



Haringey Council

Report for:	Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee	Item Number:	
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Title:	Adoption Performance Update
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Report Authorised by:	
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Lead Officer:	Lesley Kettles
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Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:
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1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This report is submitted to the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Committee for information. The Committee and other Council Committees are not required to make formal decisions based on this report.

1.2 This report is to inform members of the progress made in the performance of the Adoption Service in placing children for adoption and special guardianship since the publication of the Adoption Scorecard and the Adoption Diagnostic Review in Summer 2012.

2. Cabinet Member introduction

2.1

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that elected members consider the report and support the ongoing actions described.

4. Other options considered

N/A



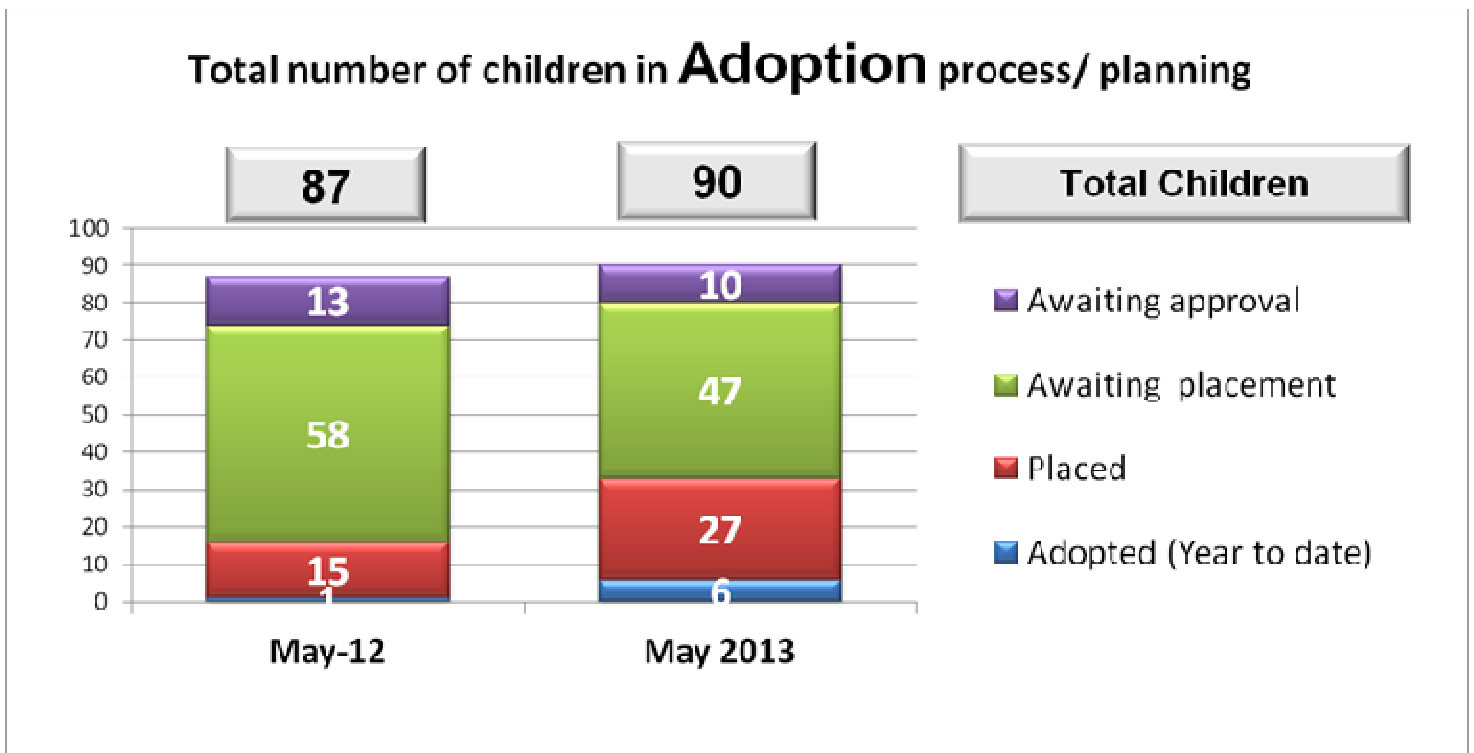
5. Background information

5.1 The report is a review of the performance of the Adoption Service in the financial year 2012/13; and a report of performance in this financial year to date.

