

# **Hampshire County Council Integrated Adoption Service Annual Report 1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012**

This report is compiled under the National Minimum Standards 2011 (Standard 25.6) and the Care Standards Act 2000 and needs to be reported to the executive side of the County Council.

In March/April 2011 the Adoption Service underwent a restructure. The County Adoption and Integrated Recruitment Service now comprises a Service Manager who manages five team managers responsible for Integrated Recruitment (adoption and fostering), Integrated Assessment (adoption and fostering), Panel Advisory Service (adoption and fostering) and two adoption child care team managers (East and West). There is a county wide Adoption Support Team currently managed by the West adoption child care team manager.

The Integrated Recruitment Team operates a front door service for all enquiries for adoption and fostering. Staff for this team came from existing adoption staff previously undertaking both the recruitment and assessment of adoptive families and from fostering staff already running a duty and recruitment service.

The Integrated Assessment Team is now centrally based and no longer in local service areas as they have joined their fostering assessment colleagues in Glen House.

The creation of the new teams in April 2011 with the integration and redistribution of existing staff into new teams has taken time to reform and there has also been further movement within those teams during the year. The new structure was also without two of its five team managers from April until September 2011, due to sickness and recruitment difficulties: this placed extra workload pressures on the existing managers who all took on additional responsibilities.

The Adoption Service also underwent a formal inspection by Ofsted in December 2011 and was rated 'Good' in all aspects of the service.

The service was without a service manager in the final quarter of the year 2011-12 following the resignation of the post-holder. A new service manager took up the post on 9 April 2012.

## 1. Children Looked After and Placed for Adoption

### Children looked after placed for adoption and adopted

	Total Adoption Orders Made	Children Matched	Adoption Plans
1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012	50	43	82

The position as of 31 March 2012 is that 50 adoption orders have been made: this is in comparison with 37 adoption orders made last year. At the end of the year in March 2012, 82 children have had new plans for adoption agreed (which is a significant increase on the 66 children last year) and 43 children were matched with prospective adopters (in comparison with 58 children last year).

The increase in the number of adoption orders is due to the fact that several children's care proceedings during the previous year were protracted which affected the timing of placements and therefore the timing of applications for adoption orders. The effect of this is that the figures for adoption orders for this year were higher.

Between April 2011 and March 2012, 82 children had new plans for adoption agreed. However during the year five of these children had their plans for adoption rescinded due to grandparents coming forward during proceedings.

The numbers of children matched for adoption during 2011-12 was 43 children ( 58 children were matched in the previous year ). Of those children matched during this year four single children were matched with prospective adopters from other adoption agencies, including two single children with two sets of prospective adopters from within the consortium (PACT). This compares with 19 children matched within other agencies during 2010-1. Further work will be done to look at the changes indicated by these figures.

#### a) Plans for adoption

Of the 82 children who had plans for adoption agreed during 2011-12 they consisted of a total of 50 males and 32 females, and were to be placed as:

20 Single males

14 Single females

20 sibling groups:

7 sets of two male siblings

5 sets of two mixed male and female siblings

1 set of three male siblings

2 sets of three female siblings

5 sets of mixed siblings of three

Within the group of children this year only one child, a male, was voluntarily relinquished for adoption by birth parent(s): he was aged four months at the time of his plan for adoption and matching were presented to the adoption panel.

The majority of the 82 children are White British with six children being of Black or dual heritage ethnicity.

Of the 82 children who had agreed plans for adoption during 2011-12, five have had their plans rescinded within the same year:

One female child was placed with her maternal grandparents who intend to apply for Special Guardianship Order (SGO).

A group of three female siblings were placed with family members.

One male child who is remaining with grandparents: the plan had been to place this child and his younger brother together in an adoptive family. At the time these children's plans were presented to adoption panel the older child was being cared for by grandmother and the younger one had been placed straight into foster care.

There remains, therefore, 77 children from 2011-12 who have agreed plans for adoption. Of these children approximately 27 are still in care proceedings. Of the remaining 50 a further five are to have their plans for adoption rescinded, including a sibling group of three.

Nineteen children from the 2011-12 cohort have been matched with prospective adopters and a further 14 children have had families identified. For the remaining 12 children family finding is being vigorously pursued.

