

CABINET 9 NOVEMBER 2022
Member Questions

Question from:	Kevin Pardy	
Subject:	Together4Children Annual Report	
Portfolio Holder:	Kirstie-Hurst Knight	Approved

Having read the very promising and positive Together4Children annual report, I have the following question:

Why isn't there a breakdown of children's ages or mention of children with disabilities? It is important to know percentages of age and disability groups accepted for adoption. I'm presume that it is more difficult for older children and children with disabilities to be adopted, is that the case. We need to know the future for these children, if not adopted and what we do to encourage and support those that adopt such children in these categories.

The Together 4 Children Annual Report is compiled by the Service Manager not ourselves. It contains information across 4 Local Authorities and all of the information in it is publicly available.

As the number of adoptions in Local Authorities can be small and the number of children with disabilities even smaller, the publishing of this data by a Local Authority would mean that the children would potentially be identifiable.

The T4C Governing Body receives more detailed data by age, ethnicity, disability and other factors, and the Assistant Directors of Telford and Shropshire make the Adoption Decisions directly so they are aware of the needs and characteristics of each individual child and how they will be met. The data in terms of equality is monitored by the Team Manager and the Service Manager.

I can confirm that children with additional needs and complex disabilities have been adopted in Shropshire in the year 2021-2022.

In relation to support for adopters who adopt children with disabilities and older children. We tailor support to suit the individual child's needs. Support can be financial and/or access to other services, particularly for children with disabilities and complex needs. Post adoption support is available which can include therapeutic support and therapeutic life story support to enable older children to understand their life journey and why they are adopted. A lot of support is provided for older children before the transition to adopters, in order to introduce children to the idea of adoption and to enable children to

feel safe with their adopters. This also provides reassurance that social workers and foster carers agree that these are safe people for them to live with. This is a key element to successful adoptions of older children.