



Family Adoption Links Annual Report 2022-23



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Background

The regional adoption partnership, Family Adoption Links, was launched in October 2020. This is a report relating to the developments within the year April 2022 – end of March 2023. This report fulfils the statutory requirement that an annual report be produced and will form part of each partners' Annual Adoption Report.

The government's Education and Adoption Act (2016) set out expectations for adoption services through the establishment of regional adoption agencies (RAA). By the end of 2020 every local authority was expected to become part of a RAA.

Following discussions with East Midlands authorities, Lincolnshire, Rutland, Leicestershire and Leicester City agreed on an aligned partnership model and this was further strengthened by the formal inclusion of North Lincolnshire Council in early 2020 and Northamptonshire Children's Trust in January 2022.

It was agreed that Lincolnshire County Council would become lead authority for the RAA and the partnership was launched in October 2020 under the banner of "Family Adoption Links".

The RAA oversees a number of key areas of adoption provision including the recruitment of adopters, assessment and training, matching and placement of children along with development and coordination of post adoption support services. The delivery of services to children and adopters remains integrated into broader Children's Services within each Authority.

The strategic direction and development of the partnership is invested in the Board which comprises:

- Cornelia Andrecut, Director, Northamptonshire Children's Trust (Board Chair)
- Tara Jones, Assistant Director, Lincolnshire County Council
- Sharon Cooke, Assistant Director, Leicestershire County Council
- Caroline Tote, Assistant Director, Leicester City Council
- Paul Cowling, Assistant Director, North Lincolnshire Council
- Emma Sweeney, Head of Service, Rutland Council
- Olivia Ives, Assistant Director, Northamptonshire Children's Trust

Background

The partnership has a strategic vision:

“We’re a dynamic regional partnership
aimed at delivering excellence in every aspect of adoption.

We strive to ensure the best possible match for children and adoptive parents and develop a comprehensive range of support services to ensure a positive adoption journey. We seek to develop the widest pool of professionals who engage in innovative and ground-breaking new adoption practices”

A pooled budget was created within the RAA to fund central hub staffing costs including the RAA Head of Service post, Marketing Officer, Data Analyst and Business Coordinator. All of these were in post by April 2021 and budget agreed until the end March 2024.

The provision of the posts was funded by equal contributions from all partnership Authorities excluding Rutland. The cost of the hub staffing, and centralised services has remained the same in 22/23 despite an agreed increase.

The centralised structure is focused on the delivery of core components of the adoption services including initial contact, information sharing, pre and post approval training, data analysis and administrative support and has delivered financial efficiencies by avoiding duplication and retaining virtual delivery where appropriate to do so. In addition, the centralised approach to family finding has seen a significant shift from spending on external placements to a greater use of in partnership placements. This has resulted in a £300k saving across the region in 22/23.

The HoS post governs the management and decision-making of those Local Authority budgets in conjunction with the Adoption Managers that hold responsibility for the budgets locally. This ensures consistency in decision-making, assists with regional improvements, and identifies areas where practice needs to be aligned and future efficiencies could be identified.

Progress

The partnership has developed the “Family Adoption Links” regional brand. This regional brand reflects the vision, mission, values and strategic outcomes of the Partnership.

The operational focus continues to be the development and maintenance of key pillars of activity. Each of these pillars or workstreams are led by Service leads from partner agencies supported by central resources. Each are based on effective partnership working and have standardised and shared processes and practice across the region. We will look at each in turn and reflect upon their evolution and development over the past year.

Marketing and Recruitment

The partnership has its own Marketing Officer who coordinates and leads all Marketing activity. She also acts collaboratively with the Workstream leads and marketing information is contained within these sections too. Marketing highlights for 22/23 are as follows:

A high performing website

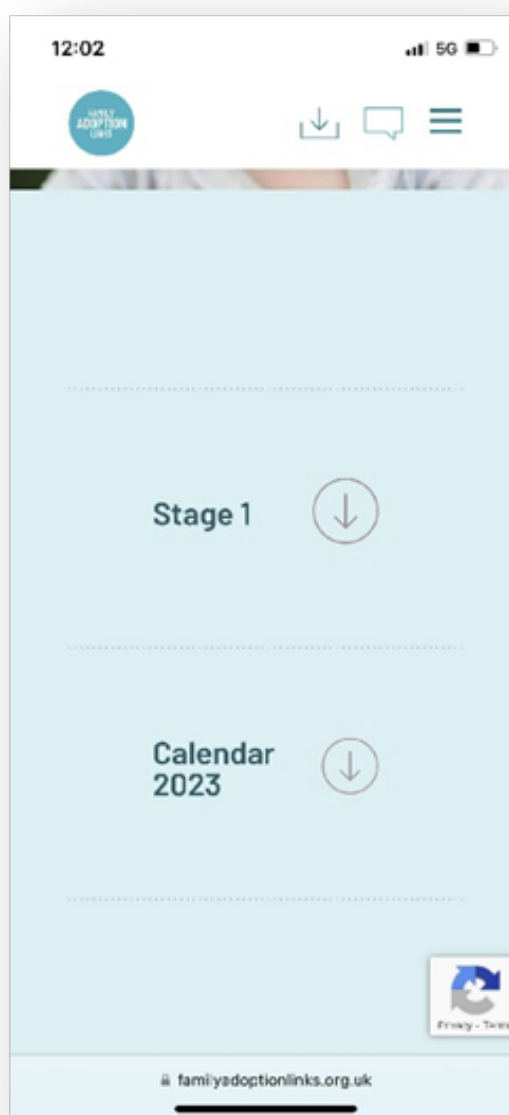
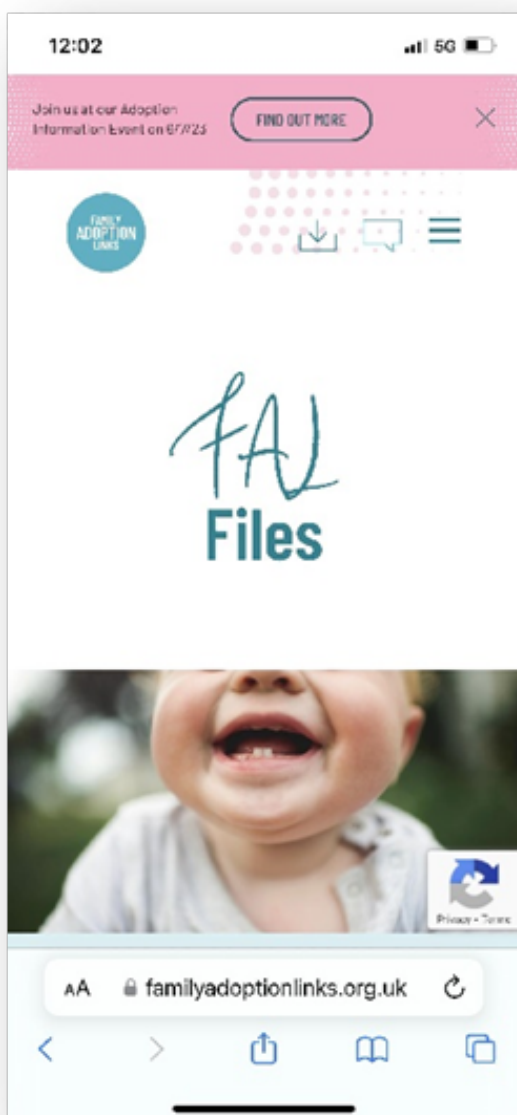
The Family Adoption Links website empowers potential adopters to self-serve with information on the children we are family finding for, and gives them the ability to book on to an information event (451 places booked this year), watch the You Can Adopt video, download a You Can Adopt information guide or speak to a member of staff.

In addition, the site is a key pillar in our post adoption support offer. Adopters can book training, watch online videos, access the Adopter Resource Hub (a collaborative piece of work between FAL and the Adopter Consultation Hub) and ask questions. Users of the website have increased by 358% to 7,400 this year.

Marketing and Recruitment

A new development - Staff Intranet

The partnership has been working hard to align the practices and paperwork of Stage 1 of the adoption process. The new documents are now available via the staff Intranet. This enables all paperwork to be branded, centrally approved, consistent and if necessary, changed without delay. The intranet also hosts the Family Adoption Links Calendar, an interactive pdf where you can view and book onto all of our events. Stage 2 materials are now being uploaded to enable staff to share valuable resources.



Marketing and Recruitment

The Eventbrite platform that delivers multiple efficiencies

Training places for both prospective and approved adopters are booked and administered using the Eventbrite platform. Internally, this platform has saved hundreds of hours of Social Worker time freeing the practitioners to concentrate on the delivery of the courses.

National Collaborations

Sharing best practice

FAL contributes to and participates in all National campaigns, recently Marketing Officer, Alex McGuire, presented at the regional meeting of the Midlands Together Collaboration. She briefed over 40 Family Finders on the results of and how to run a 'Getting to know you' event successfully. Feedback from the meeting included the following...



"Thank you so much for coming along to support the event. I think you will have sensed how impressed people were with the developments at FAL that you have implemented, and we all now want to clone you!"



Acting on a pan regional basis

In line with government best practice and in the interests of our children, we have invited adopters from other RAAs to our 'Getting to know you' event. This worked so well that we were then asked if we were interested in co-producing another event. As a result, we will receive £2,000 central funding for the event in October 2023.

Participating in national steering groups

Marketing Officer, Alex McGuire is an active member of the NARSG Ambition 4 Working Group which aims to improve the adopter experience.

Data

The Data Analyst for the region is Benjamin Richardson. Data is used to inform all workstreams and meet the national and local requirements of RAAs. The data analyst has developed significant relationships with Data Leads within each partner agency to effect accurate, national and local data outputs. The service benefits from a monthly summary of core performance data offering a dashboard crucial to practitioners and managers (see Appendix 1).



Due to the unique nature of each local authority's data strategies:

- We tailor our approach to each partner
- We are creating a data strategy that is sympathetic to each Local Authority's ambition and appetite to use data to inform decision-making
- We actively embed our regional reports across the partnership to get us closer to our data
- We promote how heightened data capabilities can benefit the service
- We also look outwards and meet with other RAAs to promote sharing best practice including:
 - Discussing broader topics that affect RAAs, such as the different approaches to Family Finding
 - Talking about how they use data to inform decision-making
 - Understanding what challenges both mature RAAs and those in their infancy face
- We work with Coram to test a new reporting dashboard
- We work with the RAA leaders' group (Digital solutions) to develop a suite of relevant comparative data

Monthly Data meetings

- Monthly data meetings with each partner has led to a much greater insight into the way that we can use data to enhance our decision-making
- Has removed duplication and improved our data-orientated processes
- FAL's embedded position in each Agency's data landscape has allowed us to understand more about how workers use data in their roles so that;
- We can help reduce the time workers have to spend trawling through data
- Grant workers more time to add value
- Automate any menial, manual task that could be automated

Workstreams

Workstreams are dynamically led by Service Leads from each of the partner agencies. Each is supported by a practitioner group who have worked collaboratively to develop a shared vision and implementation plan for a regionalised approach to service delivery. These groups are at the heart of the success of FAL and evidence practitioners willingness to support, develop and deliver best practice to improve the outcomes for children with a plan for adoption. The workstreams are Assessment and Approval, Family Finding, Post Adoption Support and Early Permanence.

