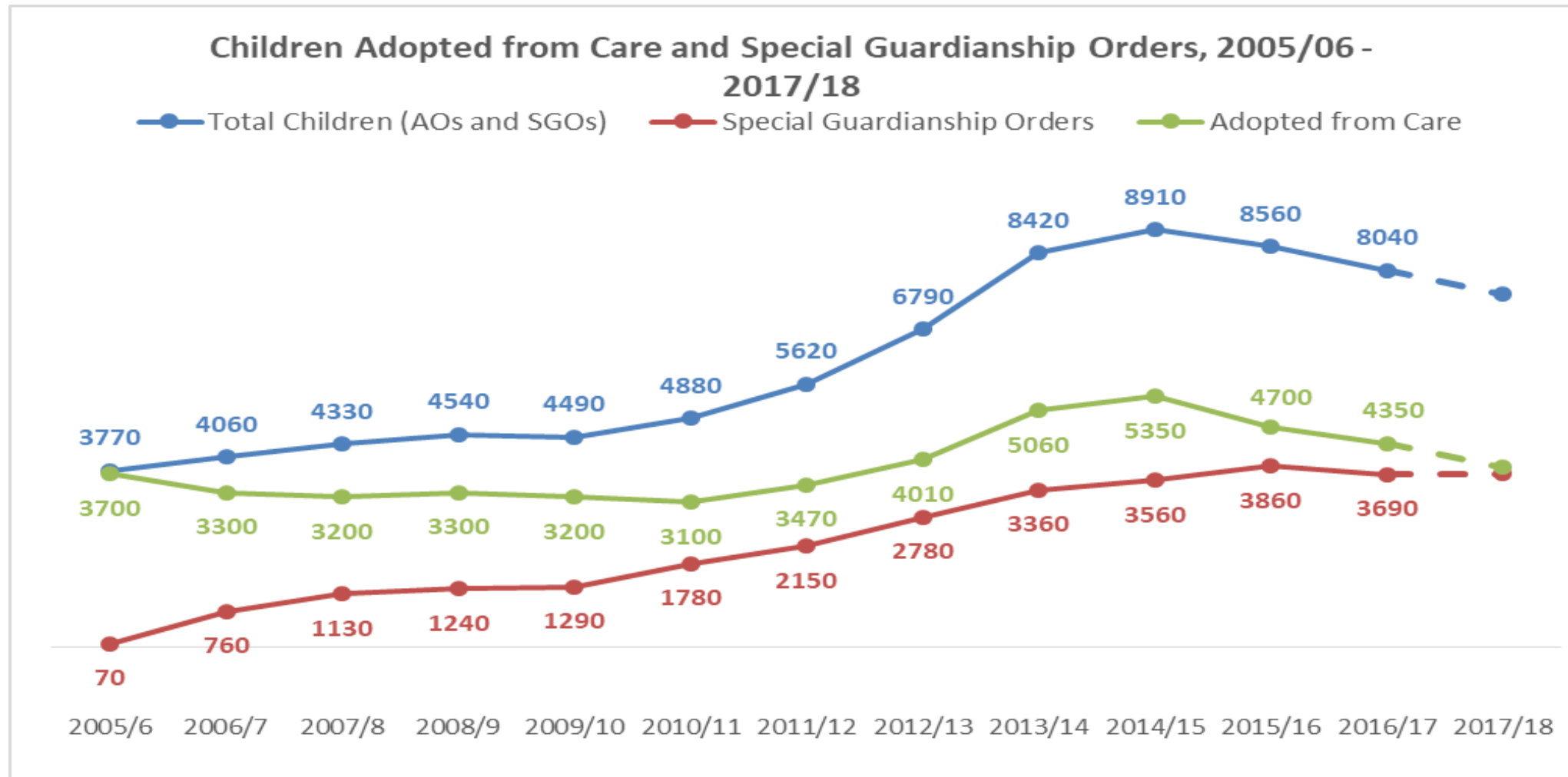


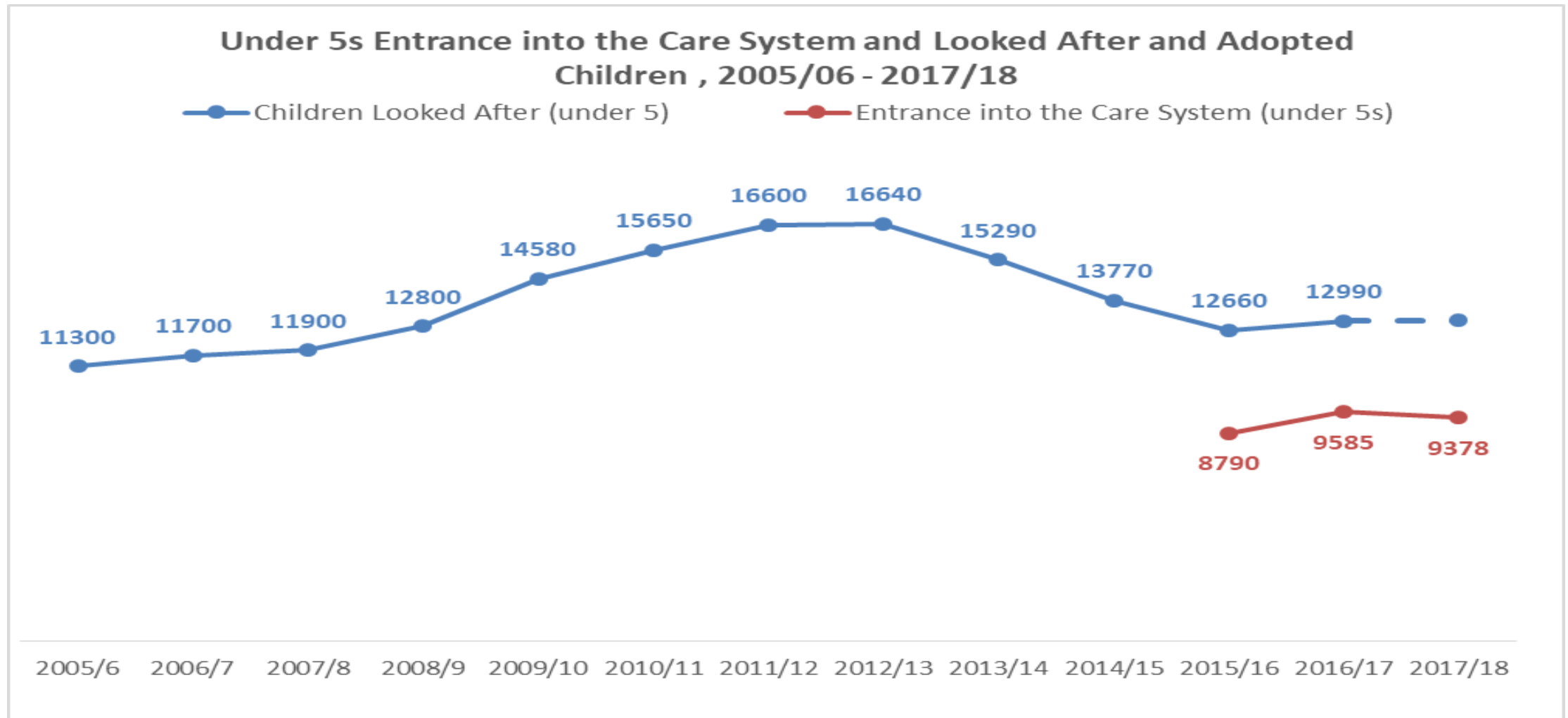
The Priorities of the Adoption & Special Guardianship Leadership Board

1. Understanding trends and performance
2. A sufficient number of adopters
3. Developing Regional Adoption Agencies (RAAs)
4. Modernising “Permanence” for children from care

