Project management

The overall project management within Coram-i will lie with Kevin Yong. The Adoption Diagnostic Analysis and reporting will be carried out by a senior analyst, with quality assurance provided by Professor Julie Selwyn (Academic Consultant, Bristol Univ.). Jeanne Kaniuk (Head of Adoption and Permanent Families) and Yashi Shah (Social Work Consultant, Coram-i Improvement Team) are also available for technical adoption related advice.

Cost

The cost for this project is £6,000. Please note this fee excludes reasonable travel, accommodation costs and VAT, but includes management costs as this is a defined tool and therefore is offered at a discounted rate. Significant delays due to local authority staff will incur additional costs.

Contact details

To find out more, or to commission this or any other Coram-i service:

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Insight • Innovation

Adoption Diagnostic Analysis

"The diagnostic report provided the impetus for action planning in a manner that is superior to the OFSTED report because it brought the impact and delay for our children alive at the individual case level and then in aggregate."

Steve Tanner, Interim Head of Children's Care Services in Buckinghamshire

The Adoption Diagnostic Analysis and report will be able to highlight:

- The profile of children placed for adoption in relation to the profile of looked after children in your local authority.
- Timescales and potential drift in children's adoption journeys, focusing on the five stages of the adoption process. Namely, care entry to the Independent Review Officer's (IRO) recommendation for adoption; IRO to Agency Decision Maker's (ADM) agreement of adoption plan; ADM to Placement Order (PO); PO to adoptive placement; and finally adoptive placement to Adoption Order (AO).
- Detailed analysis of the ten shortest and the ten longest adoption journeys experienced by children adopted.
- Permanency planning and timescales for children under five entering care who remain in care two years later, by looking at placement moves, legal status, health needs and changes to permanency plans (e.g. from reunification to adoption).
- The adopter's journey and timescale from initial contact, application, assessment and approval to placement of child.

The analysis will also be able to provide indicators of the resource efficiency of the adoption service by reporting:

- The unit cost of placing children for adoption.
- The productivity rate of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in relation to the number of children placed for adoption and adopters recruited.

The analysis will, where possible, compare council performance against relevant benchmarks and with other local authorities working in partnership with Coram-i.

Data gathering

The Adoption Diagnostic Analysis requires your local authority and its adoption service to provide Coram-i with the necessary data. The tool clearly sets out the information and layout (in Excel) required, focusing on key dates and background information for individual children within a set period of time (e.g. two or three financial years).

The amount of time and resources needed for this task vary depending on the information management system within your local authority. However, based on past experience Coram-i estimate this should take approximately four weeks.

Activities and timescales

The timescales shown below are subject to variation, however a general indication of the time taken to complete the Adoption Diagnostic Analysis is as follows:

Task	Who is responsible	Time taken
Data gathering	Local authority	4 weeks
Analysis and report	Coram-i	2 weeks
Quality Assurance	Coram-i	2 weeks
Draft report to stakeholders	Coram-i	1 week
Meeting to discuss report and action plan	Local authority / Coram-i	