

Executive Decision Report

Statement of Purpose Adoption Service 2013

Decision to be taken by: Executive

Decision to be taken on: April 2013

Lead director: Rachel Dickinson



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Mark Tingley, Service Manager, Social Care and Safeguarding Division
- Author contact details: 2995876 (39X5876)
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

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

The Adoption Statement of Purpose (SoP) 2013 and Children's Guide requires approval by Leicester City Council as an Adoption Agency.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Council agree and endorse the revised Statement of Purpose 2013 and Children's Guide.

2.2 The Council agree for the Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide to be submitted to Ofsted inspection as required.

3. Supporting information including options considered:

The Statement of Purpose and Children's Guide are mandatory documents and do not permit options, but does require the Local Authority to review and revise them. The Statement of Purpose is a public document and should be available to the public, children and families involved in adoption and staff.

Key changes to the document include the insertion of an index page, updates to the management structure and staff group and changes made to the adoption panel function resulting from recently changed regulations.

Reference is now included to the Government's Action Plan on adoption and specifically to Leicester City's performance recorded in the Government's Adoption Scorecard. Throughout the statement key statistics have been updated and summarised in Appendix 1 at the end.

The statistics captured relate to the calendar year 2012. This ensures that these statistics relate to a full year of the Leicester City Adoption Service and reflect the team being a separate entity from the previous joint arrangement with Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils which ended on 30th September 2011.

4. Details of Scrutiny

Not applicable.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising.

Martin Judson, Head of Finance, Investing in our Children, ext.29 7750

5.2 Legal implications

Regulations 2 to 4 of the Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations require the Authority to compile, publish and revise its Adoption Statement and Children's Guide.

Kamal Adatia, City Solicitor & Head of Standards, ext. 29 6302

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

There are no climate change implications associated with this report and the Statement of Purpose will not detract from progress towards the corporate carbon dioxide emissions reduction target.

- Mark Jeffcote, Environment Team. X296765

5.4 Equality Impact Assessment

No Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted in connection with this report.

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

None

6. Background information and other papers:

The Statement of Purpose includes a range of updated information:

- Final updating following the disaggregation of the adoption service from Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils on 30th September 2011.
- Revised sections taking account of regulatory changes affecting the adoption panel and decision making process.
- References to the Government's Adoption Action Plan, including summarised 'Scorecard' information.
- Adoption Service statistics for the year ending 31st December 2012.

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix A: Adoption Statement of Purpose 2013

Appendix B: Children's Guide to Adoption

Appendix C: Summary of key adoption performance information

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

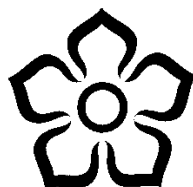
No

9. Is this a "key decision"?

Yes

10. If a key decision please explain reason

The Adoption Statement of Purpose is a statutory document and is available for public scrutiny.



Leicester
City Council

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

**Adoption
Services** **East Midlands**
Provided by Leicester City Council
Telephone: 01 16 299 5899

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
2013**

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

Revised 5th January 2013

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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. Mark 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 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 Health and Care Professions Council registered social workers with experience in adoption work.
- Two full time unqualified Adoption Support Worker.
- One full-time qualified adoption support worker. –
- One full and one part time panel and court order coordinator and two full-time and one part-time 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)

In addition to our comprehensive website, 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.

In addition to our own comprehensive information on adoption, "First4 Adoption", the Government's 'adoption gateway' will provide information for those interested in adopting. The national helpline is on 0300 222 0022 and is available from 7th January 2013. Their website will be available later in 2013.

The local time scale for the adopter's assessment process is shown in Appendix 1, although this will be subject to significant change following anticipated changes to the adoption process being introduced by the Government during 2013.

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.
- 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
- Two Vice Chairs
- 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).
-

Also in attendance:

- Legal adviser
- Adoption Agency 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.

