




Nadhim Zahawi MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children and Families

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 May 2018

As you may be aware, the 2014-17 Adoption Scorecards were published today and this shows the work that has been done across the country to reduce unnecessary delays in placing children for adoption.

Looking at the scorecard data, I note that in 2014-17 it took Bracknell Forest an average of 657 days, which is 231 days above the threshold for the time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family. This was slightly longer than for 2013-16. For the time between receiving a placement order and matching a child to an adopter, Bracknell Forest took an average of 372 days, which is 251 days over the threshold.

These figures are concerning, at the same time I am conscious that the number of children adopted in Bracknell Forest are low and that performance for the time between a child entering care and moving in with its adoptive family adjusted for foster carer adoptions is better at 466 days. From other data available to me, I note your recent Ofsted report which rated you as good with the adoption sub-judgement as outstanding.

All these different pieces of information do not tell the whole picture of course. Officials are due to meet with Bracknell Forest shortly and it would be helpful if you could discuss this further so that I can understand more fully the current situation in Bracknell Forest.

I understand you are working closely with other local authorities as part of Adopt Thames Valley which went live in December. I am pleased to hear that Adopt Thames Valley is making good progress and is already well established in the area.

I am copying this letter to: Councillor Dr Gareth Barnard, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Learning; Timothy Wheedon, Chief Executive; Nikki Edwards, Director of Children Young People and Learning; and Teresa Rogers, Head of Service Adopt Thames Valley.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Nadhim Zahawi', written over the printed name.

Nadhim Zahawi MP
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