



Highlight Report on Performance for the Board

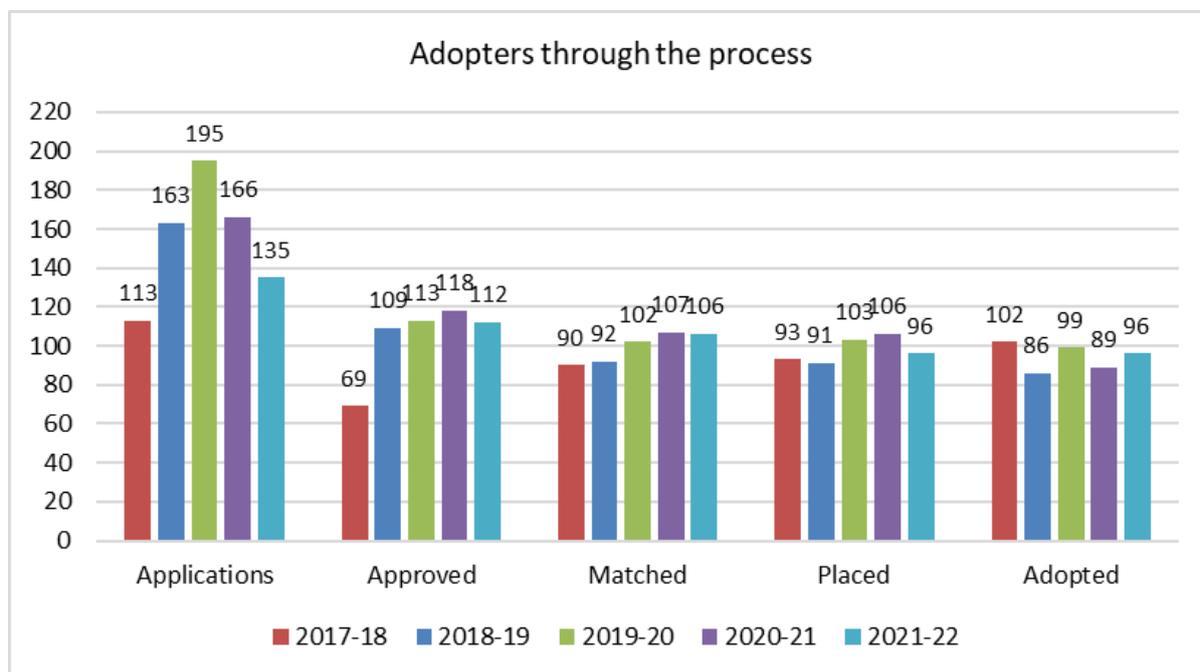
2021-22 Full Year

Bradford

Sufficiency: Are enough of the right kind of adopters being recruited and approved to meet the needs of the children waiting:

Adopter recruitment

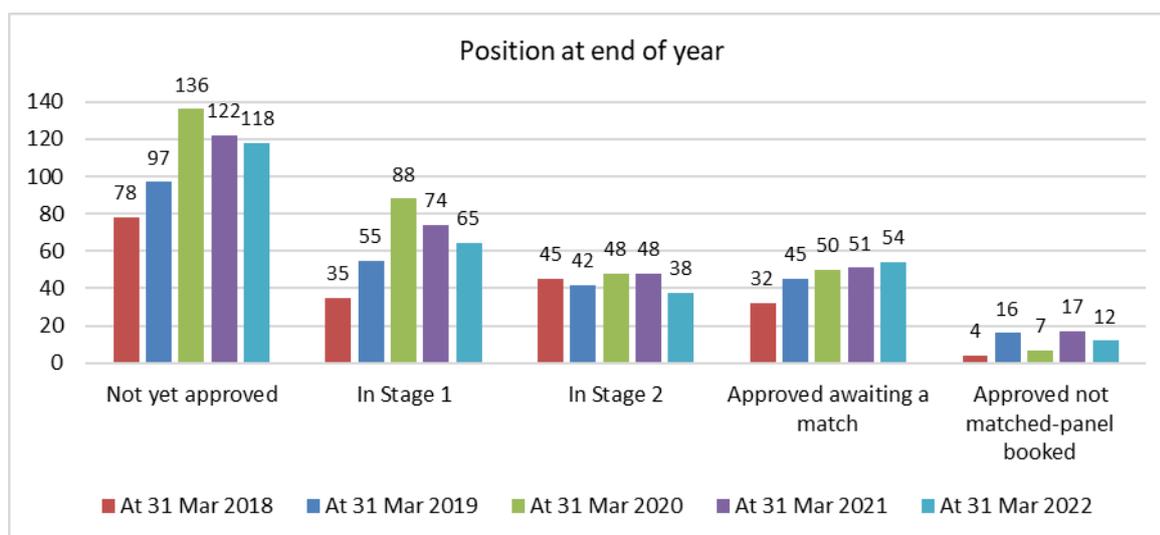
As at 31/3/22, 112 adoptive families have been approved, 106 families have been matched with children, all of these being with children from the West Yorkshire region.



