.1 OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WITH PLANS FOR ADOPTION	8
2.2 PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN	8
2.3 TYPE OF ADOPTION PLACEMENT	8
2.4 ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION	9
2.5 AGES OF CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION	10
2.6 GENDER OF CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION	10
2.7 ADOPTION ORDERS	10
SECTION 3 ADOPTERS	11
3.0 RECRUITMENT OF ADOPTERS	11
3.1 THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS: ENQUIRIES, ASSESSMENTS AND APPROVALS	11
3.2 POST APPROVAL AND POST PLACEMENT SUPPORT	12
3.3 TRAINING FOR ADOPTERS	12
SECTION 4 ADOPTION SUPPORT	13
4.0 POST ADOPTION SUPPORT TO FAMILIES	13
4.1 SERVICES TO ADOPTED ADULTS AND BIRTH RELATIVES	14
SECTION 5 OTHER INFORMATION	15
5.0 CAMBRIDGESHIRE ADOPTION SCORECARD 2015-18.....	15
5.1 KEY SCORECARD MEASURES FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE 2018-19	17
5.2 CCA SIBLINGS PROJECT	17

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This report is provided to the Corporate Parenting Sub Committee as part of the monitoring of the adoption agency required under the Local Authority Adoption Service Regulations 2003 and Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011.
- 1.0.2 Since 1st August 2014, under a Framework Agreement, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) transferred the staff, operation and delivery of its adoption service to Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption (CCA), a Voluntary Adoption Agency (VAA) first registered with Ofsted (SC476782) in March 2014 for this purpose. The establishment of the VAA for the LA's adoption service arose from a pre-existing partnership since 2011 between the Council and Coram, with the assistance of DfE grant funding made available in 2013 to expand adopter capacity.
- 1.0.3 Cambridgeshire County Council remains a registered Adoption Agency. It did not devolve its corporate parenting responsibility, nor the Agency Decision Maker (ADM) role for making adoption plans for children. CCA did not hold any cases of children who are in care.
- 1.0.4 This report describes the activity of Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption during the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 ('the period') as it relates to the provision of adoption services to the Council.
- 1.0.5 The last Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption inspection by Ofsted as a Voluntary Adoption Agency was in the previous year. Ofsted rated the service as 'Good'.
- 1.0.6 Ofsted undertook an ILACS inspection (Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services) in January 2019. Whilst not an inspection of the VAA, as such, the inspectors spent a significant amount of time with CCA. The following paragraph in the Inspection report under the section: 'The experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers', referenced adoption:
When it is recognised that a child could benefit from adoption, this is progressed swiftly for most children. In part, this is because the local authority has been successful in increasing the pool of potential adopters. The response to people who enquire about adoption is timely and makes them feel welcomed. Pre- and post-adoption support for adopters is strong. Children have adoption support plans that help make sure that their needs are assessed, and that people know who should be meeting these needs. The plans make a real difference to the lives of children and their adoptive carers.

1.1 STAFFING/SERVICE STRUCTURE

- 1.1.1 CCA's structure at the end of the period comprised of a Recruitment and Assessment team; a Family Finding Unit and Post Adoption Support Team, all supported by a Director of the VAA; 1 Head of Service (for Family Finding and Adoption Support, Cambridgeshire); 1 Adoption Manager for the VAA, 1 Adoption Support Team Manager; 1 Agency/Panel Advisor and approximately

14 social workers and other practitioners plus Business support staff. In consultation with CCC over recent years, CCA has appointed a number of posts in addition to those in the original contract in order to meet the increasing demand in all areas of the adoption service.

- 1.1.2 Until the second half of the period, the service was supported by 1.5 clinicians seconded from the Council's Clinical Team. This has benefitted the service and the team enormously. Unfortunately the service lost both Clinicians in the period just prior to this. However, further funding was received from the Council to ensure that the services access to Clinical consultation was maintained.
- 1.1.3 The main office for CCA's operation has been at Lincoln House, The Paddocks, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge CB1 8DH. The Family Finding Unit is based at Scott House, Huntingdon, co-located with their Local Authority colleagues in children's services.
- 1.1.4 All staff are permanent, bar one social worker on a fixed term contract and the social workers are all registered with HCPC and have the required levels of post-qualifying experience for adoption work.
- 1.1.5 CCA also had a fostering arm (registered from April 2017 with Ofsted as an independent fostering agency as required by current regulations, called Coram Anglia Fostering) for the purposes of offering Early Permanence Placements (i.e. the authority to dually approve as foster carers and adopters).

