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**Meeting:** Corporate Parenting Panel  
**Date:** 22 April 2013  
**Subject:** Adoption Scorecard April-Dec 2012  
**Report of:** Sue Tyler, Acting Assistant Director Children's Services Operations  
**Summary:** The report discusses the Adoption Scorecard, published by the Department for Education.

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Contact Officer: Fiona Mackirdy, Head of Adoption and Fostering  
Public/Exempt: Public  
Wards Affected: All  
Function of: Council

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

**Council Priorities:**

Central Bedfordshire Council's Strategic Plan 2012-16 Priority 3 – Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable

The Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 Priority 2 – Protecting children and keeping them safe.

**Financial:**

1. There are no new financial considerations arising from the Scorecard.

**Legal:**

2. There are no legal considerations.

**Risk Management:**

3. Not Applicable.

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

4. Not Applicable.

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

5. Services provided to Looked after Children, including adoption affects all sectors of communities.

**Community Safety:**

6. Not Applicable.

**Sustainability:**

7. Not Applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Corporate Parenting Panel comment on the Adoption Scorecard April-Dec 2012.**

**Background**

8. The Government produces Adoption Scorecards annually for each Local Authority (LA).
9. Data is sent by the LA in to the Department for Education on a quarterly basis. This data is used internally to track progress throughout the year, although the comparisons with statistical neighbours refer to the previous full year (in this case 2011-2012)

**Summary**

10. The internally produced scorecard for the Period April to December 2012 is attached for the panel's discussion.
11. The key indicator for the average time between a child entering care and moving in with adoptive family is showing as 465 days. This is an improvement on last years figure of 579 days. In the last full year the number of days amongst statistical neighbours varied from 704 at worst to 405.
12. The average time between a local authority receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family is presently standing at 88 days. The comparator at year end amongst statistical neighbours varied between 84 at the lowest end and 278 at the top end.
13. Of the four children where adoption orders were granted during the period of the scorecard none of them have waited longer than 21 months between entering care and moving in with their adoptive family, so 100% has been achieved to date. At the end of last year the figure was 59%. Amongst statistical neighbours last year the percentage rate varied between 78% at best down to 41 % - the national average is 56%.

**Conclusion and Next Steps**

14. The data will continue to be used to track progress. The next annual update will be produced by the DfE in May 2013 referring to the full year 2012-13.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Central Bedfordshire Adoption Scorecard April-Dec 2012.

**Background Papers:**

None

**Location of papers:**

N/A