



Adoption Update

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This is an update report on the improvement plans for adoption and details the current and future plans for 2013 - 2014
- 1.2 A project management approach is being utilised to deliver improvements in the adoption service and appendix two identifies the ten objectives within this project with associated outputs, outcomes to be achieved and timescale.
- 1.3 The Council is currently in receipt of an Adoption Reform Grant which is one year funding of £1.108m. This is part of a national reform programme which includes the recruitment and assessment of prospective adopters and the National Gateway for Adoption.

The grant is split into Part A non-ring fenced grant of £486,150 and Part B ring fenced grant of £621,760.

This grant is being utilised to deliver the ten adoption objectives.
- 1.4 The Children in Care Commissioning Group has an adoption work stream that is detailed at 4.2 that compliments the adoption project work
- 1.5 An adoption diagnostic assessment was completed in June 2013 of which further detail is found at 4.1 and the findings from this have informed the objectives within the project plan.
- 1.6 Information on current adoption statistics is found at 4.3

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report including work to date and future actions.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Securing permanency for children and young people is a priority area for Children in Care both in terms of achieving improved outcomes for individual children and young people and also in relation to cost and quality of their care.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The adoption diagnostic assessment was held over the week of 3 June 2013 and was commissioned from Core Assets Consultancy and Resourcing and BAAF utilising the adoption reform grant. This was viewed by the service as good preparation for the awaited Ofsted Adoption Inspection during 2013 to 2014.

Priorities for the diagnostic assessment incorporating an outcomes perspective were :

- Timeliness of adoptions
- Care Planning Process
- Post adoption support plans

The final report attached as appendix three outlines ten recommendations and has informed current work priorities.

4.2 The CiC Commissioning work priorities are:

- Developing an integrated recruitment pathway in consultation with adopters with performance measures
- A clear process for the allocation and review of post adoption support including appropriate therapeutic support and way of measuring outcomes within contracts
- Scoping requirements for a framework around therapeutic post adoption support
- A model for fostering and adoption which supports effective recruitment and good outcomes for children in terms of permanence
- Scoping health needs and related cost of CiC placed in derby and placed by Derby out of city

4.3 Adoption Performance within this financial year with effect from the 1 April 2013 to 31 July 2013 is:

- Number of adoption orders granted is 27
- Number of placed children is 20
- Number of matched children but not yet placed is 16
- Number of adoptive families approved is 11
- Number of current adopter assessments underway 21
- Number of children whose plan is for adoption is 44 which translates into requiring 30 adoptive families

4.4 The outcomes from the adoption project will contribute to children achieving permanency without delay and increasing the number of adopters. This will have a positive impact on Derby's adoption scorecard in particular the length of wait.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None considered at this time

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	N/A
Financial officer	Mark Wyld
Human Resources officer	N/A
Estates/Property officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	Mark Barratt: Director of Specialist Services
Other(s)	Hazel Lymbery: Head of CiC Regulated Services Sally Penrose: DHOS Fostering and Adoption

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Adoption Project Plan

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The Adoption Reform Grant has been awarded to local authorities for the financial year of 2013/14 in two parts; Part A being unfenced and Part B being a ring-fenced grant. Both parts of the grant will be used for supporting Children's Services in Derby achieve permanency for children in care.

Legal

- 2.1 Not applicable

Personnel

- 3.1 There are likely to be changes to the staffing structure within adoption which is part of a wider review of adoption services in Derby. This will be subject to a consultation plan.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Not applicable

Health and Safety

- 5.1 Not applicable

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 Not applicable

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 Not applicable

Risk Management

- 8.1 Not applicable

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 This fits with the priority of - good quality services that meet local need
- 9.2 The Adoption improvement plan will ensure:
- All people in Derby will enjoy achieving their learning potential

- All people in Derby will enjoy being safe and feeling safe