#### **b) Children awaiting adoptive placements**

With regard to children with plans for adoption from previous years, there are currently five children who had plans for adoption agreed during 2009-10: two single children and a sibling group of three. One of the single children a male now aged four years (aged 14 months at the time his plan was presented to panel and aged 30 months by the time care proceedings were completed) has special needs and despite extensive family finding, including via the National Adoption Register and the consortium, it has not been possible to find a family able to meet his needs. His plan for adoption is to be rescinded. The second single child is a female aged five years at the time her plan for adoption was agreed following panel. It has not been possible to find a family to meet her emotional and behavioural needs and her plan is to change to long term fostering. The sibling group of three has had therapeutic work during which it was recognised that more therapy was needed for the older child. There is to be a meeting in May to review their plans.

There are 21 children who had plans for adoption agreed during 2010-11 and who have not yet been placed for adoption. Of these families have been identified for 12 of the children: for four of the children, these are the children's current foster families. Two children (single children) are having their plans for adoption reconsidered in the light of their special developmental and health needs. Family finding will continue for the remainder of the children.

In total, therefore, at the end of the year 2011-12 there are 57 children currently waiting for placements: 26 of these children have had families identified and 12 children are having their plans either rescinded or reconsidered. For those children for whom adoption remains the plan family finding is being vigorously pursued both in-house and via the adoption consortium the National Adoption Register (including profile events held throughout the south of the country) and features in Be My Parent and Children Who Wait magazines. Finding adoptive families for some of these children will be challenging given their needs which include developmental delay, developmental and medical

uncertainties due to the effects of parental alcohol and drug mis-use in-utero and genetic/chromosomal abnormality. There are also several sets of sibling groups of three where it has been agreed that the children should be placed together: in these cases a time limited search will be undertaken in order to identify families who could parent the children as a sibling group before reviewing the children's plans. There are also several children of dual heritage and attempts would be made to find adoptive families who would reflect the child's heritage and could promote their identity alongside the child's other needs but again any search would be time limited to ensure that these children were not kept waiting for a culturally 'perfect' match but that all or most of their needs were taken into account.

Hampshire Adoption Service held a profile event on 26 April at which those children currently awaiting adoptive families were featured: all Hampshire's approved and available prospective adopters were invited to attend. This was a very successful event producing a number of potential matches.

#### **c) Adoption disruptions (post-placement and pre-adoption order)**

There have been no adoption placement disruptions (pre-adoption order) within the year of this report. In last year's report it was stated that during the year 2010-11 there had been one disruption involving a male child who had been placed with approved adopters from another adoption agency (SSAFA). He was aged two years at the time of placement in March 2010 and had some special needs and the placement disrupted within one month of placement: there were difficulties within the prospective adopters' relationship. Fortunately the child was able to return to his previous Hampshire foster carers where he received the level of care and nurturing he required. After a period of time family finding began again for this little boy and an adoptive family was identified from another agency. He was matched with his adoptive family in July 2011 and has now been adopted.

#### **d) Children matched/placed**

Of the 43 children who have been matched/placed for adoption during the year two children (single) were placed with prospective adopters who were previously their foster carers. Another child joined a sibling already in an adoptive placement and two male siblings were able to be placed in the same adoptive placement at different times during the year as, given their ages, their care proceedings were at different times. In addition one child with a plan for adoption was placed under fostering regulations with prospective adopters who had been identified as the child's adoptive family but who had also been approved as foster carers to take this child (after careful matching) to avoid the child having to move to another foster placement prior to the proposed adoption linking being presented to adoption panel.

**Appendix 1 attached shows figures for adoption panel activity within Hampshire for last five years (Table 1) and the age range of children whose plans for adoption were agreed during 2011-2012 (Table 2) and for the previous two years.**

### **National Timescales**

a) The statutory timescale laid down within the Adoption and Children Act 2002 for presenting children's plans for adoption, i.e. that the Child's Permanence Report is presented to the adoption panel within six weeks of completion was met in 100% of cases.

b) The statutory timescale laid down within the Adoption and Children Act 2002 requires that a panel recommendation should be made within two months of a review where adoption has been identified as the permanence plan.