Within the 112 households, 206 individuals were approved. Of these, 20 (10%) are from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. This reflects the 2020/21 figures and indicates a continuing need to increase the diversity of adopters recruited to meet the needs of the children across West Yorkshire with an adoption plan.

27 households were approved for sibling groups, an increase of 3 households from the previous year. 61 households attended our sibling training which runs every two months, and we have held a sibling specific profile day for families across the country. Discussions are ongoing regarding our strategy to increase further the number of sibling adopters and a focus group with adoptive families is due to take place in early July to consider recruitment strategy and the support provided post placement. We continue to support the national recruitment campaign and work with link maker to ensure we use the platform in the best way. We are exploring featuring children on the website with a view to child specific recruitment.

19 households approved were open to Early Permanence Placements, which is 5 fewer households than in the previous year. The number still exceeds the number of children identified in the year to be placed via Early Permanence. However, we have still had to place two children externally due to not having families that could meet their needs in the timescales. Numbers of children identified for EPP remain low across the region. One Adoption were successful in a pan regional bid for funding to develop Early Permanence in West Yorkshire and have appointed a project lead to take this forward.



Of the 139 adoptive families who ended Stage One in 2021/22, the average time in stage one was 4 months; 34% were completed within the 2 month timescale, an improvement on last year.

Of the 112 adoptive families who ended Stage Two (Approved) in 2021/22, the average time in stage two was 4 months; 79% were completed within the 4 month timescale, an improvement on last year.

Our stage one timescales have been impacted by a shortage of adoption advisors due to staff moving on to study or take up new roles. We have now recruited and will be fully staffed next month. We continue to experience delays at all stages of the process due to GPs being unable to prioritise medical appointments and reports.

