

Adoption in Nottingham City – Performance

Nottingham City Children and Families 2011 Children in Care and Adoption Performance Tables

Date Issued: 31st October 2011

Title: Children in Care and Adoption Performance Tables

Note from the DFE that accompanies the data:

The Children in Care and Adoption Performance Tables show, against 15 key indicators, how each local authority is performing. The data we have used is already available. We want the tables to help generate debate, discussion and, above, all action. We'll be updating the tables as new data becomes available. And we will be talking to local authorities and other partners about how the tables can be developed and extended.

A table is provided for each of the indicators mainly based on a three year rolling average. Where available, data are provided for 2008-09 to 2010-11, otherwise data are for 2007-08 to 2009-10. The only exceptions are the indicators on absence from school and schools performing below the floor target for which only two years and one year of data are available.

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was five or less the denominator was 10 or less, they have been suppressed and replaced by a cross (x). It has been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by means of simple arithmetic with data from other publications. Percentages have been derived from unrounded numerator and denominator figures.

Source Data:

The majority of the data has previously been released within the Statistical First Release: Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England (including adoption and care leavers) - year ending 31 March 2009, 2010 and 2011. Briefing documents have been produced for all releases and are available upon request.

The performance tables referred to in this briefing are available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/childrenincare/a00199753/children-in-care-and-adoption-performance-tables>

We will be updating all the indicators that are based on 2010 data as soon as new data become available in late November and December.

Please note that the figures quoted are based on a very small cohort. Indeed, many Authorities figures are withheld due to the small number of children being adopted. As such,



reporting and ranking on percentages can be misleading, furthermore the sample size is not sufficient to be statistically significant.

1. There are currently a total of 63 Nottingham city children who are waiting for adoptive parents. Of these, more than half are in sibling groups of two, three or four brothers and sisters and 43% are children over five years old. 22% of children need at least one adoptive parent from a black/ethnic minority background.

Performance tables overview:

- The released data details three measures in terms of **adoption**:

- 1. The percentage of children who ceased to be looked after who were adopted.**

- Nationally, 12% of Children in Care were adopted (using the 3 year average 2009, 2010 and 2011). In terms of the three year rolling average, Nottingham (with 15%) sits joint 38th in the second quartile.
- The latest national figures (2011) show that the national average is 11%, with Nottingham sitting joint 64th with 12%.

- 2. The percentage of children who ceased to be looked after because of a special guardianship order.**

- Nationally, 6% of Children in Care ceased to be looked after due to a special guardianship order (using the 3 year average 2009, 2010 and 2011). In terms of the three year rolling average, Nottingham (with 6%) sits joint 53rd in the second quartile.
- The latest national figures (2011) show that the national average is still 6%, with Nottingham sitting joint 79th with 5%.

- 3. The percentage of looked after children adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision.**

- Nationally, 74% of children placed for adoption were adopted within 12 months of the decision (using the 3 year average 2009, 2010 and 2011). In terms of the three year rolling average, Nottingham (with 59%) sits joint 133rd in the bottom quartile. Reporting figures in this (3 year rolling) fashion disguises the direction of travel.
- The latest national figures (2010) show that the national average is 72%, with Nottingham sitting joint 65th with 69%.
- *Local information shows that for 2010/11, 93% of children placed for adoption were adopted within 12 months of the decision. This puts Nottingham in 5th place nationally and well within the top quartile of local authorities.*

- The released data details measures in terms of **placements**:

- 1. The percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year ending 31 March.**

- Nationally, 11% of Children in Care had three or more placements during the year ending 31st March (using the 3 year average 2009, 2010 and 2011). In terms of the three year rolling average, Nottingham (with 10%) sits joint 59th in the second quartile.
- The latest national figures (2011) show that the national average remains 11%, with Nottingham sitting joint 55th with 10%.

- Current performance (Q2 of 2011) shows that Nottingham has 9.8% of CiC with three or more placements in the previous year. These figures are important as they show that the care arrangements made in Nottingham are good and less likely to break down causing further disturbance for children.

2. The percentage of looked after children aged under 16 at 31 March who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption and their adoption and their adoptive placement together with their previous placement, last for at least 2 years.

- Nationally, 66% of Children in Care under 16 and looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years were living in the same placement for at least 2 years (using the 3 year average 2009, 2010 and 2011). In terms of the three year rolling average, Nottingham (with 63%) sits joint 112th in the fourth quartile.

- The latest national figures (2010) show that the national average increased to 68%, with Nottingham sitting joint 38th with 63%.

- Current performance (Q2 of 2011) shows that Nottingham has 71.1% of CiC under 16 and looked after continuously for 2.5 years or more who have been in the placement for at least 2 years.

How does the adoption process work?

There are many steps to becoming an adoptive parent. After making an initial enquiry, potential adopters need to attend an information meeting, have health and background checks and undertake numerous home visits and training courses.

The suitability of the potential adopters will be assessed by social workers and presented to an independent 'Panel' which is responsible for making the final decision on whether to approve the applicants.

Even after formal approval there is long process for adopters to be matched with a child. The match itself has to be approved by the independent Panel before the child and adopters can begin to get to know each other.

How has the adoption process been improved recently?

We are constantly seeking ways to streamline and improve the efficiency of the adoption process. Recent developments have included contracting external social work agencies to complete elements of the assessment process as this has provided greater capacity to process adoption applications on time.

This speedier processing of applications has led to an increased frequency of Panel meetings providing more opportunities for approval decisions to be made about potential adopters.

Please find below the detailed breakdown of statistics referred to in the above press release

- **Children adopted within 12 months**
Nationally 72% of children are adopted within 12 months
(2010 national figures)
In Nottingham 93% of children are adopted within 12 months
(Q2 of 2011 local figures)
- **Our children are in more stable placements**
Nationally 11% of Children in Care had three or more placements
(2010 national figures)
In Nottingham 9.8% of our Children in Care had three or more placements

(Q2 of 2011 local figures)

Nationally, 66% of Children in Care were living in the same placement for at least 2 years

(This figure is based on a three year rolling average)

In Nottingham, 71.1% of Children in Care were living in the same placement for at least 2 years (This is a local figure for Q2 of 2011)