

Executive Report

CYP Scrutiny Commission: 20th June 2012

Decision to be announced on: 28th August 2012

Statement of Purpose Adoption Services East Midlands

Decision to be taken by: Decision to be taken by:

City Mayor & Executive

Lead Director: Rachel Dickinson

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Cheriell O'Neill Head of Service, Children's Resources.
Mark Tingley, Service Manager, Fostering and Adoption
Andy Smith, Director, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding
- Author contact details: 0116 2995876 / 39 5876 / 29 8306

1. Decision Summary:

The Adoption Statement of Purpose (SoP) 2012 and Children's Guide requires approval by Leicester City Council as an Adoption Agency. This is an annual requirement

2. Why it is needed:

The Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003: 2, 3 and 4 require that the Adoption Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide is kept under review by the Local Authority and where appropriate revised.

Attached at Appendix A is the updated Adoption SoP. Revisions include further updating of the statement following the team's disaggregation from Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils on 30th September 2012, Annual Statistics for the year ending 31st March 2012.
Appendix B Contains a copy of the Leicester City Children's Guide to Adoption.

3. Options:

Not applicable.

4. Tell us how this issue has been externally scrutinised as well as internally?

The regulations require that following approval, a copy of the SoP and Children's Guide is supplied to Ofsted. In practice Ofsted no longer require a copy, but they should be able to access it on the Leicester City Council, Adoption Services East Midlands – provided by Leicester City Council website.
Therefore once approved, the updated SoP will be posted on the website.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Martin Judson, Financial Services

5.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
Kamal Adatia, Head of Community Services Law. (Ext 29 7044)

5.3 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

This report does not contain any significant climate change implications and therefore should not have a detrimental effect on the Council's climate change targets.
Helen Lansdowne, Senior Environmental Consultant - Sustainable Procurement

6. Background information and other papers:

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A - Leicester City Council, Adoption Services East Midlands Statement of Purpose, including:

Appendix 1, Timescales for Adopters;

Appendix 2, Adoption team Annual Report of Activity for 2011/12

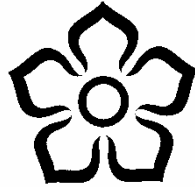
Appendix B - Children's Guide to Adoption

8. Is this a confidential report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

1. Is this a "key decision"?

Yes



Leicester
City Council

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE 2012

Adoption Services East Midlands Provided by Leicester City Council

**Adoption
Services** **East Midlands**
Provided by Leicester City Council
Telephone: 0116 299 5899

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

Revised 23rd April 2012

1. **Introduction**

This Statement of Purpose explains the aims, objectives and services provided by the Adoption Team for The Children and Young People's Services of Leicester City. It is part of the responsibility in fulfilling the requirements of the Adoption National Minimum Standards (Revised 2011), Adoption Agency Regulations 2005, The Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003 and Care Standards Act 2000.

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
New Walk Centre
Welford Place
Leicester, LE1 6ZG

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: - Mark Tingley

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

The experience and qualifications of the Manager are:-

Mark Tingley has a CQSW and BA (Hons) Social Science obtained in 1980. He possesses an Introductory Executive Diploma in Management obtained in 2005. He has over thirty years experience as a social worker and social work manager, having worked both in London and Leicester in both fieldwork and children's resources.

The registered provider is Leicester City Council, Education and Children's Services Department.

The Agency Decision Maker on behalf of the Local Authority is Cheriell O'Neill, Head of Service, Children's Resources.

6. **The Adoption Team**

The Adoption Service 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 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 four part-time qualified and General Social Care Council registered social workers with experience in adoption work.
- One full time unqualified Adoption Support Worker.
- Two adoption support workers - one qualified in social work and one support worker who has relevant experience.
- 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 Team

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

This team provides the following services:-

- Recruitment of adoptive families; including publicity, information giving and regular information evenings.
- 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.
- 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 children, their parents and carers.
- 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 (Limited), (formerly the Doncaster Adoption and Family Welfare Society Limited). 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.