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 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 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

Until 30th September 2011, Leicester City provided its' adoption services as part of a joint arrangement in conjunction with Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils. This report and it's statistics represent the first full year in which the team has functioned as an entity independently from Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils.

Adoption Team deals with a high number of enquiries, in 2012 the total number of referrals to the team was 576, of which 223 were from people showing an interest in adopting a child. The numbers of people interested in adopting contacting Adoption Service East Midlands has reduced as would be expected following the end of the joint adoption service. The majority of enquiries are still from childless white British couples,

who predominantly wish to adopt single healthy babies or young children. There continues to be a reasonably good level of interest from Black and Minority Ethnic groups and interest from single people and same sex couples. The team still needs to prioritise recruitment of adopters to meet the needs of children who are available for adoption and this includes children of mixed heritage, sibling groups and older children. The team has a minimum target of 24 new adopter approvals per year; 36 new adopter approvals were achieved in 2012.

In 2012 5 information evenings were held, attended by 57 people. The evenings are run by social workers from the team with the help of adoptive parents, who are able to present to people interested in adopting a realistic view of what can be expected.

In the same period 4 Preparation Groups were run for 43 applicants. These groups have involved the input of birth parents as well as adopters, adult adoptees, and also CAMHS and post adoption workers.

72 children were referred for adoption in 2012 and 28 children were placed with adoptive families (20 in 2011). 26 children were made subject to Adoption Orders by the Court, (22 in 2011).

14. 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 during 2012, such as the Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012. The Government also published 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 in this area. As yet, not all statistical data has been reported within these scorecards.

The key performance of Leicester City is reported below:

Average time taken for child to be placed with adopters after entering care:

2008-11

Target National Average	639 days*
Leicester Average	640 days

2009-12

Target National Average	639 days*
Leicester Average	631 days

Average time taken for child to be placed with adopters with legal authority to place:

2008-11

Target National Average	213 days**
Leicester Average	146 days

2009-11

Target National Average	213 days**
Leicester Average	127 days

(NB. Last available Scorecard for this Statement of Purpose November 2012)

*The Target National Average (TNA) for a child entering care to being placed in 2013-16 will be 426 days.

**The TNA for a child to be placed with adopters after legal authority to place in 2013-16 will be 121 days.

The Adoption Scorecard can be viewed at:

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

Appendix 1 details the indicative timescales for the assessment and approval of prospective adopters. Following the government's adoption action plan, changes have been made locally to these processes and timescales, in order to bring them more in line with the anticipated governmental expectations. Appendix 1 is likely to require significant revision during 2013, once the Government has made clear its' expectations following extensive consultation ending in December 2012. It has been decided to reproduce Appendix 1 unchanged, as this is consistent with information contained in all other Adoption Services East Midlands publicity, which will require revision and re-issue once Government intentions are clear.

15. Adoption Support

There are 3 workers within the team providing post adoption support services.

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 issues and how to respond to these. There has been a very positive response to these initiatives.

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.

Total number of referrals for post adoption support services in 2012 was 180, down on previous years. This was not unexpected as the adoption team now only covers the City of Leicester. Of these referrals, a significant (but reducing) number come from

adopted adults (87) who were requesting a variety of services, but commonly are seeking access to their birth records or want help in tracing their birth or adopted relatives.

Requests for help from adoptive families totalled 93 which is up by 1/3 on the previous year (66). It was anticipated that this figure would reduce following the ending of the joint arrangement, but it is likely that national publicity about the importance of post adoption support has had an influence on the number of these referrals. These referrals generally require 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 adoption support workers have 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 Bradgate Park in the summer. Attendance is variable but feedback is positive. Social events such as the annual adoption party and farm fun day for children and parents are other occasions in which there is an opportunity for families to support each other.

We have now also begun to run a young people's forum.

We keep in touch with adoptive families through our bi-annual newsletter called "A Different View". 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 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 and social workers can also attend this training and helps build positive professional relationships which are supportive of adopted children.

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.