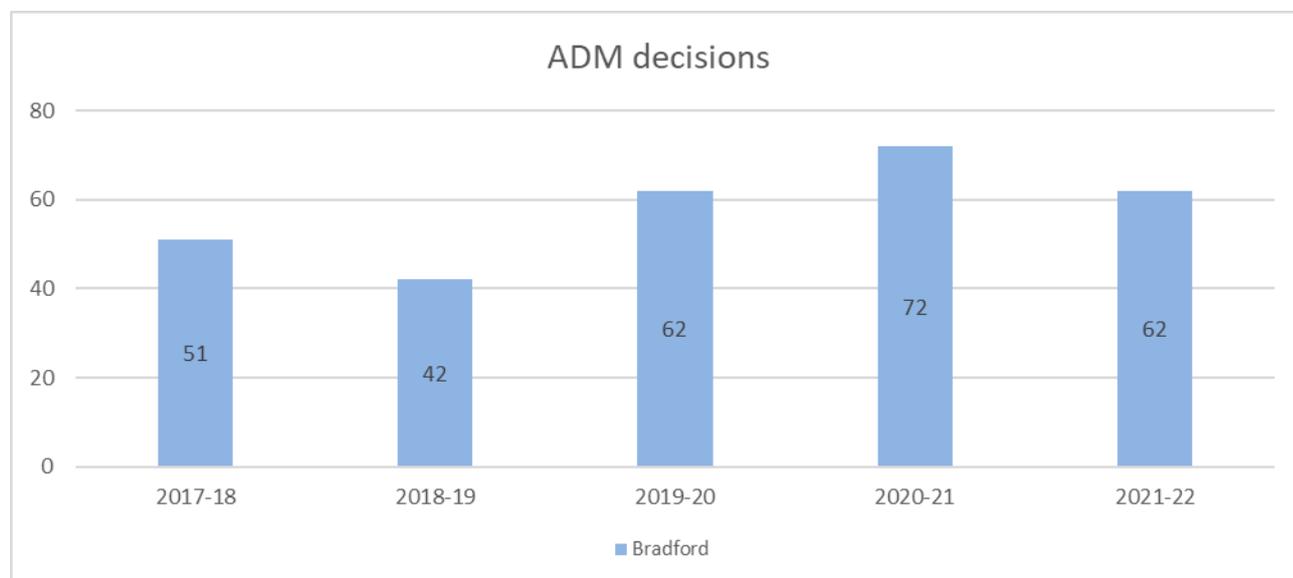
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Following retirement, we no longer have the additional three recruitment and assessment social work posts. We continue use of sessional workers to increase our capacity as needed.

At the end 2021/22 there are 118 families who are not yet approved, 65 of these families are in stage 1 of the assessment process and 38 are in stage 2. 15 families are currently on hold pre-approval

The children with a plan for adoption during 2021-22

Between 1/4/21 and 31/3/22, 62 children had a plan for adoption ratified by Bradford Agency Decision Makers. 18 of these children had their adoption plan ratified during the final quarter of 2021/22. Of the 62 children, there were 34 female and 28 male children.



Ethnicity

Of the 62 children with a plan for adoption ratified so far this year, 79% were from White British backgrounds (including information not obtained) and 13 children (21%) were from Black and Minority Ethnic groups.

Placement with Siblings

As a general principle, siblings will be placed together; however, due to the individual needs of children, this is not always appropriate and cannot always be achieved. It is essential that sibling assessments are carried out to ensure good quality decision making and support plans are evidence based if children are placed together or apart. The numbers of children requiring adoption in sibling groups at the end of the year is 55 children (this includes those with a match and/ or placed). Of the 27 children placed from this cohort during 2021/22, 11 were placed apart from their siblings, which reflects the care plan for each child.

