

Corporate Parenting Board, Adoption Performance Report, Quarter 3 2012/13

1. Purpose of the Report

This report provides an update on the current adoption performance for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 December 2012.

1.1 Adopted from the Care of the Local Authority

Number of children adopted in 2012/13 is expected to be less than the number adopted last year

“Whole Journey” to Adoption was the longest in the North East during April 2009 to March 2012; Improved slightly on the previous year

Family Finding length is well above the national threshold, and longer than previous years. This is especially true for older children

3-year average for “Whole Journey” is expected to improve for 2012/13 performance; 3-year average for “Family Finding” is expected to decline

1.1.1 Adoption “Whole Journey” – length between entering care and being placed for adoption

- 26 children have been adopted from care in the year up to quarter 3 2012/13
- Adoptions have accounted for 18% of children leaving care, a reduction on the figure for 2011/12, but still above the national average (12%) and other north east authorities (15%)
- Only six other local authorities in England have adopted a greater proportion of their looked after children over the last three years
- The average “Whole Journey” length for children adopted up to quarter 3 was 697 days – an improvement on the 750 days for those adopted up to quarter 2.
- Sunderland had the longest Whole Journey length in the north east for 2009-12 at 694 days. This was 55 days above the National Threshold of 639 days.
- Sunderland were in the third quartile nationally, with 111 local authorities achieving a quicker whole journey time for their adopted children
- 50% of the 26 children adopted in the year to quarter 3 were placed for adoption within the 639 day threshold. This is below the 2011/12 3 year average (54%), the England average (56%), and the north east average (63%)

Whole Journey - Distance from 639 day Threshold for 2009 - 2012

	Distance from threshold
Hartlepool	-190
Darlington	-150
Redcar and Cleveland	-142
South Tyneside	-92
Middlesbrough	-82
Newcastle Upon Tyne	-77
Gateshead	-53
Durham	-50
North Tyneside	-50
Northumberland	-32
Stockton-On-Tees	+35
Sunderland	+55
ENGLAND	-3
Statistical Neighbour Average	-54
North East Average	-122

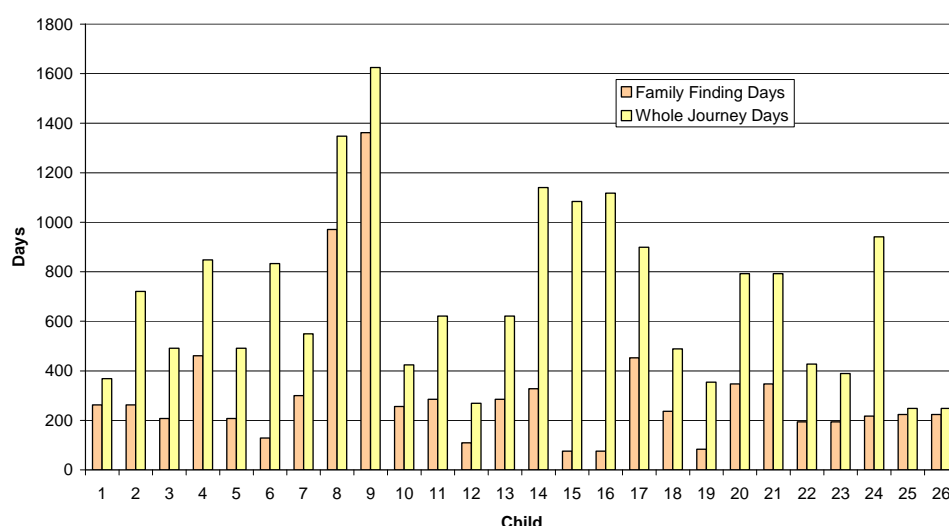
1.1.2 Adoption “Family Finding” – length between court authority to place and deciding on a match to an adoptive family

- The average Family Finding length for the 26 children adopted up to quarter 3 2012/13 was 313 days, an improvement on the 392 days for those children adopted up to quarter 2, but 100 days over the national threshold
- 9 of the 26 children adopted were matched within the 213 day threshold in the year up to quarter 3
- Of the 17 children who took longer than 213 days to match, 8 were adopted within the 639 day Whole Journey threshold, although none of these children took longer than 300 days to match
- All of the children who were matched with an adoptive family within the threshold were aged under the age of 4.
- Four children aged 5 or more were matched with an adoptive family; all of these took more than the 213 day threshold for matching to be completed

Family Finding - Distance from 213 day Threshold for 2009 - 2012	
LA	Distance from threshold
South Tyneside	-160
Newcastle Upon Tyne	-104
Hartlepool	-87
Gateshead	-79
Northumberland	-76
Durham	-40
North Tyneside	-11
Redcar and Cleveland	+4
Middlesbrough	+21
Sunderland	+24
Stockton-On-Tees	+56
Darlington	Did not provide Data
ENGLAND	-18
Statistical Neighbour Average	-47
North East Average	-92

- During the three year period 2009-12 Sunderland was 24 days over the threshold, one of four north east authorities to be over the 213 day mark

Journey Length in days for Each Child Adopted April - December 2012



1.1.3 Whole Journey Analysis – Children Adopted and Placed for Adoption

The below chart shows those children who have either been adopted during 2012/13 or who were placed for adoption on 31st December 2012.

The chart highlights the length of the different stages of the adoption process for each child and highlights the way in which the Adoption based indicators are likely to change.

The table opposite contains predictions for the final 2012/13 outturns, based upon the whole cohort (with the assumption that children will spend six months placed with their adoptive family before the adoption order is granted).

Predicted 2012/13 Figures

Children Adopted	38
Whole Journey Length	686
Family Finding Length	282
Adoptions of children aged 5+ when entering care	1
Adoptions of children aged 5+ when Matched	6
% adopted within Threshold	52%