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 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 together with clear information about the adoption process:

16. 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 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.

17. 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.

18. Contact Services

There are now over 320 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.

A leaflet on the Post Box Scheme is available.

19. 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 have now also begun to run a young people's forum, for teenagers to those in their early 20's.

20. 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 are can be contacted at:-

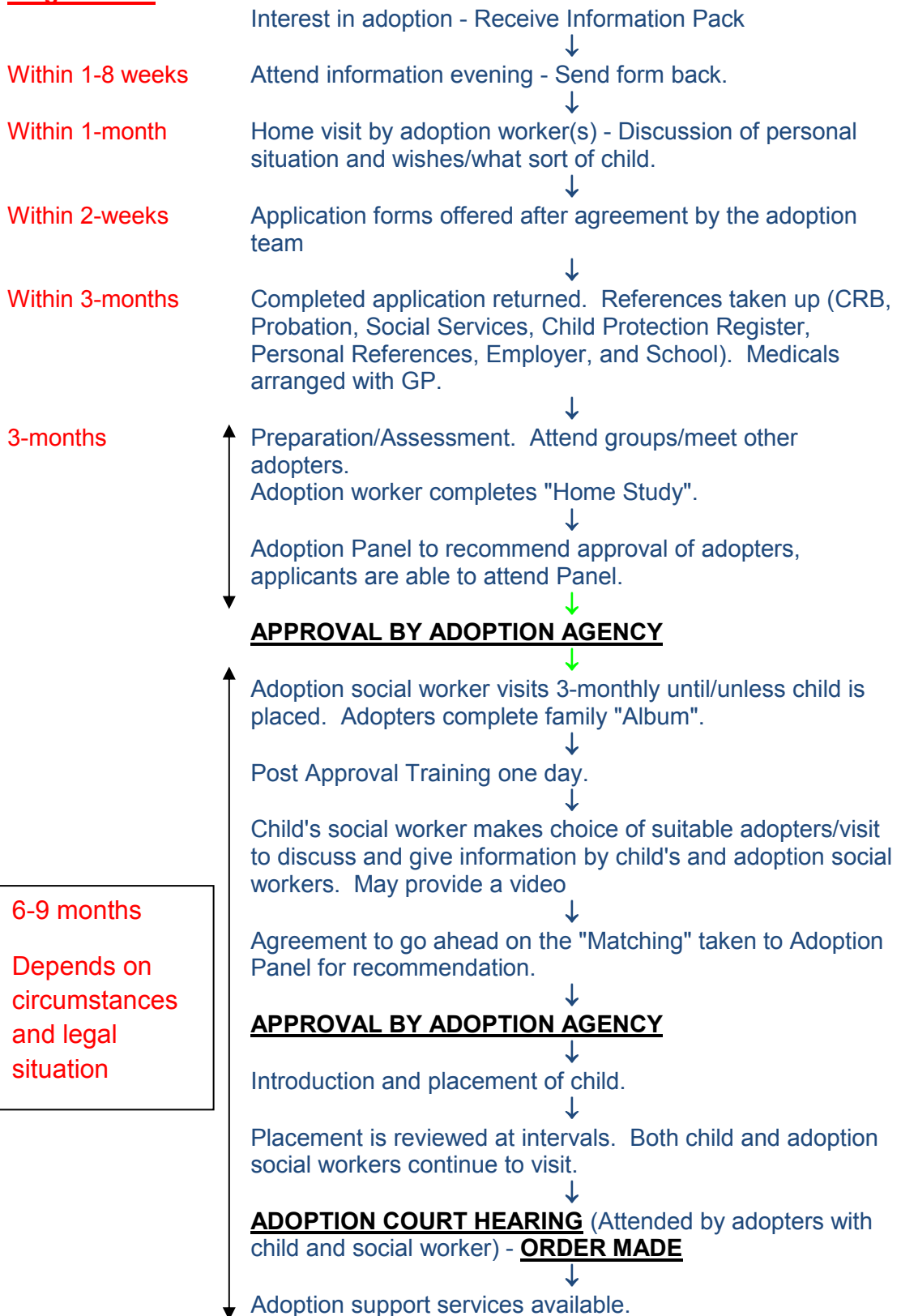
National Business Unit
3rd Floor, Royal Exchange Buildings
St. Anne's Square
Manchester
M27 LA