Assessment and Approval

The Assessment and Approval workstream is led by Georgina Oreffo from Leicester City. This workstream's aims are for all those who approach and are assessed by the RAA to receive a consistent baseline experience with regards to their initial enquiry, assessment and training; and following approval there is a core offer of post approval training to ensure consistency of approach and preparation across the RAA. An agreed modular approach to both pre and post approval training is in place. The content, slides, notes and supporting materials of the Information Evenings and preparation courses have been agreed, with stylish and professional rebranding, and joint delivery across the partnership.



Prepare to Adopt Training

Welcome to Day 1



Assessment and Approval

The group has developed an integrated and seamless training plan to support adopters post approval. The mode of delivery has been enhanced by the development of the website which acts as a hub for online and face-to-face training modules. The booking system for the courses is managed efficiently through the electronic booking system saving significant staff time and for courses to be available to adopters across the partnership providing more rapid access and providing staff flexibilities. A separate training sub group now oversees quality assurance and course development, to maintain a continuously improving offer for our adopters, to improve resilience, strengthening placements and contribute to strong families.

We have changed the workstream name, as we move along the trajectory from Adopter Assessment and Pre and Post Approval Training to the Assessment and Approval Development workstream. We now have a Stage 1 fully branded assessment pack for our workers with updated safeguarding information from the Cumbria Child Safeguarding Practice Review and we have also completed Stage 2. We continue to aim for high quality, creative ways of working, and sharing best practice with colleagues.

Family Finding

The Family Finding workstream is led jointly by Sharon Clarke from Lincolnshire and Michelle Robinson from Leicestershire. Tracey Morton from Northamptonshire Children's Trust has more recently become more involved as a twin approach to the Early Permanence Workstream. The ambition of the partnership is to provide a consistent approach to family finding and ensure that the partnership can meet the needs of most children requiring adoption.

The workstream has continued to be creative in family finding for our children who have traditionally 'waited longer.' There have been two activity days where 9 children have been successfully linked and subsequently placed with their adoptive families. We also hold Discovery Events on a quarterly basis, where approved adopters have access to a secure video link where they can watch bespoke videos from social workers and foster carers about the children who are waiting.

Family Finding

This approach uses videos that are not on Link Maker and is aimed to bring the children 'to life' in a refreshing and creative way. The link is available for a 3 day period so adopters are able to go back in and view the videos more than once. We also have 'Matching Monday' where profiles of children waiting are sent to designated leads across each partner authority who then shares the profiles with family finding staff. This approach highlights the children who are waiting and as new adopters are approved they can be approached for expressions of interest.

Regional monthly family finding meetings are in place and all children without an identified link are discussed and tracked through to either a match being ratified by the Agency Decision Maker or the care plan being changed from one of adoption. This meeting is supported by Benjamin Richardson (Data Analyst) and Alex McGuire (Marketing Lead). The support of both is crucial in ensuring that data is up to date and validated and that children have good quality photos and videos on Linkmaker. Alex also organises specific social media campaigns, ensures that children have anonymised profiles on our website and is also manages the activity days and Discovery Events.

The approach of the family finding meetings has been hugely successful in ensuring that more children are placed within the region. 77% of our children were placed within Family Adoption Links last year. This means that we know our adopters and children well and that there has been a regional financial saving in the cost of using interagency placements. Further consideration will be given to the continued use of a no fee approach across the partnership during 2023/24.

The next year will see an increased focus on adopters across the region. We aim to increase regional matches by ensuring a more thorough visibility of those applicants coming through the assessment process and approved adopters. Pre and post approval training has been reviewed to ensure that regionally we are able to support adopters to consider children who wait longer.

Adopters waiting will also be discussed as part of the monthly family finding meeting to ensure that all options have been considered for our children. This, alongside starting to increase the data we collect about children in the earlier stages of their adoption journey, will increase our understanding in relation to sufficiency needs.

Family Finding

Family finding events

The 'Getting to Know You' event

The partnership hosted 2 'Getting to know you' events to enable waiting children and adopters to meet each other in a relaxed and party like environment.

The objectives of the events were to stretch adopter thinking by giving them the opportunity to get to know children that they may otherwise have not considered.

The events were attended by 26 adopter households and 18 sets of children resulting in 5 adoptions and 4 sets of children having a link pursued. The cost per child was £89 vs a cost per child of £600 per child for a Coram BAAF event.



The Discovery Event

For those adopters who were unable or felt attending the 'Getting to know you' event may be uncomfortable, we created the innovative 'Discovery Event' – a confidential video profiling event. Sent using a private link and available for 48 hours only, the video attracted 141 views and saw enquiries increase 400% on Linkmaker during the weekend of the event.

This was a £0 cost event and details of how to organise such an event were also presented to the Midlands Together Collaboration as an example of excellent practice.

Making a Difference for Children

"Lincolnshire had looked for a long time for the right adopters an older sibling group. We took the children to a FAL activity day, and there was lots of interest, but one couple shone through and we have been able to successfully place the children. The adopters have supported sibling contact meaning that the children can retain positive links to their younger brothers and sister".