The Statutory Review should be held after the final Care Planning Meeting and prior to the Adoption Panel. Due to the very tight timescales which in most cases made holding a Statutory Review prior to Adoption Panel unachievable, so in order to prevent delay it was agreed with the Service Manager of the Reviewing Service that the Team Manager will inform the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) of the outcome of the Final Care Plan. The IRO would then either ratify the significant changes proposed by the Team Manager, or an urgent review would be held.

c) The statutory timescale that the Agency Decision is made within seven days of the receipt of the panel minutes has been made in all cases.

d) The statutory timescales around linking children with prospective adopters state that children should be linked and that linking approved at adoption panel within six months of the Agency Decision being made that a child should be placed for adoption. Between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012, 43 children have been linked with prospective adopters.

Of those 43 children, 22 children were linked within the statutory timescale of six months. This equates to a performance of 51% (which is higher than last year's figure of 39.6% ) The figure reflects the levels of complexity of the children which impacts upon successful attempts to identify prospective adopters who are able to meet the needs of these children. Care proceedings have also become very complex which impacts upon the length of proceedings and ultimately timeliness in terms of progressing a child's agreed plan for adoption. There have continued to be cases where the courts have requested that children's plans for adoption are re-presented to adoption panel following further expert reports/opinions being sought after the child's plan has been initially presented to adoption panel and the recommendation and agency decision made.

### **National Indicator 61**

This indicator refers to the timeliness of children being placed for adoption following the Agency Decision – within 12 months of the Agency Decision.

For 2011/12 the total number of children placed for adoption within 12 months of the Agency Decision was 37 – 74% (compared to 31 – 83.8% for the previous year 2010/11).

When the number of final adoption orders (50) for 2011-12 is added to the number of SGOs for the same period (there were 31 SGOs – 23 were made to former foster carers and eight to other people) and looked at in terms of the numbers of children who have been looked after for more than six months (915) Hampshire are achieving 8.85% of children being placed in permanent placements (national average is 9% )slightly higher than the previous year. However, if the number of Residence Orders made during 2011/12 are added – 14 – this makes a figure of 10.38%. (Please note that at the moment

the figure of 8.85% for this year is provisional since the Children Looked After (CLA) cohort has not yet been finalised.)

### **Children with a potential plan for adoption**

Currently the Adoption Service is tracking over 90 children where adoption may be the plan for these children in the future but where care plans have not been finalised: this is done within a monthly Adoption Monitoring Meeting attended by the adoption service management group.

Within children's proceedings the court continues to agree to the appointment of experts to carry out additional assessments within care cases. In some cases it is felt that these add very little to the reports already submitted by social workers and staff within the local authority. In many cases the timescales allowed for the completion and submission of expert reports places increasing pressures on Children In Need Teams and the Adoption Teams to achieve the desired outcomes in terms of court timescales i.e. care planning meetings and presentation to Adoption Panel.

In a small number of cases, further experts have been appointed after a child's plan has already been presented to Adoption Panel with the court requesting that the plan is re-presented to panel following completion of the additional report(s).

## **2. Prospective Adopters**

There is an increasing number of enquiries from people wanting to become adoptive parents: during the year of this report 354 enquiries were received from members of the public interested in adoption. However, there also continues to be a mismatch between the needs of the children requiring adoptive placements and the preferences of applicants approaching Hampshire County Council. This is a national picture. For Hampshire, this has led to high numbers of children being placed with prospective adopters from other agencies in recent years. This year, however, only four children have been placed with other agency adopters (although the numbers of children placed for adoption over the year are lower than the previous year).

The Integrated Recruitment Team deals with enquiries from prospective applicants and takes them through to the Preparation and Training course before transferring them to the Integrated Assessment Team.

During the first year of its operation the Integrated Recruitment Team has focussed upon moving people through the system faster and addressing a waiting list of prospective applicants which was in existence at the beginning of the year being reported on. A duty system was set up in October 2011 to enable more discussion with enquirers about possible options available to them and thereby counsel out some enquirers at that stage.

The Integrated Recruitment Team have held Information Sessions and Preparation and Training Sessions every two months until October 2011 when they have been held on a monthly basis. Approximately 18-20 people attend the Information Sessions. The Preparation and Training courses have an average of eight sets of adopters attending.

During 2011-12 the number of completed assessments of prospective adopters from the Integrated Assessment Team presented to the Adoption Panel was 42. Of this number 40

sets of prospective adopters were considered by Adoption Panel and subsequently recommended and approved as suitable to adopt: one couple withdrew on the day of Panel due to changes in their situation and Panel felt unable to consider another application from a single carer due to quality issues with the assessment and what was felt to be a number of gaps in the assessment: issues which had been raised by the adoption adviser prior to panel. Following panel an independent social worker was assigned to carry out a piece of work on the assessment: the conclusion of the independent social worker was that the prospective adopter was not suitable to adopt. The prospective adopter has since withdrawn from the process.