6. Performance Review 2012/13

6.1 Total Number of Children in Adoption Process Planning.

The table below identifies the total number of children who are in the adoption planning process:



6.1.1 28 children have been placed for adoption which compares favourably with 22 children placed in 2010/11 and 15 placed in 2011/12. This is a significant increase in activity outcomes.

6.1.2 The average number of days from care to placement for adoption is 737 days which includes children who had been in the system for some considerable time with complex needs and backgrounds.

6.1.3 The average number of days from court permission to place and placed for adoption for this cohort of children is 313 days.

6.1.4 A further 6 children have been placed to date.

6.1.5 The average number of days from care to placed for adoption in this financial year is 299 days, which is a significant decrease from the previous financial year. One child was placed at 1,246 days and this child is on the foetal alcohol



spectrum, which lead to difficulties in identifying a family who could meet her needs.

- 6.1.6 The average number of days from court permission to place and placed for adoption for this cohort of children is 160 days, which is again a significant reduction.
- 6.1.7 Placements have been identified for a further 15 children and they are expected to be placed in the next quarter.
- 6.1.8 The increased focus on permanency for children, supported by the enhanced permanency tracking meetings and the new style Linking Meetings, is successful in leading to higher volumes of children placed and more child centred timescales. Dedicated family finding social workers have also lead to improved performance.

6.2 Adoption Orders.

- 6.2.1 There was a target of 15 adoption orders in 2012/13. 14 orders were achieved in total.
- 6.2.2 A comparison between the in year performance and the 2009–2012 performance indicates improvement, particularly for children who were placed for adoption with foster carers.
- 6.2.3 The target for adoption orders for 2013/14 is 30 orders. 7 adoption orders have been achieved to date. The average numbers of days from care to placed for adoption for this cohort of children is 322 days. 1 child was placed a 1,392 days and the reason for this was that the child had a previous adoption placement which disrupted. 1 other child was placed at over 3,000 days and this is a child who has significant disabilities and who was placed in a long term fostering placement with carers who went on to adopt him.
- 6.2.4 There is scrutiny of this part of the process via the Permanency Tracking meetings and the Deputy Head of Service, Adoption ensures that the independent reviewing officers discuss adoption applications at statutory reviews with the purpose of driving adoptions forward.
- 6.2.5 A further 12 Adoption orders are expected in the next few months.

6.3 Special Guardianship Orders.

- 6.3.1 31 special guardianship orders were achieved in 2012/13.
- 6.3.2 This compares with 13 for the previous financial year.
- 6.3.3 7 special guardianship orders have been achieved to date in this financial year.

6.4 Prospective Adopters.

- 6.4.1 26 prospective adopters were approved in 2012/13. This compares with 9 in 2011/12 and 5 in 2010/11, but was less than our target of 30.
- 6.4.2 4 preparation groups were delivered with an average of 10 sets of prospective adopters attendance at each group.



- 6.4.3 One third of the adopters were approved in under 6 months and the remainder in 8 months. Timescales for approval have improved by having 3 dedicated assessing social workers.
- 6.4.4 The two stage adopter approval process comes into force on 1st July. We have prepared for this by identifying a social worker to undertake the initial processes which involve screening, initial visit, information meetings, taking up of checks and references and basic preparation. The plan is to develop a North London Consortium recruitment team to more effectively manage these processes and to meet the two month timescale. Stage two of the process is preparation and assessment which has 4 months as a timescale. These timescales constitute part of the targets contained in assessing social workers work plans and are subject to management scrutiny.
- 6.4.5 This is further supported by the full implementation of the workflow processes which enable management reports to be run from Framework–i.

7. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications.

8. Head of Legal Services and legal implications.

9. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments.

10. Head OF Procurement Comments.

11. Policy Implication.

The borough has a permanency policy which supports this work.

12. Head of Legal Services and legal implications

13. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

14. Head of Procurement Comments

15. Policy Implication

16. Use of Appendices



Haringey Council

17. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985