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

An information leaflet and brochure 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 local children requiring adoption. The time scale for the assessment process is shown in Appendix 1.

10. 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.
- Decide whether adoption should be the plan for a child.
- 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.

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 are

- An independent chair
- Qualified social workers,
- Medical adviser,
- Elected Member of the Council,
- Lay representation (not employed by the Service/Council and who may have personal experience of adoption).
- Legal adviser
- Agency adviser also attends the panel.

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).

11. 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 are 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 Legislation. 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 children being considered for adoption and those of prospective adoptive parents. 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 Council has a duty to be accountable for the Adoption Service. In Leicester City, a Councillor is a member of the adoption panel.
- The Agency Decision Maker will observe one panel each year and attend panel training days.
- The Adoption Service is subject to a three yearly inspection by Ofsted.
- Feedback will be gathered from a variety of service users through evaluation.

12. 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: 299 5899. 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.

13. The Recruitment of Prospective Adopters

Please note that statistics used within this Statement of Purpose relate to the year 2011/12, Leicester City Council delivered its services jointly with Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils until 30th September 2011, therefore some statistics refer to the period of the joint arrangement. (See Appendix 2)

Adoption Team deals with a high number of enquiries, in 2011/12 the total number of referrals to the team was 753, of which 304 were from people showing an interest in adopting a child. Of these 101 were from the City, 147 from the County and 3 from Rutland. 33 people expressing an interest in adopting came from other areas. Although the overall numbers of referrals was down on the previous year, the numbers of people interested in adopting contacting Adoption Service East Midlands increased. The majority of enquiries are still from childless couples who want to adopt a white baby or very small child. This image of adoption is however slowly changing and there continues to be a good level of interest from Black and Minority Ethnic groups, interest from single people and same sex couples improved over the previous year with 2 single people and 2 same sex couples being approved. The team still needs to prioritise recruitment of adopters to meet the needs of children who are available for adoption. The team exceeded its' target of 24 new adopter approvals in the year 2011/12.

In 2011/12 6 information evenings were held, attended by 67 people. The evenings are run by social workers from the team with the help of adoptive parents, who are able to people interested in adopting a realistic view of what can be expected.

In the same period three Preparation Groups were run for 61 applicants. These groups have involved the input of birth parents as well as adopters, adult adoptees, and also CAMHS and post adoption workers.

55 children were referred for adoption in 2011/12, (an increase of 3 on the previous year) of whom 50 were presented to the adoption panel for consideration of a recommendation for a plan for adoption. In the same period 21 children were placed in adoptive families and 22 children were made subject to Adoption Orders by the Court, slightly down on the previous year.

14. Adoption Support

There are 2 adoption support workers within the team.

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 within schools by an adoption support worker on attachment difficulties and how to respond to these. There has been a very positive response to these initiatives.

The CAMHS Service has funding for two posts to increase the capacity of 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.

Total number of referrals to the adoption support team in 2011/12 was 234, down on previous years, although this is expected, as from 30th September the team only took referrals from the city area. Of these, a large number come from adopted adults (106) who were requesting a variety of services, but commonly are seeking access to their birth records and want help in tracing their birth relatives. Birth relative enquiries (202) seek similar services, and are often from people requesting contact with their adopted relatives.

Requests for help from adoptive families total 66. This figure is lower than last year and again allowing the statistical impact of the ending of the joint arrangement. It is likely that this figure will reduce further in a full year after disaggregation. Although

proportionately the lowest in number of post adoption referrals, these are usually the most time consuming and complex. The needs of adoptive families are often urgent and warrant immediate help and support.

The adoption support workers have run various support groups and drop –in sessions for adoptive parents. These groups run at different times of the day and include “Play and Stay” sessions and ‘walk and talk’ sessions in Bradgate Park in the summer. Feedback is positive. Social events such as the annual adoption party for children and parents are other occasions in which there is an opportunity for families to support each other. Activity days are organised for children in the school summer holidays.

We keep in touch with adoptive families through our quarterly newsletter called “Reaching Out”. This provides details of organised activities and includes relevant articles about adoption.

