



Durham Adoption Service

Annual Report to Corporate Parenting Panel

9 June 2023



What's Working Well

- ❖ We have received 267 initial enquires, (267 applicants equating to 229 households) of which 111 applicants (80 households) progressed to have an initial visit.
- ❖ This is an increase from the previous year of 217 initial enquiries which resulted in 62 initial visits.
- ❖ Adopter feedback is positive about the recruitment and support available.
- ❖ 58 matches for children with adopters. All matches were recommended and latterly ratified by ADM
- ❖ The quality of reports being presented to panel are noted by panel members and ADM to be of a very high standard.
- ❖ Activity days are working well to support children to find adoption homes.
- ❖ Post adoption support is working well, 94 children have received support following assessment of need



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What are we working on

- ❖ Coast to Coast structure has altered with Cumbria leaving reducing the pool of adopters available
- ❖ There was a short delay for a some adopters progressing through Stage 1 as a result of challenges in gaining medical assessments for prospective adopters
- ❖ Early permanence through fostering to adoption is not well embedded and results in children having to move to adoption from foster care.
- ❖ Non agency adoption work is increasing in volume and complexity.

What needs to happen next

- ❖ Head of Service for Coast to Coast is leading some work to develop early permanence. This will have targets attached to support more children to be able to live in fostering homes that could become adoption homes where appropriate.
- ❖ Panel membership to be extended and developed to continue to improve the functioning of adoption panel.
- ❖ Coast to Coast targeted recruitment for children with harder to place characteristics to embed and show continued improvements.
- ❖ Post adoption support plans to continue to develop including best practice for trauma informed decision making in order to reduce adoption breakdowns.