However, the total number of approved adopters this year – 40 - is an increase of four on the previous year. Nine of these assessments were undertaken by independent social workers, social workers from the existing adoption assessment team as an extra paid piece of work or social workers from other teams within the adoption service to assist with their professional development.

It has been necessary to use other workers again this year to cover staffing levels, including the temporary loss of two members of the assessment team who transferred to the recruitment side of the service during the remodelling of the service from March/April 2011.

The majority of approved adopters are White British: a minority of couples are dual heritage with one partner being of another European origin.

As at 31 March 2012 there were 22 sets of prospective adopters available, although several of these were in discussion about potential matchings with Hampshire children.

Within the numbers of approved adopters who are waiting to be matched with children are three sets who have been waiting over a year for a child/children: one couple had been on hold for some time due to a change of circumstances but has not returned to the available pool of adopters; another couple have a preference for a female child of 0-2 years who does not have complex needs and the third couple who are waiting have similar preferences in terms of the needs of the children. All three sets of prospective adopters have been approached by the service about specific children but they have not wished to proceed at that time. A fourth set of approved adopters have been waiting two years for a match since approval: their preference is for a male child aged 3 to 5 years. Again, they have been approached about specific Hampshire children but did not wish to proceed at that time as they felt the needs of the children were not compatible with the needs of their birth child.

There are currently 39 assessments of prospective adopters ongoing.

### **National Timescales**

a) Of the approved adopters 32.5% (i.e. 13 cases out of 40) have been assessed and approved within the National Timescales i.e. from the date of their application to the Adoption Panel Recommendation to be eight months. This compares to a figure of 58% (21 cases out of 36) for the preceding year.

Reasons for assessments not being completed within the statutory timescales include:

a smoking issue that arose during assessment which required the assessment to be put on hold; prospective adopters moving home during the assessment; prospective adopters requiring further work/assessment to be done with them or referral for counselling to address unresolved issues and assessments having to be withdrawn from panel due to checks and references outstanding/awaited. In one case there were technical issues with the IT equipment on which the assessment information had been stored and unfortunately the information was lost. This coincided with the family's assessment social worker leaving the department. The assessment had to be re-allocated and re-done. The couple are now approved and have been approached about a potential matching with two children.

b) Of the 40 sets of prospective adopters approved since 1 April 2011 the Agency Decision Maker dealt with all cases within the required seven days of receipt of the minutes following panel. In two cases the Agency Decision Maker deferred a decision pending further work/information.

c) In 90% of cases (i.e. 36 out of 40) the Adopter's Report was presented to Adoption Panel within six weeks of its completion which is the national timescale.

d) Applicants were sent an information pack within the national timescale of five working days of their enquiry: packs are sent from the Fulfilment Centre following a request through Hantsdirect.

e) Applicants are invited to attend adoption information days within two months of their enquiry which meets the national timescale.

All newly approved adopters are provided with one year's free membership of Adoption UK, an independent support organisation for adopters. In addition all Hampshire adopters have access to post-approval and post-adoption training provided by the adoption service.

### **3) Independent Review Mechanism (IRM)**

The IRM came into being in April 2004. It provides adoptive applicants in England with the option of applying to an independent body to review the adoption agency's determination not to approve them as adopters or to withdraw their approval. It is operated by the British Association for Adoption & Fostering (BAAF) on behalf of the Department for Education.

The service has had no new cases referred to the IRM since the last six monthly report was written. In total Hampshire has had two cases referred to the IRM: in March 2011 and in May 2011. In both cases the IRM panel recommendation supported Hampshire's position in not recommending the prospective adopters for approval/continued approval to adopt.

### **4) Panel Advisory Service**

Forty-nine adoption panels were held throughout the year. Four panels did not go ahead due to a lack of cases.

As reported previously, new regulations, standards and guidance came into force on 1 April 2011 which affected how adoption panels are constituted.

There is now a Central List of Adoption Panel Members from which panel members can be drawn for each panel. In practice panel members are assigned as a core member to one of Hampshire's four adoption panels but may be requested to attend other panels if necessary; for example should a particular expertise be required or to avoid an inquorate panel. There are currently 33 persons on the Central List of Adoption Panel Members.