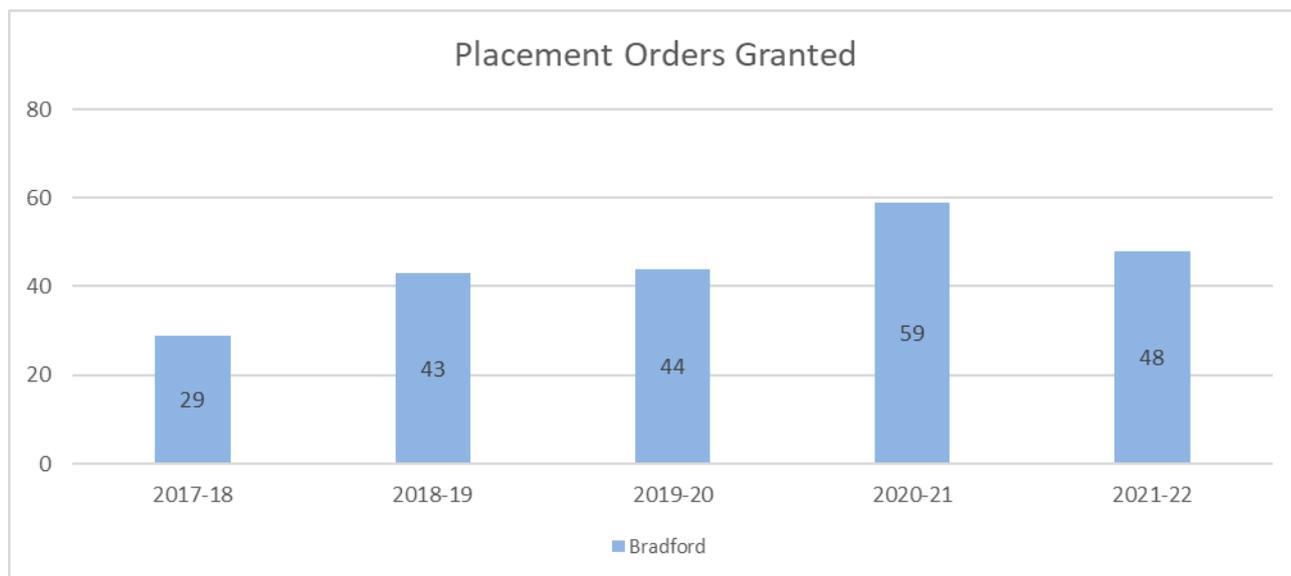
Children with an adoption plan

As of the end of March 2022 there are 58 children with a plan for adoption from Bradford not currently placed and requiring adopters. 25 children out of the 58 are under 2 years, 26 are between 2 and 4 years and 7 children are 5 years of age or older. 4 of these 58 children have a potential match identified of which 3 have a panel booked and links are being pursued for the other children.

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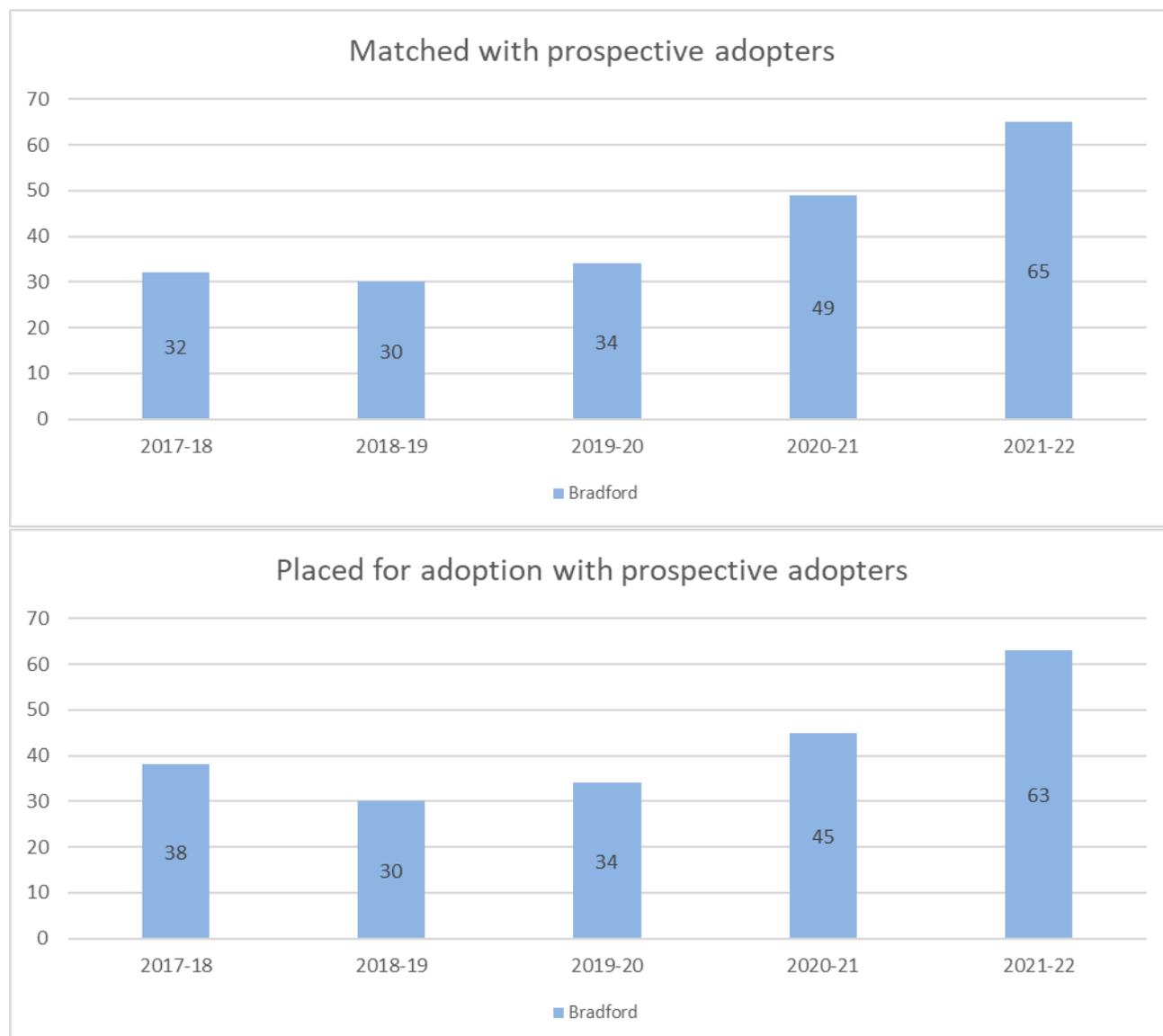
From the children with an adoption plan there are 30 girls and 28 boys, and 16% are children from BAME backgrounds. There are 26 children part of a sibling group.