1.2 THE ADOPTION PANEL

- 1.2.1 CCA's Adoption and Permanence Panel contributes to the running and quality assurance of the Local Authority's adoption service, as delegated to CCA. It receives reports on the service and its performance and in so doing it has an overriding responsibility to promote good practice, consistency of approach and objectivity in all aspects of the adoption service's operation.
- 1.2.2 CCA's panel advisor prepares a six monthly Panel report, signed off by Panel Chairs and presented to CCA's Board in accordance with regulations, some of the content of which is included herewith.
- 1.2.3 The CCA Adoption and Permanence Panel's key function is to make recommendations on the following:
 - The suitability of applicants to adopt (the approval);
 - The suitability of applicants to be approved simultaneously to foster and adopt (dual-approval as foster carers and prospective adopters)
 - Whether a child should be placed for adoption with particular prospective adopters (the match)

- 1.2.4 The LA Adoption Agency retains an Adoption Panel (also operated by CCA) to make recommendations to the LA Agency Decision Maker regarding:
- Whether a child should be placed for adoption (only for children voluntarily relinquished by a parent)
 - There were three such cases considered and recommended in this period.
- 1.2.5 Panels are held approximately 2-3 times a month. Within this period the Adoption Panel met on 29 occasions and heard a total of 88 cases.
- 1.2.6 In accordance with regulations, The Adoption and Permanence Panel makes recommendations about the cases referred to the agency, not decisions. It is the role of the agency to make a decision. For this purpose a senior person within the agency is appointed as the Agency Decision Maker (ADM). The LA agreed in 2014 to delegate to CCA the ADM responsibility for (1) the approvals of adopters and (2) the proposed matches of CCC children who have a plan for adoption, with particular prospective adopters to CCA. Sarah Byatt, Managing Director of CCA is ADM for these cases.
- 1.2.7 The Agency Decision Maker for the decision regarding whether a child should be placed for adoption (the adoption plan) is no longer considered by a Panel, and remains the responsibility of the Local Authority. In this period, this has been Lou Williams, Service Director, Children and Safeguarding, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and Sarah-Jane Smedmor, Assistant Director Children, Cambridgeshire.
- 1.2.8 Formerly, the CCC ADM undertook the decision for prospective adopters to be dually approved as foster carers for the purpose of having children under concurrent planning arrangements. Since 1st April 2017, CCA has been registered with Ofsted as a Fostering Agency with a joint Adoption and Fostering Panel permitted to make recommendations regarding the dual-approval of prospective adopters as foster carers also.

1.3 ADOPTION PANEL MEMBERSHIP

- 1.3.1 As at 31st March 2019 and in the period, CCA Adoption and Permanence Panel Central List membership comprised:

Panel Chair, Independent, SW background
Deputy Panel Chair / Birth Parent
Medical Adviser (CCC)
Independent Member / Educational Psychologist (Retired)
Independent Member / Adoptive Parent

Independent Member/Adopted Person
Independent Member / Social Worker
Fostering Senior Social Worker (CCC)
Independent Member/ Social Worker
Independent Member / Adopted Person
Independent Member / Social Worker
Senior Social Worker, Post Adoption Support Team (CCA)
Independent Member / Social Worker
Medical Adviser (CCA)

1.3.2 In attendance but non-voting members are:

Professional Adviser to Panel
Panel Administrator

1.3.3 The Legal Advisors to the Panel are from Coram Legal Centre on behalf of adopters and Cambridgeshire County Council Legal Services on behalf of Cambridgeshire children to be placed for adoption.

1.4 PANEL AND AGENCY DECISION MAKER ACTIVITY

1.4.1 Between 1st April 2018 and 31st March 2019, the CCC ADM decided that adoption should be the plan for 65 children. This compares to 77 in 2017/18; 72 in 2016/17 and 65 in 2015/16.

1.4.2 In this period the CCA Adoption Panel met on 29 occasions, hearing a total of 88 cases of approvals (30) and matches (58). There was one resignation of previously approved adopters presented; this was a couple who became long term foster carers to 2 children whose plan was changed from adoption to fostering.