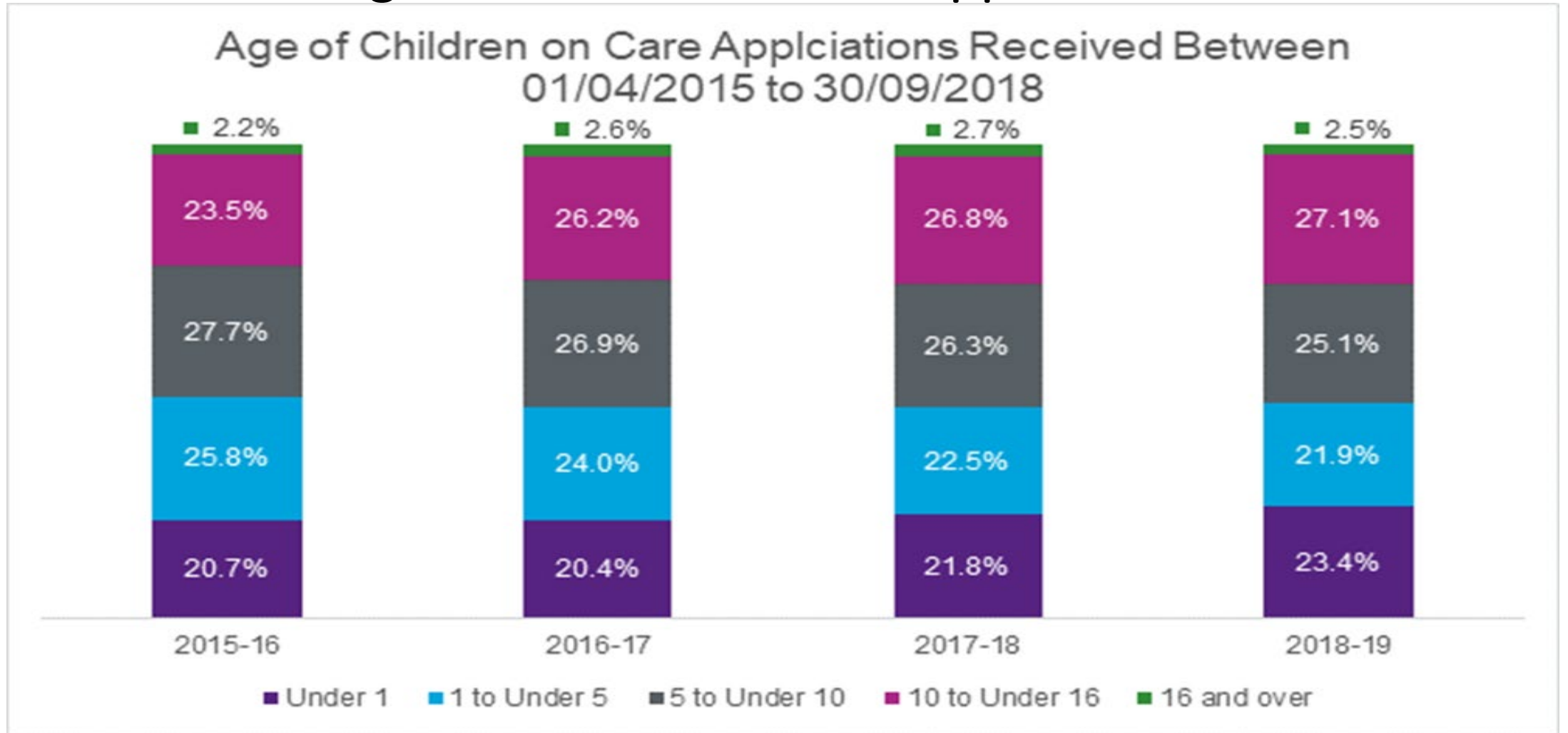
Children Adopted from Care and Special Guardianship Orders