Panels now have a role in providing quality assurance feedback to the agency on the quality of reports being presented to the panel. The majority of the reports presented to panel on the assessment of whether a child should be placed for adoption, the suitability of prospective adopters and the proposed placement are usually of a very good standard across the service. Panel have noted that in a minority of cases there has been an absence of a strong narrative for the child within the Child's Permanence Report and a lack of analysis as to why the plan for adoption is being proposed. No reports have been presented to panel that have been written by persons who are not qualified to do so.

## **5) Adoption Support Service Team**

The County has an Adoption Support Service team that provides services for adoptive families and adopted children, post adoption order. They also provide services for adopted adults, birth parents and relatives. The service runs the Adoption Information Exchange service (AIE) which deals with both indirect and direct contact arrangements.

The work of the Adoption Support Service and team continues to increase. The team have seen an increase in the numbers of families requesting Adoption Support services post order, due to the complex needs of their children, associated with attachment issues and severe difficulties in education. The team work closely with the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and education services.

During 2011/12 the numbers of children involved in indirect (letterbox) contact arrangements was 570: many of these children will have indirect contact with several birth family members as well as birth parents. The number of actual indirect contact arrangements, involving all parties, has risen to 2,765 (an increase of 448 on the previous year).

The numbers of direct contact arrangements is 60.

The team were supporting 154 children and families during the year 2011-12 including carrying out joint work with district adoption workers on two pre-adoption cases. Eighty cases were open at the end of March 2012. The team have also become involved in making visits to adoptive parents pre and post adoption to help them understand the support that is available should they need it.

The team have supported 229 adults over the year (with 103 cases open at the end of March 2012).

The Adoption Service has a number of contracts with other agencies to assist with the provision of its support services following a tendering process:

- a) The Post Adoption Centre (PAC) has been contracted to provide a number of services including the provision of six support groups across the county, a monthly consultation service in Winchester and a telephone helpline which operates 40 hours per week. The PAC has also provided training events: three workshops throughout the year and has assisted in six cases of life story work.
- b) Barnardos provides birth relative support and counselling: there have been nine cases over the year.
- c) CMB Counselling assists with access to records and intermediary services for adopted adults: there have been 88 cases over the year. CMB Counselling is also involved with one case of birth relative counselling.

The Adoption Support Service continues to provide workshops throughout the year and Funding from Short Breaks scheme has enabled provision of activity based respite for adoptive families, namely Youth Options New Forest residential weekends and activity days in Winchester and New Forest, and Creative Academy and music workshops in conjunction with adoption support team workers. The team has also run other activity days for adopted young people such as Big Kids Day and held a Buffalo Gruffalo workshop for parent and child to promote attachments.

In conjunction with the Educational Psychology Department training events have been held for adoptive parents regarding education, and educational transitions. Video Interactive Guidance (VIG) has been provided for a number of families to promote better interactions between parent and child.

The adoption support team operate a daily duty service to provide immediate adoption support to adoptive parents and the opportunity for adults affected by adoption to make referrals directly to adoption support team workers.

The adoption support newsletter, issued four times a year, is used to promote support and advertise the workshops that are available and to keep adoptive families in touch with the service. The adoption newsletter is currently sent to 630 families offering adoption support.

## **6) Adoption consortium**

Hampshire remains a member of an adoption consortium with Surrey and Oxfordshire County Councils and Parents And Children Together (PACT), a voluntary adoption and fostering agency. Hampshire adoption agency has valued the consortium as a safe and professional forum in which to discuss policy and practice issues and new legislation and has also benefitted from the opportunity to attend training events in other consortium agencies. The family finding aspect of the consortium has been less satisfactory.

Hampshire placed four (single) children with approved adopters from other agencies during 2011-12: two of these children were placed within the adoption consortium with two families from PACT.

## **7) Step Parent Adoptions**

There is a continual number of enquiries in respect of step-parent adoption. The three 0.5 step parent workers who are now placed within the Integrated Recruitment Team manage the current level of enquiries, assessments and reports needed for court. Since 1 April 2011 there have been 27 step parent orders made. The step parent workers are currently working on 36 step parent cases with a further 15 cases waiting to be allocated.