1.4.3 In relation to the approval of prospective adopters, the Panel recommended that 30 households were suitable to adopt. There were no non-recommendations for approval and no qualifying determinations made by the CCA ADM.

1.4.4 Eight of the 30 households were dually-approved as adopters and foster carers for Early Permanence placements.

1.4.5 The Panel recommended proposed matches for 58 children with particular prospective adopters, both CCA and other Agencies, and all received positive ADM decisions.

1.5 CCA PANEL TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

- 1.5.1 Panel training last took place in January 2018 and focussed on the impact of neglect and considerations for adoption. There is a plan for training on learning from disruptions in early autumn 2019. Panel chairs have taken up opportunities for training and practice forums with CoramBAAF, one of which was open to Panel Advisers. The Chairs also receive independent supervision.
- 1.5.2 All panel members have been appointed with relevant references and have up-to-date enhanced DBS checks. Individual Panel Member appraisals took place in November 2018 and Panel Chair appraisals with the ADM took place in February 2019.

SECTION 2: CHILDREN AND ADOPTION

2.0 CHILDREN REFERRED FOR ADOPTION

- 2.0.1 As of 31st March 2019, there were 136 children from Cambridgeshire open to the Family Finding Unit for permanence planning and tracking where adoption would be the alternative plan if no other options were available. This was slightly fewer than the previous year, however not all those referred do result in a final Care Plan for Adoption.
- 2.0.2 As of 31st March 2019, nearly 60% children referred to Family Finding are still in care proceedings. Once final Court dates are known, some early searching is started to minimise delay if a Placement Order is granted. Twenty nine children with Placement Orders have no active links (eleven of these were made in latter Quarter 4) and are subject to parallel family finding with CCA and external agencies. Nationally adopter supply is insufficient which is causing particular difficulty in matching children who are older, in sibling groups or with additional needs and complexities.
- 2.0.3 Cambridgeshire's permanency strategy is to avoid case drift or delay for children, social workers are expected to refer children for family finding when adoption is a possible, even if unlikely, outcome for that child. Permanence is considered by CCC forums for all children in care which ensures robust care planning is undertaken. In many cases, children return to parental care or are placed under other legal orders with extended family members.
- 2.0.5 Every child in care, who may need a new permanent family via adoption, has a CCA social worker from the Family Finding Unit allocated to take lead responsibility for finding a suitable family. The Family Finding social worker calls regular permanence planning meetings with other professionals involved

with the child. Should a child not be able to return to parents or extended family, adoption or long term fostering will be considered. The social workers are active in identifying suitable adoptive families who are able to meet the majority of a child's needs without delay to ensure a child is able to move to a permanent family in a timely manner. This includes consideration of whether placement via Early Permanence is appropriate for the child.

2.0.6 Early Permanence planning had been a strong feature of the partnership between Cambridgeshire and CCA. Five children were placed under these arrangements in the period compared with 4 in 17/18; 3 in 16/17 and 12 in 15/16.

2.1 OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WITH PLANS FOR ADOPTION

2.1.0 Sixty two children were made the subject of Placement Orders in the year. This was slightly less than the number of orders expected as there continues to be delays being experienced in proceedings. An analysis of children placed for adoption in 2018/19 compared to the previous year found that these children were on average waiting 36 weeks, which was 7 weeks longer between becoming looked after and their Placement Order being granted. In 2016/17 38% of care proceedings for this cohort had exceeded 26 weeks, in 2017/18 this was 59% and in 18/19 this had risen to 66%. However delays in care planning and proceedings are now being addressed through a number of forums attended by CCA where the timeliness of PLO work and court proceedings is monitored i.e. the multi-agency Unborn Baby Panel and Children in Care Tracking Meetings. CCA family finders continue to support units / teams in ensuring care planning is on course during Permanence Tracking meetings. In addition regional trends and patterns in judicial practice are raised as necessary through the Eastern Region Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board.

2.1.1 Of the 68 children with plans for adoption agreed by the Agency Decision Maker during 2018/19, 28 have been placed for adoption, with a further 3 children matched awaiting placement at the end of the period. As of 31st March 2019; 11 children with Placement Orders had been linked with matches progressing, 29 children with Placement Orders are 'waiting' with active family finding ongoing. These children have characteristics or additional – and multiple - complexities for family finding; such as being placed as part of a sibling group, autism, BME heritage, being aged 5 and over. Family finding for these children includes local, regional and national searches and children are featured at Adoption Activity Days, National Adoption Events, Adoption Link Maker and Adoption Match.