Adoption Support

Adoption support is the final key workstream and is led by Karen Everatt from North Lincolnshire. It builds on the practice delivered within the aforementioned workstreams. All partners have a different post adoption support offer and that is likely to remain the case. The ambition is for all adopters at the point of initial contact to have information about the support available with the website signposting the local details. The group is developing a core offer which establishes a starting point for both prospective and registered adopters and is informed by shared practice expertise from across the region. As part of this work and in addition, the workgroup has focused on the following areas;

- Post order training with direct access to the training hub offering a range of relevant training courses
- Establishment of the Adopter Hub which has co production at its heart and ensures that FAL engages actively with adopters
- Development of Collabor8 an on line community for young people in place to offer, both support and ensure that the child's voice is central to our service direction.
- Provision of Thrive a regular newsletter for Adopters
- Working with Virtual schools across the partnership to develop and deliver the Education Passport

The concentration on a core offer has enabled FAL to create some economies of scale in both the provision of information and training for adopters and developing a partnership directory of therapeutic providers which may support more effective commissioning for all partners. The provision of the Adoption Support Fund will continue for the next 3 years and our challenge will be to ensure quality and value for money of our post adoption provision, balancing the ratio of what each Authority delivers with what is drawn down from the Government fund.

Making a Difference for Children

The development of the Collabor8 group for children ensures that the children's voice is at the heart all developments within FAL. Although very much in its infancy, it brings together children from across the region, either face to face or virtually and enables them to share their experiences of adoption. The initial focus was upon the experience of school and education and their focus on transition, not having to tell their story too many times and the need for private space was taken directly into the work of the Virtual Heads in developing and introducing an Education Passport. This model of "You said, we did" will support the further work of the group.

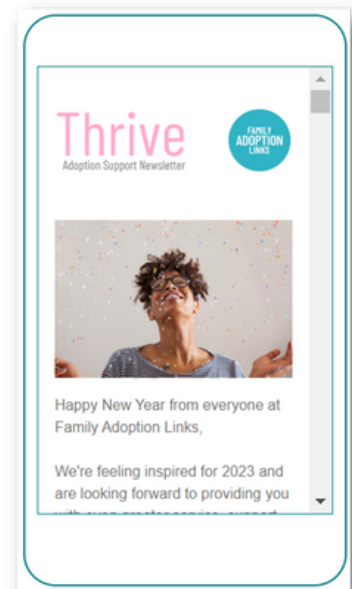
Adoption Support

Thrive Adoption Support Newsletter

The quarterly Adoption Support newsletter Thrive is sent to over 1,000 adopters offering them an invaluable source of information, advice and support.

Content is discussed and created by representatives from across the partnership and performance rates are closely monitored to ensure that we are delivering articles that adopters want to read.

The newsletters achieve industry-leading KPIs with an average open rate of 55.43% and click rate of 9.53%.



Early Permanence

As with adoption support, this is an area of practice that has considerable Government focus and is frequently a key line of enquiry of OFSTED inspections. For a partnership RAA it is complex given the different court jurisdictions and established local practices.

The partnership reflects these differences and there is a variation in how well embedded it is in child care planning. Apart from some geographically compact areas, national work on Early Permanence has concentrated on establishing good practice models and developing consistent forms, assessments, training and support to carers.

That approach sits well within the structure of FAL and reflects what has been achieved within other workstreams. For FAL, this is our most recent area of focus.

The workstream has established the following objectives and will develop practice in 23/24 in line with learning from the National commissioned work that is underway:

Early Permanence

- Develop EP best practice pack based on the approach of each partner. Identify referral pathway and best practice guidance
- Workshop for practitioners to be developed to raise awareness of EP and promote a consistent practice approach across FAL partner agencies – plan for workshops to be delivered to staff across adoption, fostering child care teams and IRO services
- Workshop for ADMs (with AEM)
- Exploration of engagement with Cafcass and judiciary
- Review applicant training materials to develop a single training offer across the region
- Develop support groups for EP carers and staff

Stakeholder Engagement

Family Adoption Links is continuing to engage key stakeholders within and beyond the council to align services and to identify broader opportunities for transformation and development. The adoption agenda is moving from one that is purely regional to one based on pan regional and national service improvement and delivery.

This includes representing the region to the Department of Education (DfE), at the National RAA Leaders Group Leaders Partnership group and the Regional Adoption & Special Guardianship Leadership Board. Hub staff are engaged in national workstreams ensuring that the structures in place for FAL are shared and influence national delivery.

The partnership has been further cemented by the regional commissioning of New Family Social and Link Maker memberships. Since its inception, FAL has concentrated on developing a regional approach to core aspects of the adoption service. At the same time, we have begun to collaborate with other RAAs either by way of attending joint training or extending invites to activity day events.

At the same time, we have delivered joint events with Adoption East Midlands developing a support forum for Agency Decision Makers.

Conclusion

The region has experienced 4 OFSTED inspections in 22/23, all of whom have recognised the progress made and the enhanced services offered to both prospective adopters and adopters alike. The sharing of good practice and joint work has cemented the key pillars that we have put in place. We continue to develop workstreams incrementally and seek to incorporate the national priorities and direction. The forthcoming framework for inspection of RAAs may well influence future priorities and structures required for their delivery and FAL is positioning itself to respond to any new challenges that arise.

Plans for 2023/24



Website

Further development of the staff intranet for access to standardised forms and paperwork.



Co-production

The Adopter Consultation Hub will continue to inform our workstreams. Collabor8 will be enhanced with improved recognition of young people's attendance and contribution.



Education Passport

The Education Passport will be implemented for use within schools across the region.



Data

We will further develop the partnership approach to data collection and use, ensuring that all partners have access to accurate data that supports their adoption delivery and that ASG returns can be administered through a central point.