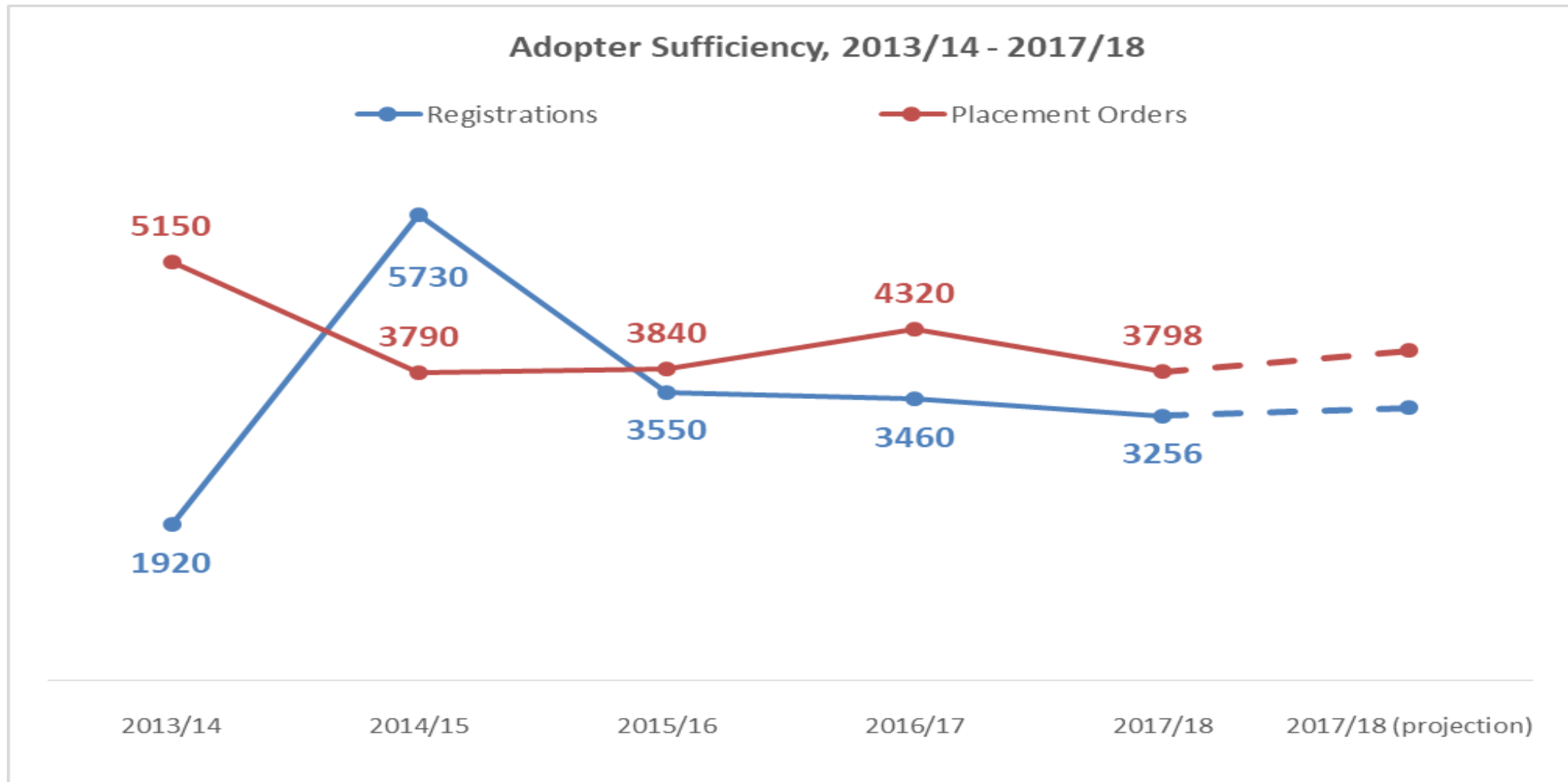
Under 5s Entrance into the Care System and Looked After Children



Age of Children on Care Applications



Adopter Sufficiency



Modernising “Permanence” for children from care

- 2/3 of children made subject of adoption or special guardianship orders have **additional or complex needs** (Selwyn, et al)
- Local Authorities (LAs) are required to assess their needs, make a plan and provide support services for these children
- LAs are required each year to publish a plan describing these support arrangements
- It is likely that you place the majority of these children outside your LA.
- After 3 years the support becomes the responsibility of the LA where the child lives
- Is this a Corporate Parenting Responsibility in your LA?



Anita Hart
Adoptive Parent
Contract Manager -
England

Adoption UK: our vision and purpose

What do we aim to do?

- Support adopters with peer services
- Speak up with our Adopter Voice for adopters

Adoption UK

How?

- Recruit adopters with skills, knowledge and experience to be deliver professional Peer to Peer services

Adoption UK

How?

- Mentoring programmes
- Adopter Voice - RAA's, DfE
- Family events
- Specialist Groups
- Speakers at Support Groups



Unshockable – always
able to find a positive
comment. I can be
seen

Removes stigma,
reduces isolation, great
hugs and cake!

Peer to peer support is SO
different; I can be honest and
open with adopters who REALLY
understand. Nobody judges me,
and more importantly they don't
judge my child. I can be myself,
laugh, cry and share experiences.

