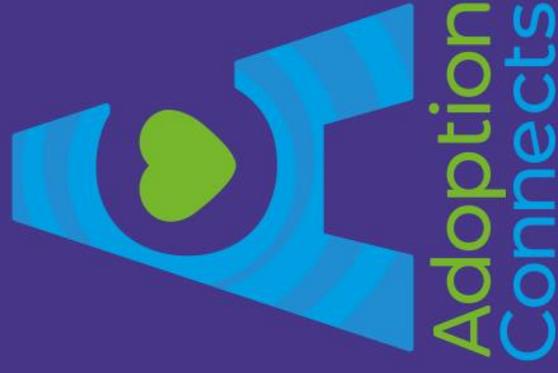




# RAA – Adoption Connects 2020/21 update



ITEM 6

[www.adoptionconnects.co.uk](http://www.adoptionconnects.co.uk)

# Overview

- Adoption practice was adapted and changed in accordance with the amended Covid-19 legislation to ensure permanence progressed for children.
- The adoption agency adapted to working remotely and providing a service remotely to ensure recruitment and preparation of prospective adopters continued alongside family finding and matching for children with a plan for adoption. This included a change in the offer provided to enable people to consider adoption via online information sessions and visits which, alongside a National recruitment Campaign, significantly increasing the number of enquiries and applications to adopt achieving the target of 30 applications by the end of Q2 (reducing the adopter gap - Q3 -3%).
- The Service adapted well and promptly to implementing:
  - Remote working practices – virtual offers for information sessions and adopter preparation training increasing attendance
  - Virtual Adoption Panel
  - Adoption Transition Covid-19 Risk assessment and reviews
  - Virtual support events
- Working with other RAA Leaders to share learning, resources, develop practice and influence regulatory changes ie Covid-19 amendments
- National recruitment Campaign progressed in September 2020
- Staffing resilience – some impact Covid-19 related and new ways of working. Some changes support work capacity and ability others impact on staff resilience and wellbeing
- Adoption Allowance review mtgs progressed
- monthly finance meetings to ensure transparency and governance
- Relationships in Good Hands Trial (RIGHT) research project with Glasgow University progressed
- Transracial placement policy developed
- Covid-19 Adoption Connects Practice Guidance developed



- Achieving permanence via adoption has continued during the pandemic with increased numbers of children being matched for adoption during this year (20/21).
- **Performance to date:**
  - 25 children have been matched with their adoptive family to date (compared to 19 in the previous year)
    - 8 of the 25 children were part of 4 sibling pairs of which 3 pairs were matched with their existing foster carers ensuring the promotion of long term relationships and stability.
    - 2 further children were matched following a foster for adoption placement providing early permanence known to improve outcomes.
    - A high number of the children matched this year were considered 'harder to place' due to their needs/age/ethnicity and alongside some other case by case factors this has meant that on average they wait longer to achieve permanence which will be reflected in the national scorecard performance. However achieving permanence via adoption will improve the long term outcomes for these children.

**\* 18 adoption orders granted**

**\* 21 prospective adopters approved**



## MKC performance

### 20/21 Highlights:

18 Adoption Orders granted to date

19 children placed for adoption but not yet adopted

### Scorecard (3yrs to 31/12/20):

A1 (BLA to placement) 467 days (National Target 426days)

A2 (PO to Match) 229 day (NT 121days)

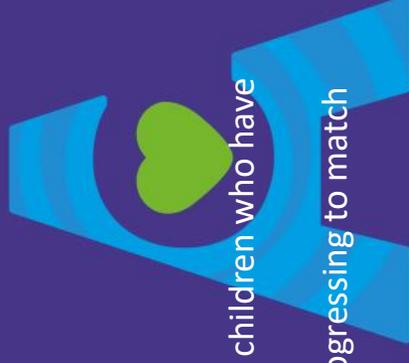
A10 BLA foster carer adoption 392 days

ADM to PO remains in target

Average days from BLA to moving in and from PO to match are exceeding target – several children who have waited over 14months have progressed to match impacting on this target.

All children with a PO prior to Adoption Connects have been matched with a family or progressing to match

Early permanence continues to be a focus via improved working together, attendance at PLO Panel and early identification of children becoming looked after and subject to interim orders.



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# Feedback:

## Information Sessions -

*“ I think it's perfect”*

*“Very Informative and lots of research for us to do”*

*“I have been very impressed with this meeting. Very informative and the workers have been so personal I feel so positive to continue forward”*

*“It was very informative, and the workers explained everything very clearly”*

**Adoptive Mum during Covid-19** - said *“that she could not have coped during this time and generally without our support, she said that there was no light in their life but now there is , she is very grateful for all the support we on offer and have set up for the family”*

**Adoptive Mum during Covid-19** - she cannot leave the house as she has severe asthma, she has two children and lives in a flat. She has been accessing the drop in after she completed the Nurturing connections course. She said *“ she finds the weekly drop ins valuable. From accessing these she has made a friend who is also a single adopter, they swapped numbers and now communicate regularly, this has helped in a time where she is isolated and lonely”*.

**Prospective Adopter (stage 1)** – L (adopter) shared how *“the SWA organisation skills, quick response to emails and lifting their spirits when they thought the covid 19 restrictions would stop their progress with adoption”* .

**Panel Member** - *“I am impressed with the support given to the couple throughout their prolonged adoption journey. It is a credit to the adoption team to have supported and empowered them, to get them to panel in a far better position than they originally were. I just wanted to raise this as it shows a huge commitment on Adoption Connects part to preparing potential adopters thoughtfully and sensitively”*.

**Parent:** *“Thank you so much for all your support over the past year or so and especially during Covid. I'm sure there are many other families also struggling and perhaps sometimes it might feel like you haven't made a difference, especially with my two where therapists have not progressed so well, but your support to has been invaluable and I am truly grateful”*.





Adoption Diaries <https://vimeo.com/417684608/3bc7ca1a83>

What it feels like to be

Adopted <https://vimeo.com/417643010/d111989482>

Earliest Memories <https://vimeo.com/417662144/6e0c30e423>

Our Thoughts on Letterbox <https://vimeo.com/417648537/7d8d0e125c>

Good Advice <https://vimeo.com/417710086/5ade47b3e9>

What is Most Important <https://vimeo.com/417728624/177f99902e>

Our Final Thoughts <https://vimeo.com/417665374/9b7bb6431f>

Adopter Video - <https://vimeo.com/455454896/64bb029b28>



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