## **8) Inter Country Adoptions**

Although all inter country adoption assessments are carried out within a Service Level Agreement with Parents And Children Together (PACT), Reading; currently PACT undertake the welfare supervision of those children whose adoption orders made in their country of origin are not recognised in the UK and who, therefore, need to go through the adoption process in the UK. There are currently four of these children within Hampshire whose cases are open.

## **9) Special Guardianship Orders**

The service is also involved in the assessment of adults wishing to apply for Special Guardianship Orders: referrals from the children's teams are sent to the Integrated Assessment Team in cases where the adults/child are not already known to the department.

## **Summary for the Adoption Service 2011/2012 and Issues for the Year Ahead**

- a) The performance of the adoption service continues to be one of high activity with an increase in plans for adoption for children, approved adopters being approved and adoption orders being made from the previous year. Although the numbers of children matched with adopters has fallen from the previous year, the service continues to achieve successful outcomes for many children whose plans are adoption despite the complexity of many of these children.
- b) In tracking the children for whom adoption is the plan it has been noticed that there remains a growing tendency for courts not to be making orders and for children to be remaining within their birth family whilst proceedings are ongoing. This creates a number of challenges for the adoption service whose work is focussed on helping children understand their future placement.
- c) There remains a need for more approved adopters whose preferences match the needs of the children who require adoptive families as well as families for sibling groups of two and three. Whilst Hampshire continues to have a need for families to parent children under the age of two years, such families need to be prepared to

meet quite high levels of complexity in many cases. There is also a need for more diversity within Hampshire's pool of prospective adopters generally.

- d) The numbers of looked after children have increased nationally to a new high and within Hampshire this will have impacted on the numbers of children whose care plan is adoption. The numbers of children being placed continue to have complex needs which are a result of injuries sustained from parents, witnessing domestic violence, parental drug and alcohol abuse and neglect.
- e) The first year of the newly integrated adoption and fostering service has been a challenging one, for the service and the staff, during which time the service has also had to respond to new legislation, regulations and guidance which came into force on 1 April 2011, as well as new ways of working and changes to the management structure and management responsibilities. The service will need to respond further during the coming year to the government's proposed changes to the adoption process, details of which are awaited.

Liane McDonald  
Commissioning Officer (Adoption)/Adoption Adviser  
April 2012

Mary Blanchard  
County Service Manager, Adoption & Integrated Recruitment  
April 2012

TABLE 1

## Comparative Summary of Panel Activity 1 April 2007 - 31 March 2012

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Children's Plans	65	66	64	66	82
Approved Adopters	36	34	31	36	40
Children Placed	41	39	49	58	43
Adoption Orders Made	62	34	60	37	50

TABLE 2

i) Children's Adoption Plans Agreed 1 April 2011 - 31 March 2012  
Age Range of Children

0-12 months	12-24 months	2-5 years	5-10 years	10+	Total
16*	18	33	15	0	82

\* Includes 1 relinquished baby aged 4 months  
The children include:

20 Single males

14 Single females

20 sets of sibling groups:

12 sets of sibling groups of two (7 x M and 5 x Mixed)

8 sets of sibling groups of three (1 x M; 2 x F and 5 x Mixed)

(50 males and 32 females with agreed plans for adoption)

**ii) Children's Adoption Plans Agreed 1 April 2010 - 31 March 2011**  
**Age Range of Children**

0-12 months	12-24 months	2-5 years	5-10 years	10+	Total
29*	10	21**	6	0	66

\*Includes 1 relinquished baby aged 3 months

\*\*Includes 1 relinquished child aged 25 months

The children include:

11 sets of sibling groups of 2 children (2 x F; 3 x M and 6 x Mixed)

2 sets of sibling groups of 3 children (1 x F and 1 x Mixed)

20 single males (1 to be joining a sibling already placed/adopted)

18 single females

(Total 33 males and 33 females with agreed plans for adoption)

**iii) Children's Adoption Plans Agreed 1 April 2009 - 31 March 2010**  
**Age Range of Children**

0-12 months	12-24 months	2-5 years	5-10 years	10+	Total
26*	9	20**	9	0	64

\*Includes 5 relinquished babies

\*\*Includes 1 relinquished child

The children include:

10 sets of sibling groups of 2 children (1 x F; 2 x M and 6 x Mixed)

2 sets of sibling groups of 3 children (both mixed)

22 single males (2 to be joining a sibling already placed/adopted)

16 single females (1 to be joining a sibling already placed)

(Total 36 males and 28 females with agreed plans for adoption)