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

APPENDIX 1 (See Section 14 above)

Process for Assessment and Approval of Adopters

Target Times



APPENDIX 2

Activity Summary of Adoption Services East Midlands provided by Leicester City Council – Calendar Year 2012

1. NEW REFERRALS TO TEAM

a)	Enquiries from people considering adoption	223
b)	Referrals of children for adoption	72
c)	Post Adoption Services (adults)	87
d)	Post Adoption Support (Families and Children)	93
e)	Non-Agency Adoption Enquiries	23
f)	Miscellaneous (includes general advice)	16
g)	Other (ie, statutory checks for other agencies)	65

TOTAL 576

2. CHILDREN

a) Children referred by child care teams for adoption

Total 72

b) Children subject to agreed adoption plan

Total 47

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

Total 26

d) Inter-agency placements

(Children placed with other agency approved adopters)

Sib group of 2

Total 2

e) Disruptions

(Pre-adoption order)

Total 1

f) Children with an adoption plan but Care Plan changed from adoption

Total 1

(In 2012 one other child with an adoption plan agreed in 2011 remained with his foster carer subject to a Special Guardianship Order)

g) Children Placed in adoptive families

Total **28** (2011 = 21)

h) Adoption Orders Made

Total **26** (2011 = 20)

3. Inter-Country enquiries/referrals

Total **7**

[**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.

4. Adopter Recruitment

a) Information Evenings

Number held 5
Number attending 57

d) Preparation Groups

Number held 4
Number attending 43

5. Details of adopters presented to Panel and approved by Agency

a) Single adopters
02

b)	Couples	
	31	
c)	Same Sex Couples -male	
	01	
	-female	01

Total Mainstream Adopters 35

d)	Foster Carer adopters (Same sex couple)	01
----	--------------------------------------------	----

Total 36

d) Ethnic Origin

White British	26
Asian/White	04
White/African–Caribbean	01
Asian	01
White British/other	04

g) Inter Agency Placements

Total 01
(Families placed with children from other agencies)

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

6. 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.

Number of referrals for Independent Birth Parent Counselling

Total 10

4 individuals received counselling for the full 6 sessions, 4 others attended initial sessions, but withdrew as they did not feel able to continue at that time. The 2 remaining people agreed to be referred, but did not follow up by attending sessions.

7. POST ADOPTION SUPPORT SERVICES (Referrals)

a) Post Adoption Support (adoptive families)

Total 93

b) Adopted adults / birth families

Total 87

8. NON-AGENCY ADOPTIONS

a) Enquiries/referrals received

Total 23

APPENDIX B

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

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.

you and ... agree ... you need to be adopted.



Worker will still visit you ... of times ... You will ... Social ... make sure you are happy.

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?



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



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



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



Key Performance Information on Adoption, Leicester City Council

The DfE released the latest figures on adoption timescales in November 2012.

There are three main key performance measures. Leicester has performed well against the three key measures:

1. The average time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family for children who have been adopted has a threshold of 21 months or 639 days currently. The three year average 2009-2012 is 631 which places Leicester 80 out of 152 local authorities.
2. The second measure is the average time it takes to match a child to an adoptive family once the court has formally decided that adoption is the best option, and has a threshold of 7 months or 213 days. The trend for Leicester is improving at 146 days which places Leicester in the upper quartile ranked 27 out of 152 local authorities.
3. The third measure is the percentage and number of children who wait less than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family. The percentage in Leicester is 55% for the three year average, which equates to 70 children. This measure has fallen from 58% over the period 2008-11