This report was written by John Harris, Family Adoption Links Head of Service.

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Family Adoption Links Annual Report

Appendix I

"We're a dynamic regional partnership aimed at delivering excellence in every aspect of adoption.

We strive to ensure the best possible match for children and adoptive parents and develop a comprehensive range of support services to ensure a positive adoption journey. We seek to develop the widest pool of professionals who engage in innovative and ground-breaking new adoption practices"



The Partnership Board

Name	Job Title	Email Link
Caroline Tote	Assistant Director, Leicester City Council	✉
Sharon Cooke	Assistant Director, Leicestershire County Council	✉
Tara Jones	Assistant Director, Lincolnshire County Council	✉
Cornelia Andrecut	Director, Northamptonshire Children's Trust	✉
Emma Sweeny	Head of Service, Rutland Council	✉
Olivia Ives	Northamptonshire Children's Trust	✉
Paul Cowling	Service Lead, North Lincolnshire Council	✉

Partnership Service Managers

Name	Role	Email Link	LA Name
Georgina Oreffo	Service Manager	✉	Leicester
Karen Everatt	Service Manager	✉	North Lincolnshire
Michelle Robinson	Service Manager	✉	Leicestershire
Sharon Clarke	Service Manager	✉	Lincolnshire
Tracy Morton	Service Manager	✉	Northamptonshire

The Family Adoption Links report is produced monthly and is designed to be a comprehensive overview of Family Adoption Links (FAL), sitting alongside the more granular breakdowns that our workstreams use to inform decision making.

Central Team

Name	Job Title	Email Link
Alex McGuire	Marketing Officer	✉
Benjamin Richardson	Data Analyst	✉
Jemma Corcoran	Business Support Officer	✉
John Harris	Partnership Manager	✉

Monday, 5 June 2023

Last Refreshed (Local)

Family Adoption Links Overview

The below shows the key measures in both the child and adopter journey, comparing 21-22 with 22-23.

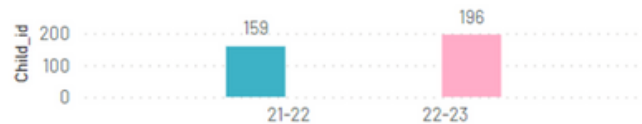
FAL Children Overview



FAL Adopter Overview

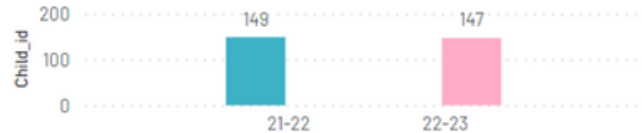
ADM decision child should be placed for adoption

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



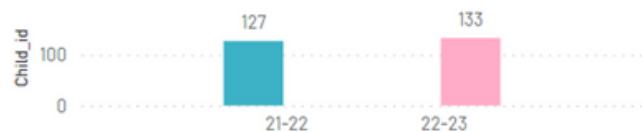
PO/s Granted

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



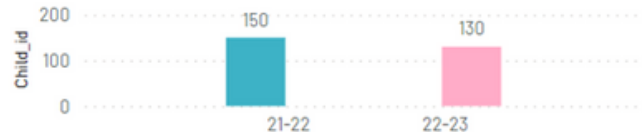
Children Placed

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



Adoption orders Granted

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



This dashboard reports on the key stages in the Child and Adopter journey and is a direct representation of the data we have submitted via our ASGLB returns.

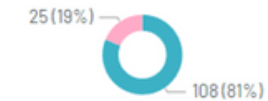


Placement Distribution 21-22



Placement ● Within FAL ● Outside FAL

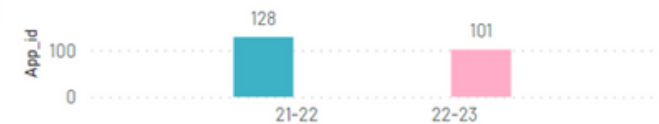
Placement Distribution: 22-23



Placement ● Within FAL ● Outside FAL

Number of Registrations

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



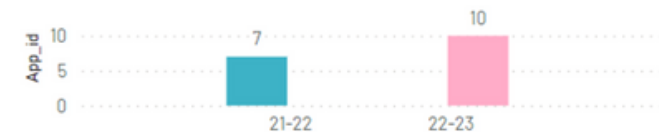
Number of Fast Tracked Registrations (2nd Time Adopters)

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



Foster Carer Approved Adopters

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



Number of Household Approvals

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



Family Adoption Links Internal Child Placements

We have placed 16 more children within FAL in 22-23 than in 21-22. We placed **81%** (108) of our children within FAL in 22-23 and **72%** (92) in 21-22, whilst demonstrating a greater spread of adopter usage across the partnership, as demonstrated by the view below:

FAL Internal Child Placements Comparison

Fiscal Year 2021-22

Child Placements 21-22 Provision Type (fig i)

Provision Type	Children placed	% Placed	Fiscal Year
LA	4	3.15%	21-22
RAA	9	7.09%	21-22
RAA (Family Adoption Links)	92	72.44%	21-22
VAA	25	19.69%	21-22
Total	127	100.00%	

Family Adoption Links Regional placement detail 21-22 (fig ii)

Childs LA	Placement Agency	Children placed	%	Fiscal Year
Leicester	Leicester	18	19.57%	21-22
Lincolnshire	Leicester	1	1.09%	21-22
Leicestershire	Leicestershire	18	19.57%	21-22
Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire	30	32.61%	21-22
Leicestershire	North Lincolnshire	1	1.09%	21-22
North Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire	5	5.43%	21-22
Northamptonshire	Northamptonshire	19	20.65%	21-22
Total		92	100.00%	