- 2.1.2 A total of 59 Cambridgeshire children were placed for adoption in the year. 30 of these were placed with CCA adoptive families and 29 were placed with other agency adopters.
- 2.1.3 Of the 59 children placed with adoptive families in 2018/19, over 60% were deemed complex under the DfE-defined 'harder to place' categories which are being 5 years or over; in a sibling group; BME; disability; or waiting over 18 months since court approval to place for adoption. Several of the children placed in 2018/19 had complexities in more than one of these categories
- 2.1.4 Sadly adoptive placements for four children have also disrupted in the period.

2.2 PLACEMENTS OF CHILDREN

- 2.2.1 12 sibling groups were placed within the year.

2.3 TYPE OF ADOPTION PLACEMENT

- 2.3.1 Of the 59 children placed with prospective adopters, 30 were placed with adopters approved by Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption Agency (effectively internal), 29 children were placed with prospective adopters approved by other agencies and subject to an inter-agency fee. Of these children matched with other agency adopters, 19 were with other LA adopters and 8 were with other VAA adopter.
- 2.3.2 Fostering for Adoption (Early Permanence) places a child during the period that they are looked after and undergoing care proceedings with adopters who are also approved as foster carers. If the court agrees that the child should be placed for adoption the child can then be matched for adoption with those approved adopters. This ensures that the child benefits by experiencing consistency of care during the first months of their life.
- 2.3.3 Within this period 5 children have been placed via early permanence and all were matched in the period.

2.4 ETHNICITY OF CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION

- 2.4.1 Of the 59 children placed for adoption, 41 children were of White British heritage, 18 children were of black and minority ethnic heritage, including 7 White/Lithuanian, and 5 White/Black African.

2.5 AGES OF CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION

2.5.1 Of the 59 children placed for adoption by Cambridgeshire, 14 were under the age of 1 year; 10 children were under 2 years; 22 were between 2 and 4 years and 13 were over 5 at the point of placement.

2.6 GENDER OF CHILDREN PLACED FOR ADOPTION

2.6.1 Of the 59 children placed 29 were male and 30 were female.

2.7 ADOPTION ORDERS

2.7.1 Adoption Orders were made in respect of 44 children in the period. 31 Adoption Orders were granted within 12 months of placement.

2.7.2 There has been an increase in the number of parental challenges to the making of the Adoption Order. This has resulted in delays to orders being granted whilst the court considers their objections. In all of these cases the orders have been granted.

2.7.3 As of 1st April 2019, 59 children had been placed with their adoptive families. Forty seven are in pre-adoptive placements not yet adopted. It is expected that the majority of these children will have orders granted during 2019/20. There continues to be some delays in making of Adoption Orders due in part to an increase in parental challenge at the adoption order stage. In some cases, intensive packages of therapeutic and social work support is being provided.

SECTION 3: ADOPTERS

3.0 RECRUITMENT OF ADOPTERS

3.0.1 Adoption Agencies have a duty to recruit a range of adopters to meet the needs of the children they are seeking to place for adoption and for children nationally. The principal method for recruitment is via websites. Searches on CCC's website for adoption were automatically forwarded www.coramcambridgeshireadoption.org.uk.

3.0.2 The recruitment strategy in this period focussed on trying to address the insufficiency of adopters for sibling groups, older children with complex need and young children who could be placed via Early Permanence. Some targeted activity took place towards the end of the previous year and into this period, including lamppost banners, website updates and social media presence.

3.1 THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS: ENQUIRIES, ASSESSMENTS AND APPROVALS

3.1.1 CCA has a single point of contact to the service through a local rate telephone line and the website. An information pack was made available to all enquirers and a duty system is in place for three days a week. Social workers make arrangements to meet with enquirers and offer attendance at information meetings and initial interviews.

3.1.2 Information sessions are held once a month where current information on the needs of children requiring adoption and the process of assessment is given to those people who are interested in becoming adopters.

3.1.3 In this reporting period:

- 257 enquiries were received
- 22 information sessions were held
- 136 individuals attended information sessions, comprising 121 households
- 43 Registrations of Interest to proceed to stage 1 were received and accepted
- 11 did not proceed to stage 2 assessment phase (NB these are not all from 43 above)
- 31 started stage 2 assessment
- 30 households presented to panel for approval
- 30 approved

3.1.3 At 31st March 2019, there were 21 households in stage 1 of the process and 11 in stage 2 assessment indicating a steady pipeline.