The workers continue to organise day seminars by a well respected clinical psychologist on attachment issues and resolutions. They are run as a rolling programme, two or three times a year. These have been well attended by adoptive parents, greatly enhancing 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 and social workers can also attend this training and helps build positive professional relationships which are supportive of adopted children.

The Raising Achievement of Looked After Children Team (RALAC) are able to provide additional advice and support in school to assist their transition to a new school.

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.

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:

www.newfamilysocial.co.uk/

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

Adults who have been adopted can approach the Registrar General when they are 18 and ask for details from their original birth certificate. Once they have obtained this information a request can be made to the team 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.

16. 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.

17. Contact Services

There are now 306 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 3% involve direct contact arrangements.

A leaflet on the Post Box Scheme is available.


18. 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 picnic and "Play and Stay".

19. OFSTED

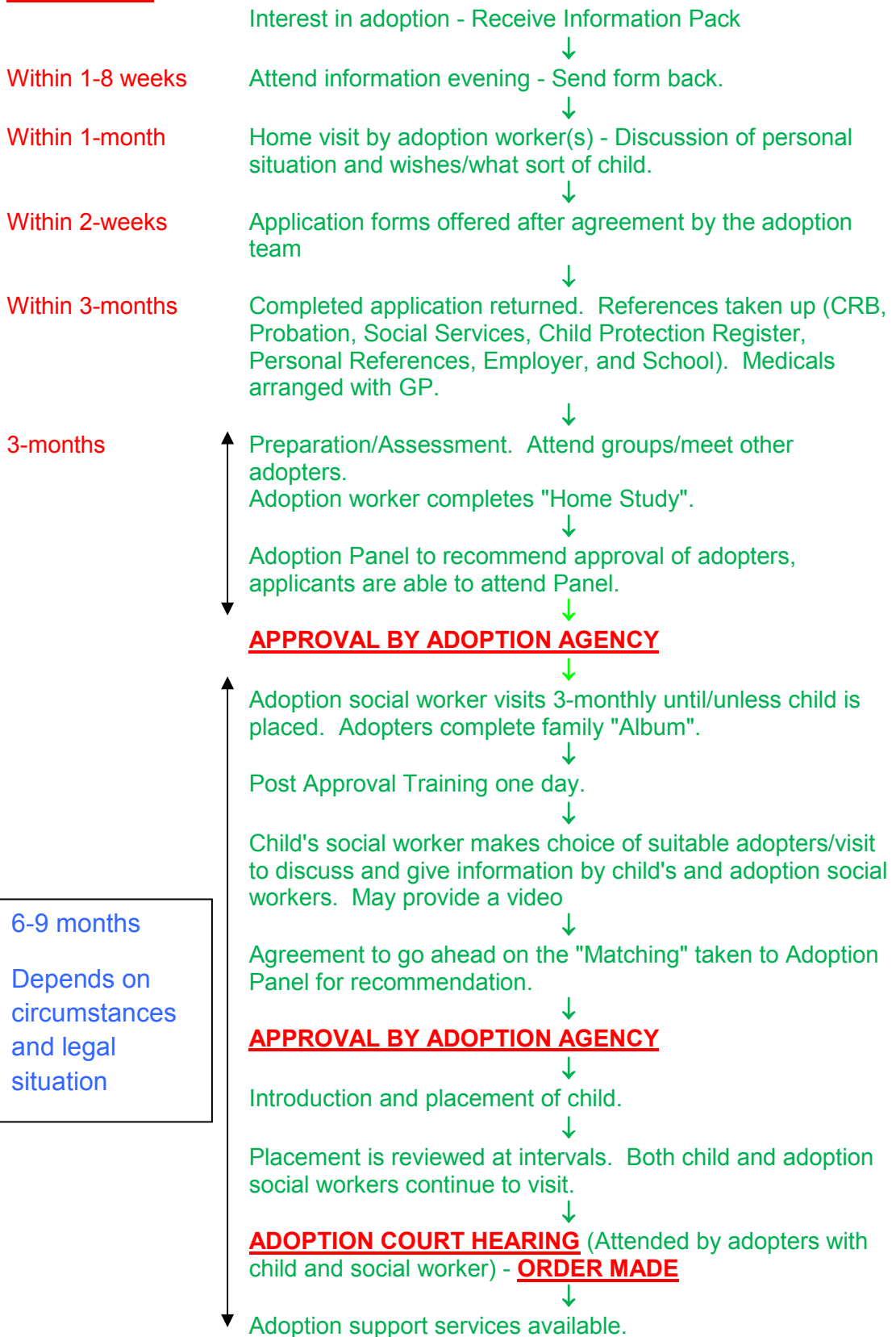
Ofsted is responsible for inspecting the Adoption Agency, usually on a three year cycle. The last inspection took place in September 2009. Ofsted will also receive and may investigate any complaints about the Adoption Service. They can be contacted at:-