...is
you can
now
and what is
ntial

Parent Consultation Service

Jane – Adoption Support Social Worker, Birmingham

- This P2P service is as a stepping stone for families when things aren't going well; this support has proved “enough” so always an important tool in our “adoption support toolbox”

Surveys and research



https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/603742/Peer_support_analysis_of_call_for_evidence_report.pdf

Statutory Obligations to Support Adoptive Families

- Turning Adoption Support on its head – it doesn't all have to be delivered by social workers
- To invest in quality Peer Support Services removes pressure from Adoption Support Teams, strengthens local communities

Investment to Support Adoptive Families

- Create Stronger Adoption Communities:
 - Reduces dependency on the state
 - Reduces resource demands on LA's/RAA's
 - Empowers, enables and normalises life for adoptive parents and children

Kinship Carers UK



*Presented by
Enza Smith MBE
CEO Kinship Carers UK
Charity No:1163906*

www.kinshipcarersuk.com

- Established 2008, What makes us a successful charity?
- Independent support, information and advice. In particular, we offer a wealth of relevant experience from kinship families to prospective kinship carers and to all those who work with them.
- Support groups offering advice, emotional support and encouragement
- Bespoke Kinship care training to carers and professionals



Kinship Family support


- Support groups **run** by kinship carers
- Peer support
- Therapeutic support
- Attachment training
- Safe guarding
- Protective behaviours
- Support for the child within 3 months of placement
- Assessment of child's needs



Collaborative working

- Work alongside kinship families
- Kinship Panel – share the future plans & expectations
- [FRG Mutual expectations charter](#)
 - promote effective, mutually respectful partnership working between practitioners and families





Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognised by its fruit

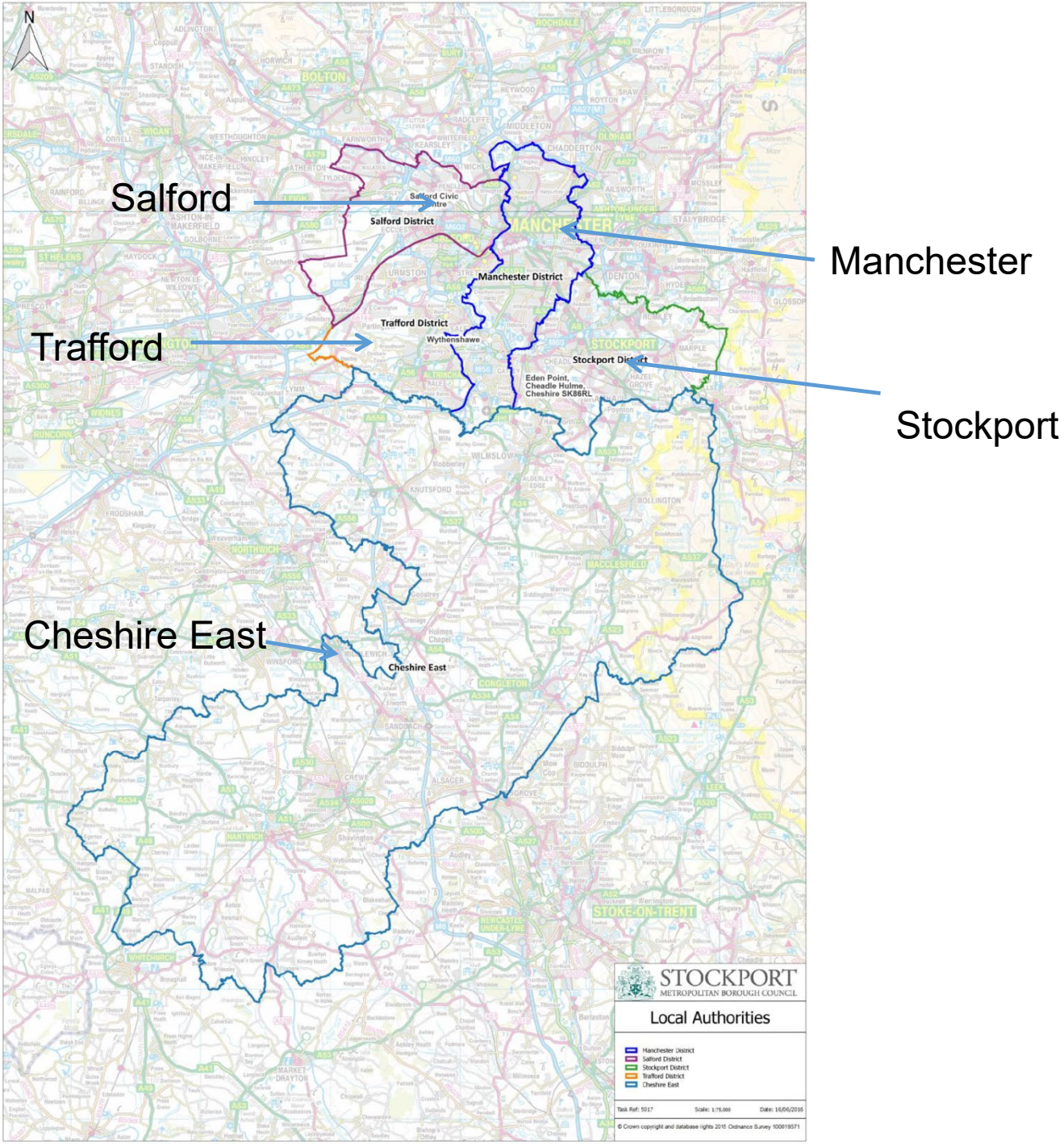
Mathew 12:33

1. Support for Kinship Families
2. Support for Kinship Children
3. Collaborative working with kinship families