3.1.4 Ethnicity of 30 households approved: 25 were White British, 1 White British & White American; 1 White British & White Australian; 2 White British and White European and 1 White Polish

3.1.5 The majority of adoption approvals were of heterosexual couples. Three were single females; 2 same-sex male couples, 1 same-sex female couple. There were three second time adopters and six approved applicants had birth children.

3.3 POST APPROVAL AND POST PLACEMENT SUPPORT

3.2.1 All approved adopters are supported by a Social Worker from the Recruitment and Assessment Team from approval through the process of matching and placement, to the making of an Adoption Order. Some families also receive

Adoption Support Fund funded interventions prior to the Adoption Order being granted.

3.2.2 At 31st March 2019, there were 16 households approved and waiting, of those one had been waiting for just over 6 months, and one for longer. Eight of the 16 households have prospective matches of CCC or other LA children booked into Panel in the first quarter of 2018-2019.

3.2.3 At 31st March 2018, 21 CCA families have CCC children living with them and 3 have other Local Authority children living with them.

3.3 TRAINING FOR ADOPTERS

3.3.1 CCA has a social worker dedicated to training and preparation who has focused this year, on evolving Stage 1 and Stage 2 training.

Prospective adopters attend two modules – Stage 1 and Stage 2 and these are presented by the training Social Worker and Social Workers from the Recruitment and Assessment team.

Prospective adopters attend training in stage one covering:

- Types of Abuse
- Children's experiences
- Child development
- Trauma and attachment
- Concurrent planning
- Understanding challenging behaviour

Further training is presented to adopters in stage two covering in more depth:

- The child's journey
- The adopter(s)' Journey
- Support children emotional regulation
- Impact of abuse and neglect
- Contact
- Identity
- Loss and grief
- Post adoption support

Additionally those prospective adopters interested in concurrency/foster to adopt attend a further two days training addressing

- Early permanence planning/the legal context
- Contact
- The fostering role

The dedicated social worker for training has now developed new workshops for adopters - Preparing adopters for placement, Preparing and assessing existing children in placement (birth and adopted children) and Adopting Siblings. She is also exploring ways to include broader perspectives into training, for example children's views, birth parents and adopted adults.

- 3.3.2 Stage one and stage two training is offered according to numbers of prospective adopters in the process but at least every other month. Training is evaluated at the end of each set of modules, with feedback from participants being consistently positive.
- 3.3.3 Adopters pre and post placement have access to the Annual foster carer training programme offered by Cambridgeshire County Council. This includes workshops on topics such as 'Building attachments', 'First aid for foster carers' and 'Nurturing your child's developing mind'.
- 3.3.4 Adopters with children early in placement are able to attend parenting groups such as Foundations for Attachment presented by clinicians and social workers from the Adoption Support team.

SECTION 4: ADOPTION SUPPORT

4.0 POST ADOPTION SUPPORT TO FAMILIES

- 4.0.1 CCA undertakes on behalf of CCC all the statutory responsibilities relating to the provision of adoption support services. The Adoption and Children Act 2002 established the right of adopted families to request an assessment of their adoption support needs.
- 4.0.2 In this period the Adoption Support team received 77 new referrals for assessment of need, a further increase on the previous year of 68. At March 2019, 205 children from 127 families were receiving a service.
- 4.0.3 Families either self-refer or are referred via other agencies such as school or health services. In such cases the team either provides direct social work support or where a specific need is identified, a specialist service may be commissioned.
- 4.0.4 The DfE Adoption Support Fund (ASF) has been available since May 2015 and now also provides for children in Special Guardianship families. In the period 18/19, 154 applications to the ASF have been made (twice as many as 2017/18). All have been accepted for the provision of ASF eligible therapeutic interventions to families. Of these, 122 have been delivered by external providers, commissioned through CCA.