National Business Unit
3rd Floor, Royal Exchange Buildings
St. Anne's Square
Manchester
M27 LA

 08456 40 40 40
Fax 08456 40 40 49
Email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

Process for Assessment and Approval of Adopters

Target Times



6-9 months
Depends on
circumstances
and legal
situation

ADOPTION TEAM ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITY FOR 2011/12

1. NEW REFERRALS TO TEAM

<u>Total Number</u>	<u>(439)</u>	<u>314</u>	2010/11 total =(853)
City	(129)	177	
County	(224)	81	
Rutland	(05)	1	
Out of Area	(81)	55	

Note Figures in brackets refer to joint figures prior to disaggregation with the county on 30th September 2011.

2. CHILDREN

a) Children referred by child care teams for permanence

Total Number **55**

b) Children presented to Panel for adoption placement

Total Number **50**

**c) Children placed for adoption with adoptive families
(Including foster carer adoption)**

Total Number **21**

d) Details of children placed for adoption

• **Ages of children placed**

0-1	17
1-5	03
5-10	01
10+	00

• **Sibling groups**

Single	16
Groups of 2	01
Groups of 3	02

- **Ethnic Origin**

White / British	14
White / Asian	04
African Caribbean/White	02
African Caribbean/Asian	00
Polish	01

- **Length of time the children waited for placement**

(Calculated from date the child first presented to Panel to date of “matching” Panel):

0-3 months	02
3-6 months	05
6-12 months	12
12-18 months	02
18-24 months	00

- **Inter-agency placements**

(Children placed with other agency approved adopters)

Total	<u>04</u>
Sib group of 3	01
Single child	01

- **Disruptions**

(Pre-adoption order)

Total	<u>00</u>
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- **Children whose plan was adoption but where family finding was unsuccessful**

(Does not include children where plan changed e.g. placement with relatives)

Total	<u>04</u>
Sib groups of 2	02 Permanent Foster Care

e) **Adoption Orders Made**

Total	<u>22</u>	2010/11 = 24
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3. **ADOPTIVE FAMILIES**

a) **Enquiries/referrals from people interested in adoption**

Total	<u>(159)</u>	<u>145</u>	2010/11 total = <u>(276)</u>
City	(48)	53	
County	(76)	71	
Rutland	(02)	01	
Out of Area	(13)	20	

Note figures in brackets refer to joint referrals prior to disaggregation on 30th September 2011.

b) Inter-Country enquiries/referrals

Total (06) 03

There were (6) referrals prior to disaggregation and only a further 3 after October 2011

[N.B. Inter-Country referrals are dealt with by The Yorkshire Adoption Agency, subject to a Service Level Agreement]

Adoption Services East Midlands are responsible for post-placement work.

c) Information Evenings

Number held 6
Number attending 67

d) Preparation Groups

Number held 3
Number attending 61

e) Home Study Assessments

Number started 21 from preparation groups (2 Foster carer adopters)
7 'second time' adopters

f) Adopters presented to Panel and approved by Agency

Total Number 26

g) Adopters not approved

All adopters assessed were approved but one couple withdrew due to personal circumstances following approval and two were matched with County children while still part of the joint arrangement and one family had an inter-agency placement.