ADOPTION COUNTS

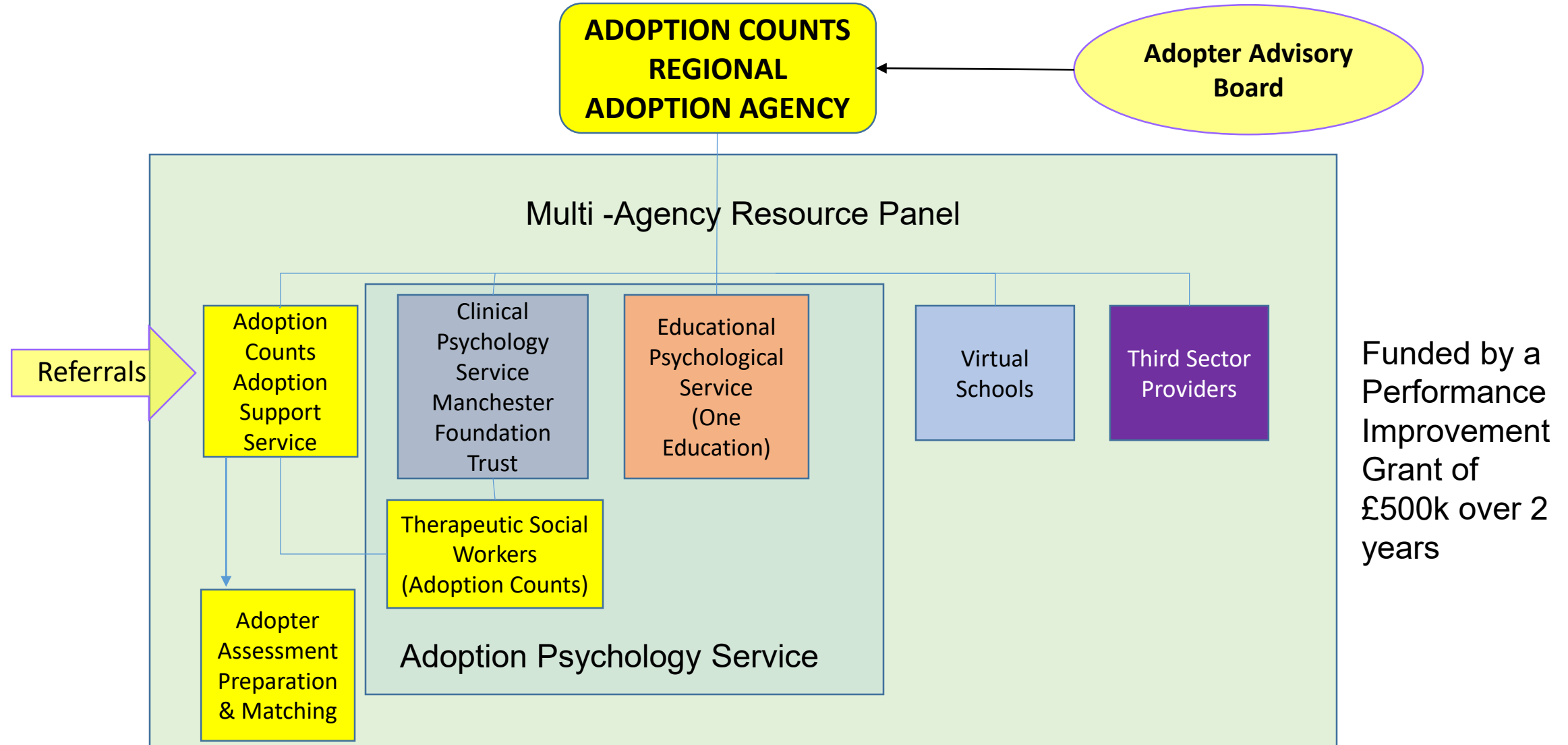
An overview of developments in Adoption Support Services

The Adoption Counts Region



We are co-ordinating this system through our....