Children Placed

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



This dashboard hones in on the Child Placements that our region has made (fig i), and where Children who have been placed within Family Adoption Links sit (fig ii). On the right hand side we have the view from Fiscal Year 2022-23, and on the left hand side we show the view from Fiscal Year 2021-22



Placements made by LA

All

Placements made to LA

All

Fiscal Year 2022-23

Child Placements 22-23 Provision Type (fig i)

Provision Type	Children placed	% Placed	Fiscal Year
RAA	5	3.76%	22-23
RAA (Family Adoption Links)	108	81.20%	22-23
VAA	20	15.04%	22-23
Total	133	100.00%	

Family Adoption Links Regional placement detail 22-23 (fig ii)

Childs LA	Placement Agency	Children placed	%	Fiscal Year
Leicester	Leicester	11	10.19%	22-23
Lincolnshire	Leicester	2	1.85%	22-23
Leicester	Leicestershire	4	3.70%	22-23
Leicestershire	Leicestershire	10	9.26%	22-23
Lincolnshire	Leicestershire	1	0.93%	22-23
North Lincolnshire	Leicestershire	1	0.93%	22-23
Northamptonshire	Leicestershire	5	4.63%	22-23
Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire	28	25.93%	22-23
Leicester	North Lincolnshire	1	0.93%	22-23
Leicestershire	North Lincolnshire	4	3.70%	22-23
Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire	3	2.78%	22-23
North Lincolnshire	North Lincolnshire	9	8.33%	22-23
Rutland	North Lincolnshire	3	2.78%	22-23
Leicester	Northamptonshire	2	1.85%	22-23
Leicestershire	Northamptonshire	1	0.93%	22-23
Northamptonshire	Northamptonshire	23	21.30%	22-23
Total		108	100.00%	



Family Adoption Links External Child Placements Comparison

We have placed **14** less children externally to FAL in 22-23 in comparison to 21-22. Our external placements have dropped from **38** to **24** even though we have placed more children in 22-23 (**133**) than in 21-22 (**127**).

FAL External Child Placements Comparison

Fiscal Year 2021-22

Child Placements 21-22 Provision Type (fig i)

Provision Type	Children placed	% Placed	Fiscal Year
LA	4	10.53%	21-22
RAA	9	23.68%	21-22
VAA	25	65.79%	21-22
Total	38	100.00%	



This dashboard hones in on the Child Placements that our region has made (fig i), and where Children who have been placed externally to Family Adoption Links sit (fig ii). On the right hand side we have the view from Fiscal Year 2022-23, and on the left hand side we show the view from Fiscal Year 2021-22

Fiscal Year 2022-23

Child Placements 22-23 Provision Type (fig i)

Provision Type	Children placed	% Placed	Fiscal Year
RAA	5	20.00%	22-23
VAA	20	80.00%	22-23
Total	25	100.00%	

Family Adoption Links Regional placement detail 21-22 (fig ii)

Adopter's Adoption Agency	Provision Type	Children placed	%
Action for Children Midlands	VAA	2	5%
Adopt East	RAA	1	3%
Adopt Together	VAA	3	8%
Adopters for Adoption	VAA	3	8%
Adoption Central England	RAA	3	8%
Adoption Focus	VAA	3	8%
Adoption Partnership South East	RAA	1	3%
Adoption West	RAA	1	3%
Barnardo's Adoption Midlands and South West	VAA	1	3%
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adoption	RAA	1	3%
Families for Children	VAA	2	5%
Northamptonshire	LA	4	11%
One Adoption South Yorkshire	RAA	1	3%
Parents and Children Together	VAA	5	13%
Scottish Adoption	VAA	2	5%
SSAFA	VAA	2	5%
St Francis Children's Society	VAA	1	3%
Thomas Coram Foundation for Children	VAA	1	3%
Together4Children	RAA	1	3%
Total		38	100%



Family Adoption Links Regional placement detail 22-23 (fig ii)

Adopter's Adoption Agency	Provision Type	Children placed	%
Adopters for Adoption	VAA	3	12%
Adoption Focus	VAA	6	24%
Adoption South East	RAA	1	4%
Adoption West	RAA	1	4%
Barnardo's South West	VAA	2	8%
Jigsaw Adoption	VAA	2	8%
One Adoption North and Humber	RAA	2	8%
One Adoption South Yorkshire	RAA	1	4%
Parents and Children Together	VAA	3	12%
Scottish Adoption	VAA	1	4%
St Francis Children's Society	VAA	3	12%
Total		25	100%

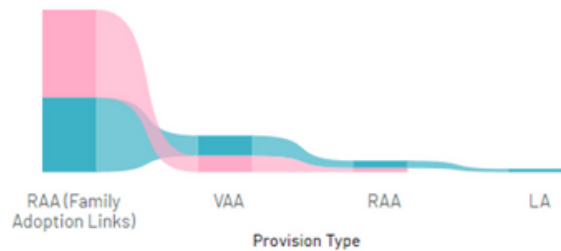
Family Adoption Links Child Placements

The key demographics and timescales of the children that we have placed can be seen below:

FAL Child Placement Detail

Child Placements by Provision Type

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



Child Placements by Provision Type

Provision Type
All



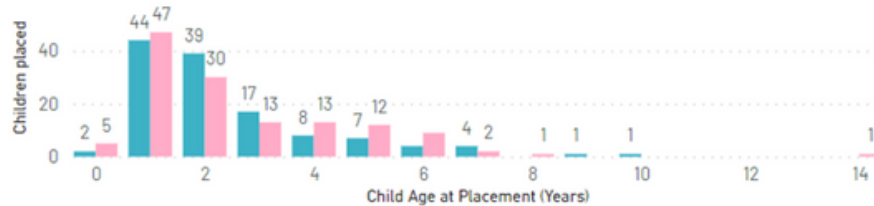
Children Placed

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



Child Placements by Age

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23

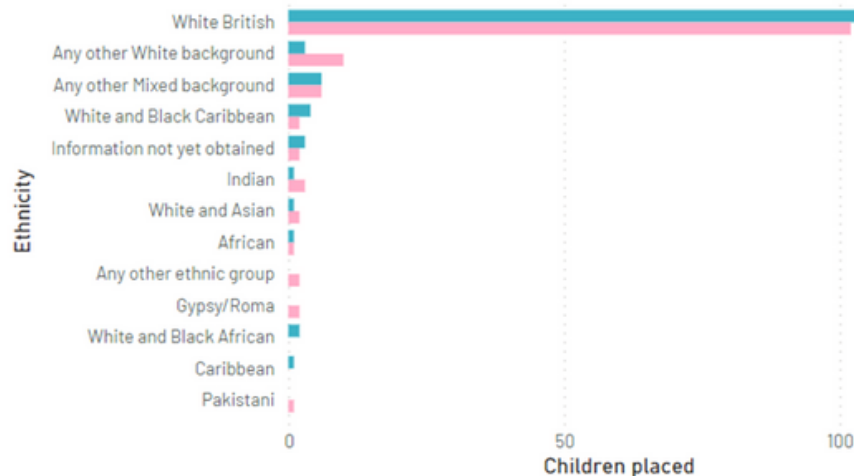


Aggregated Placement Timeliness (days)

Fiscal Year	Count	Average of Entered Care to Placed	Average of PO to Match	Average of PO to Placed
21-22	127	659.20	234.97	252.55
22-23	133	622.17	192.42	204.92

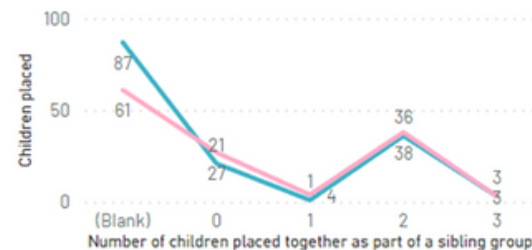
Child Placements by Ethnicity

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



Child Placements by Sibling Group

Fiscal Year ● 21-22 ● 22-23



Child Placements by Gender

Fiscal ... ● 21-22 ● 22-23



Family Adoption Links Family Finding Overview

FAL Family Finding Overview



This dashboard provides an overview of our Regional Family Finding cohort (Fig i) and shows an overview of the Children we have placed



A2

Average time (in days)

Aggregated total (All ages)
22-23

218

between Family Adoption Links receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family, for children who have been adopted

Family Finding Child Overview (Fig i)

Link Status	Children	%
Awaiting P/O	1	1%
Care plan changed from Adoption	1	1%
Exploring Link with F/C	6	6%
Family Finding on-going	24	22%
Family finding on-hold	4	4%
FC being considered for adoption	1	1%
FFA	2	2%
Link being explored	12	11%
Link Being progressed	7	7%
LTF- no longer FF	2	2%
Matched- Awaiting Placement	9	8%
Panel booked	8	7%
Placed	29	27%
Placed under Reg 24	1	1%
Total	107	100%

Children we have placed 22-23

In 22-23 **99** Children have been considered within our Regional Family Adoption Meeting (Fig i).

Of these Children **27** have been placed, **8** have a Matching Panel Booked, **5** have been Matched formally and are awaiting Placement and we are exploring a link for **12** Children and are currently progressing a link for **4** Children.

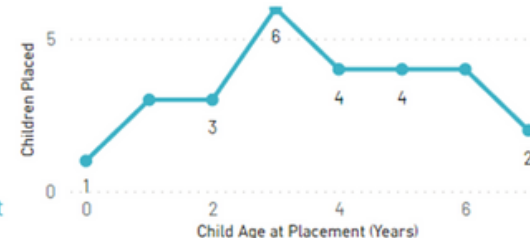
Out of the **27** Children that we have placed, **11 (40%)** were not part of Sibling Group and **16 (60%)** were part of a sibling group with a distribution of **70%** being Male and **24%** being Female.

The Age Range of the Children placed is shown in Fig ii.

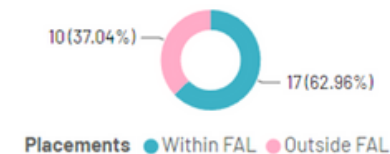
Out of these **27** Placements, **62%** were placed within Family Adoption Links (Fig iii).