18 of the 58 children do not yet have a Placement Order, giving Court authority to place them for adoption.



Over the course of 2021/22 the number of Placement Orders made in respect of Bradford children has decreased slightly on last year.

Timeliness: Are children being matched and placed without delay including those children who wait longer?



During 2021/22 65 children have been matched and 63 children have been placed with prospective adopters.

Of the children placed 12 children were from BAME backgrounds, 33 children were placed as part of a sibling group and 4 children were aged 5 or over.

Timeliness (children adopted)

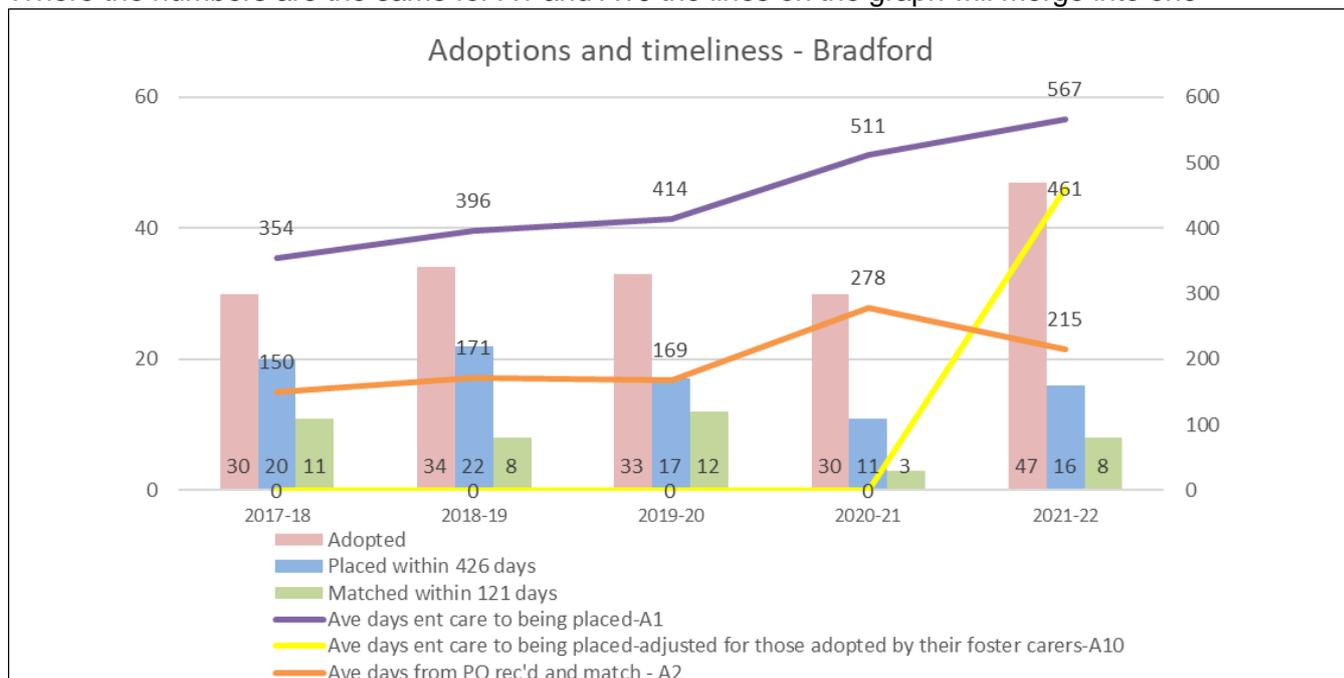
The graph below is with regard to children adopted in the period, showing A1, A10 and A2 indicators:

A1 indicator - Average time (in days) between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family

A10 indicator - Average time (in days) between a child entering care to being placed-adjusted for those adopted by their foster carers or placed in EPP (from 2021/22 only)

A2 indicator – Average time (in days) between local authority receiving a placement order and child being matched

Where the numbers are the same for A1 and A10 the lines on the graph will merge into one



The A1 scorecard indicator of children adopted is 567 days and above the national indicator of 426 days.

The A10 scorecard indicator of children adopted is 461 days which is still above the national indicator of 426 days.

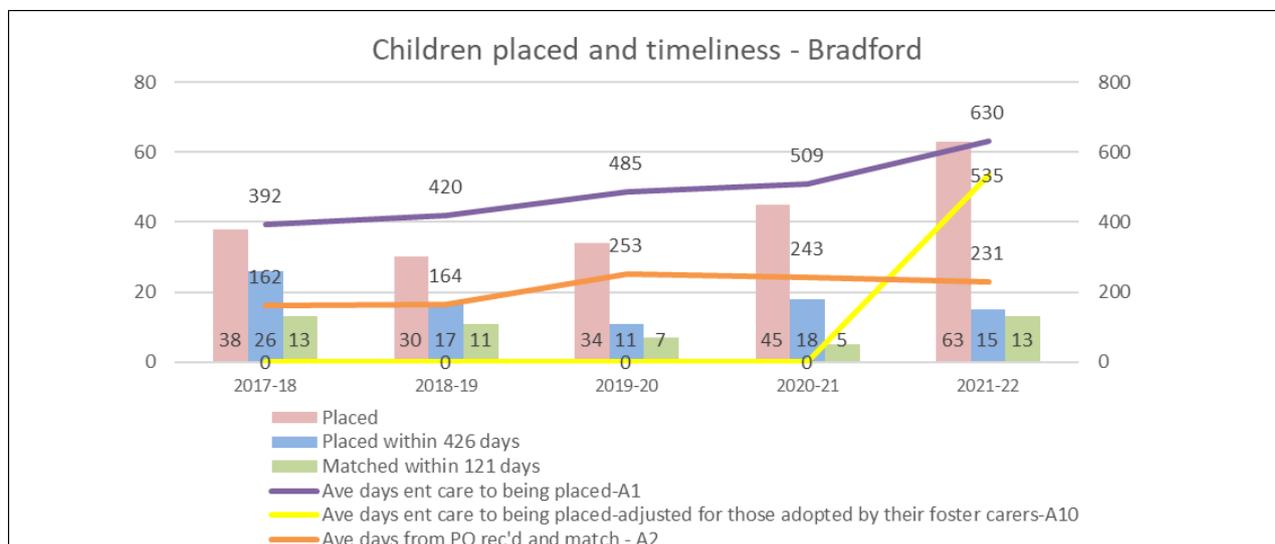
The A2 scorecard indicator for children adopted is 215 days, which is above the national indicator of 121 days.