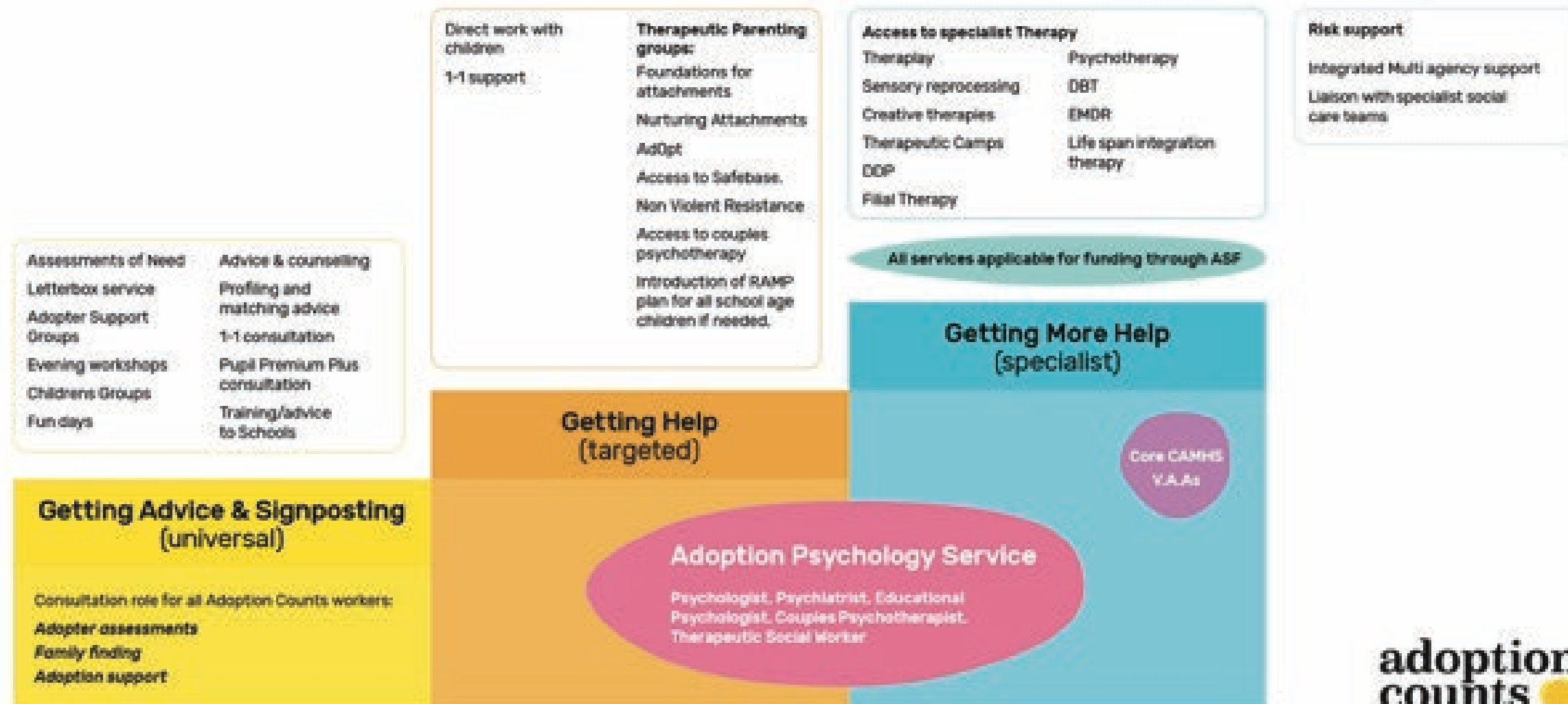
ADOPTION SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP



What is the Centre of Excellence seeking to achieve?

1. Adopted Children to have the best possible emotional health and well being
2. Adopted children have the best possible education which enables them to 'enjoy and achieve'
3. Adoptive parents feel supported to understand and meet the needs of their adopted children
4. Staff working in adoption support services are confident and equipped to appropriately support adoptive families
5. To develop adoption support services based on evidence of what works and feedback from adopters and adoptees

Adoption Support Service - Graduated Approach



Contact

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