We are currently Regionally Family Finding for **27** Children

Child age profile (Year/s) (Fig ii)



Placement Detail (Fig iii)

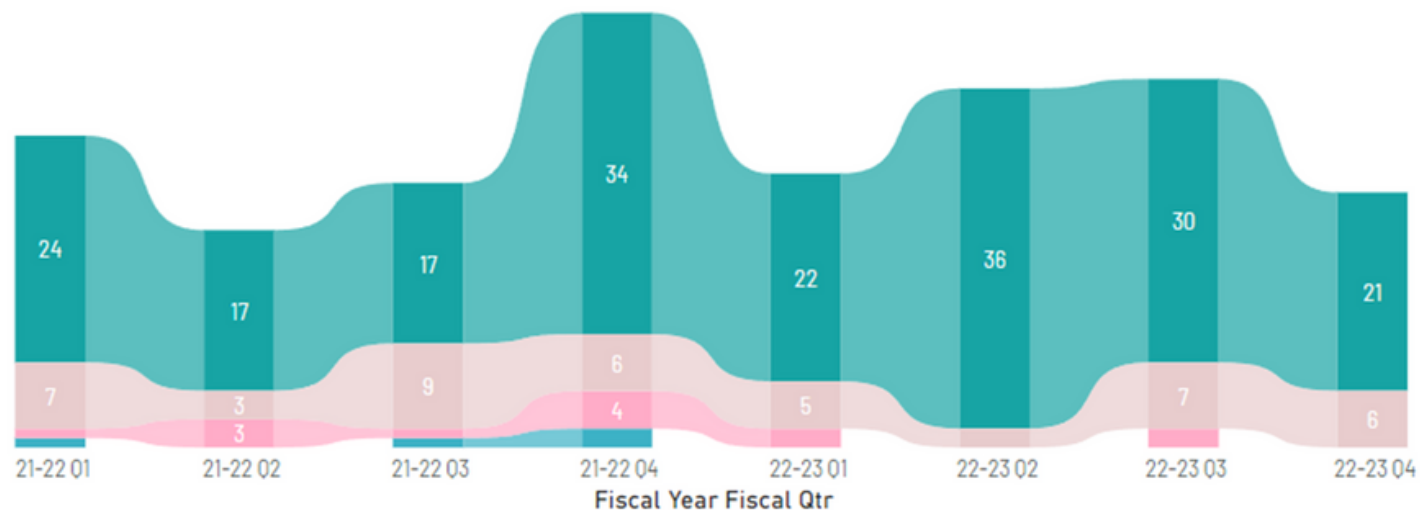


Family Adoption Links Family Finding Overview

Broadly speaking, the data contained in the report indicates that regionalisation has led to us placing more children within FAL and we are using fewer external agencies. The graph below helps to illustrate this. It shows how our placements have been distributed and as we can see, the use of external placements with LAs, other RAAs and VAAs has decreased, whilst our placements with our FAL partners have increased.

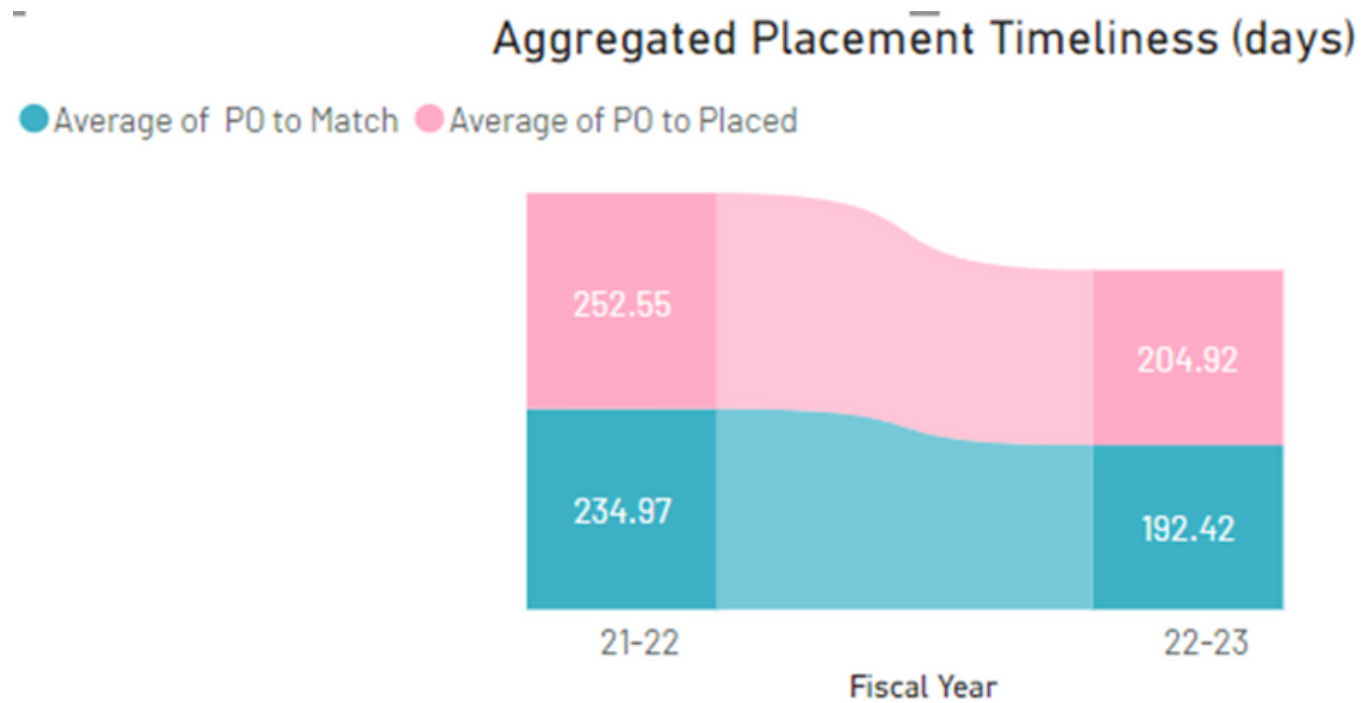
Child Placements by Provision Type

Provision Type ● LA ● RAA ● RAA(Family Adoption Links) ● VAA



Family Adoption Links Family Finding Overview

The timeliness of the children's journey from Placement Order to ADM Match and Placement has also decreased.



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