Of the 47 children adopted in 2021/22, 31 of these were classed as a children who wait longer to match; 22 of these 31 children took more than 500 days from entering care to being placed, this affects the overall average timeliness. Without these 22 children the A1 average is 375 days.

Of the 31 children who wait longer to match, 26 took more than 121 days from Placement Order, without these 26 children the A2 average is 162.

Timeliness (children placed)

The graph below is with regard to children placed in the period, showing the same indicators as in the above graph.



Of the 63 children placed in 2021/22, 39 children had more than 500 days between entering care and being placed making the average 630 days, without these 39 children it brings the average down to 374 days, well within the 426 day indicator.

Of the 39 children, 30 were children who wait longer (e.g. classed by the DfE as harder to place children):

- 8 were aged 5+ years;
- 24 were part of a sibling group;
- 7 were Black and minority ethnic (BAME).
- 1 was a child with a disability

A2 indicator of the children placed:

47 of the 63 children placed in 2021/22 took more than 121 days from Placement Order to match.

27 of the 47 children were part of a sibling group, 8 were from BAME backgrounds and 7 were aged 5+ years these children often wait longer to be placed with adoptive families.

At the end of March 2022 there are 25 children who have been waiting for at least 18 months since entering care and are not yet placed for adoption:

19 are classed as “hard to place” children (5+years old, sibling group, disability, BAME), of which 6 have more than one of these characteristics. 6 of the 25 children are, however, not classed as hard to place.

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Of these 6 children, one had a match break down in introductions and subsequently the foster carer has been assessed and a match booked. One had a family identified within 2 months of the Placement Order and was matched in February. A long process of introductions is taking place due to her complex emotional and development needs. One did not receive a Placement Order until March 2022 due to assessment of a family member and has a match identified. One had complex health and development needs which meant we were unable to identify a family and the plan changed to long-term fostering. One had a Placement Order in February 2022 the foster carer has asked to be assessed to adopt, and one had a prospective adopter withdraw just prior to match in February so family finding has restarted.

Support: Is the right kind of support being provided?

At the end of March 2022 there were 156 cases allocated to the Adoption Support Service from Bradford who have an Adoption Support Plan and are in receipt of or are awaiting therapeutic support via the Adoption Support Fund. This is an increase of 19 from last year.

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022, 156 successful applications have been made to the Adoption Support Fund in respect of adopted children in Bradford accessing £538,218.97 for therapeutic support. This is an increase of 53 applications and an additional £171,626 claimed.

There were 34 families from Bradford awaiting allocation at the end of March 2022. This is due to a significant rise in demand for support. In the interim all the families continue to have access to the Core Support Services and some are accessing these. We hold monthly tracking and allocation meetings to ensure those families who are waiting are discussed routinely and progress to allocation is monitored. We are developing a 'virtual worker' system to allow specific pieces of 1:1 support and ASF applications to be made on cases with no allocated worker.

There are currently 358 letterbox contact plans facilitated for Bradford children and young people by One Adoption West Yorkshire, with 476 exchanges received and 407 exchanges sent out between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022. Again, this is a significant increase on the 276 contact plans facilitated last year.

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022, 167 referrals were made to PAC-UK for families inclusive of adult adoptees, birth parents/relatives across West Yorkshire. 33 (20%) were families living in Bradford.

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022, 330 access to records requests were received. 64 (19%) of which related to accessing Bradford records.

At 31st March 2021 there were 20 active peer mentors across the region, 5 of whom were in Bradford. Throughout the year 10 Bradford families accessed 1:1 peer support, 1 family accessed 1:1 transitions support and 5 families accessed online group support via WhatsApp.