



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMISSION 12 DECEMBER 2006

Report of the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services

Appointment of a Member of the Commission to the Adoption Panel

RECOMMENDATION

1. To appoint a member of the Children and Young People Commission to the Adoption Panel.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 For a number of years the Council have run 12 adoption panels per year but in the last year have had to have additional ad hoc panels to manage the demand. This is an unsatisfactory and inefficient situation.
- 2.2 A second Adoption Panel is being formed, so an elected member will need to be appointed for this Panel. Currently one elected member is appointed to the Adoption Panel, this is Councillor MacDonald.
- 2.3 The demand has been created by increasing legislative complexity and the increased numbers of children and adopters being referred to the panel.
- 2.4 The proposal is to establish two panels to meet less frequently thereby reducing demand on individuals but increasing capacity in the system. The Council would like to have the new Panel established by the end of January 2007.
- 2.5 Panel members would need to be available for at least nine full days and one additional training day per year. The preparatory reading can be significant and may require up to five hours per panel.

For more information contact: Sarah Turner 01332 255463 e-mail sarah.turner@derby.gov.uk
Background papers: None
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 Members appointed to the Adoption Panel are entitled to receive a Special Responsibility Allowance – SRA - in addition to one other SRA.

Legal

- 2.1 Regulations state that members appointed to the Adoption Panel must be on the Overview and Scrutiny Commission covering Children's Services.
- 2.2 Panel members are bound by the Adoption Regulations to attend at least 75% of the arranged Panels.
- 2.3 The Adoption Panel by regulation is made up of up to 10 people including one Councillor, an Independent Chair, a medical adviser, three independent people - two of which should have personal experience of adoption and two Social Workers.

Personnel

- 3.1 None.

Equalities impact

- 4.1 Men and people from black and minority ethnic communities are under represented on the Council's Adoption Panels.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 5.1 None