h) Details of approved adopters

• Foster Carer adopters	00	
• Mainstream Adopters	24	
• Inter Country Adopters	00	
• Single adopters		02
• Couples	22	

Same Sex 02
Female 01

Male 01

• **Ethnic Origin**

White British 20
White American 01
Asian/Hindu 01
Asian Hindu/White 01
White/African –Caribbean 02
African-Caribbean 01

i) **Inter Agency Placements**

(Families placed with children from other agencies) **Total 01**

Only one interagency placement was made in this period of a single Caribbean child with a fully Caribbean couple for whom no suitable in house placement was found.

4. **BIRTH PARENTS**

There is a statutory duty to offer independent counselling to birth parents whose children have an adoption plan. This service is provided by the Children and Family Support Team

Total number of referrals to Birth Parents Support Service

There have only been two referrals within this period for the birth parents of city children.

5. **POST ADOPTION ORDER SUPPORT SERVICES**

a) **Referrals for Support Services** (post adoption order)

Total (162) 72 2010/11 figure = (279)

	Adopted Adults		Birth Relatives		Adopters	
City	(12)	19	(19)	13	(06)	11
County	(39)	05	(18)	00	(30)	03
Rutland	(02)	00	(00)	00	(00)	00
Out of Area	(15)	14	(102)	50	(11)	05

Note figures in brackets refer to joint referrals prior to disaggregation on 30th September 2011

b) Source of Referral

Adopted adults	(146)
Birth relatives	(67)
Adoptive parents/families	(66)

c) Services available

- General support groups for adoptive parents
- “Play and Stay” group for adopters/young children
- Regular presentation/workshops on attachment by Clinical Psychologist
- “ Children’s/Young Person’s Support Group/activities
- Financial Support packages
- Referral to the Birth Parent Support service
- Post box indirect contact scheme
- Direct contact liaison/supervision
- Birth Records Counselling to adopted adults
- Sign posting for services from other teams and/or statutory and voluntary agencies

6. NON-AGENCY ADOPTIONS

a) Enquiries/referrals received

<u>Total Number</u>	(35)	<u>8</u>
City	(14)	8
County	(21)	
Rutland	(00)	
Out of Area	(00)	

Note figures in brackets refer to joint referrals prior to disaggregation on 30th September 2011



What our Adoption Service wants to offer you

We want to help you to understand what adoption is.

We want everyone to realise that what you want and how you feel are really important.

We want to keep on helping you and your new family even after you are adopted.

We want everyone to remember that your religion and family background are important.

We want to find your new forever family as quick as we can - though sometimes this takes longer than we would like.

We want to help you to keep in touch with your birth family if this is possible - either through letters or phone calls or visits.

We want to carry on helping your birth family who may feel sad after you have moved on to a new family.

We want you to be able to stay with your brothers and sisters where this is possible.

We want to listen to you and help you if there is anything at all you are not happy about.



Adoption Services East Midlands

Provided by Leicester City Council 11 Friar Lane - Leicester - LE1 5RB - 0116 299 5899



What happens when you are being adopted?



A foster carer looks after you while your Social Worker, the court and your family talk about what is going to be best for you.



At a meeting called a Review everyone will decide whether you can go back to your birth family or move on to a new forever family.



Your Social Worker will talk to you about moving to a forever family and they will start to make a life-story book for you.



The Adoption Team and your Social Worker match you to your new forever family.



Your Social Worker goes to a special meeting called the Adoption Panel to say that adoption is the best plan for you and the Panel agrees that you need to be adopted.



Your Social Worker writes a long report all about you and you have a health check.



Your Social Worker asks the Adoption Team to start looking for a forever family for you.



You will get a book all about your forever family and they will come to meet you for the first time in your foster home.



Your new family will visit you lots of times so you get to know them really well. You will then move to your new home. Your Social Worker will still visit you for a while to make sure you are happy.



You and your new family go to court and get an Adoption Order. This means you will live with your new family forever.