- 4.0.5 The team have a mailing list of adoptive families who are sent newsletters, invitations to support groups for adoptive parents and family days.
- 4.0.6 Adoptive parents support groups have been run regularly throughout the year at 4 locations in the County and are well-attended. Children's groups have been held four times a year for two different age bands.
- 4.0.7 Each child placed for adoption is required to have a contact plan in relation to their family. The majority of these are indirect contact arrangements via the letterbox service. In the year the service dealt with 1096 exchanges, of which the slight majority were adopter contacts.
- 4.0.8 The team continue to offer the 'Foundation for Attachments' therapeutic parenting workshops and have recently piloted their own 'Living with Aggression' groups aimed at those families experiencing physical aggression from their children. The team has continued to offer training to schools around children with attachment and trauma issues.

4.1 SERVICES TO ADOPTED ADULTS AND BIRTH RELATIVES

- 4.1.1 The Adoption Support team provide an advice and counselling service to adopted adults seeking information and access to their birth records. For all residents of Cambridgeshire an access to records counselling service is offered. Information is also provided to other agencies that are supporting adopted adults living in their area who were adopted through Cambridgeshire.
- 4.1.2 Initial counselling interviews are offered to those seeking birth records and work is undertaken to locate records held by Adoption Agencies. Counselling and practical advice during tracing, an intermediary service and pre and post reunion support are also available to adopter adults and their birth relative.
- 4.1.3 Birth relatives seeking to make contact with adopted adults are offered information and advice and the Agency can act as an intermediary where appropriate.
- 4.1.4 The team received 36 new referrals for 'adult' work. At the end of the period there are 38 open cases with a managed waiting list of 77.
- 4.1.5 In accordance with regulation, the team offers a counselling and information service for birth parents and relatives affected by the adoption plan. The Birth Relatives Outreach Worker (BROW) is proactive in offering of support, advice and guidance and is independent of the child's social worker, and the worker receives independent supervision. This is a confidential service unless concerns arise about the welfare of a child.

4.1.6 In the year, there were 21 new referrals to the BROW service, with 20 open at the end of the period.

SECTION 5: ADOPTION SCORECARD

5.0 CAMBRIDGESHIRE ADOPTION SCORECARD 2015-18

The Scorecard was introduced by the Department for Education in 2010, to address the delays in the adoption system. The indicators are based on a Local Authority's average performance over a 3 year period. This performance is based on timescales for children adopted in the reporting period.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adoption-scorecards>

Scorecard thresholds for:	Indicator timescales A1	Indicator timescales A2
2010 to 2013	20 months	6 months
2011 to 2014	18 months	5 months
2012 to 2015	16 months	4 months
2013 to 2016	14 months	4 months
2014-2017	14 months (428 days)	4 months (121 days)
2015-2018	14 months (428 days)	4 months (121 days)

National Indicators

A1: average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family, for children who have been adopted. The target for the 2013 to 2016 average (as measured during the 3 years i.e. 2013 to 2016) is 14 months (428 days)

A2: average time between a local authority receiving Court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family. The target for the 2013 to 2016 average (as measured during the 3 years i.e. 2013 to 2016) is 4 months (121 days)

A3: measures the number and percentage of children who wait less than 14 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family (as measured during the 3 years i.e. 2013 to 2016)

Cambridgeshire 3 year Average Scorecard Performance

Year	2011/2014	2012/2015	2013/2016	2014/2017	2015/2018
Cambridgeshire A1 (days)	517	482	428	379	381
Cambridgeshire National Ranking	LAs not ranked	Ranked 15th	Ranked 11 th	Ranked 7th	Ranked 13 th
National Average A1	628	593	558	520	486
Cambridgeshire A2	78	114	120	129	172
Cambridgeshire National Ranking	LA not ranked	Ranked 8th	Ranked 6th	Ranked 10th	Ranked 54 th
National A2	217	223	226	220	201
Cambridgeshire A3	58%	50%	50%	64%	67%
National A3	51%	47%	47%	53%	56%

Cambridgeshire Key Performance Indicators Yearly Performance

Year	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
A1	442	363	277	379	338*
A2	171	173	104	171	138*
A3	58%	80%	92%	80%	70 %*

*Based on 44 AO's 20

Cambridgeshire children's placements

Year	01.08.14 – 31.03.15	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	2018 -2019
Total Placements	20	45	42	39	59
Early Permanence	2	13	7	5	4
Internal Placements	16	42	29	33	30
External Placements	4	3	13	6	29

VAA activity adopter approval and IA placements made

Year	01.08.14 -31.03.15	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017	2017 -2018	2018 - 2019
Number house-holds approved	33	40	31	25	30
Number OLA children placed with CCA families	9	8	13	4	7