

Report of the Deputy Director (Children's Social Care) to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 9 July 2018

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Subject:

Update on the Progress of and Annual Report of One Adoption West Yorkshire

Summary statement:

The report provides an overview of adoption service activity from April 2017 to March 2018 and is attached at Appendix A. It also addresses specific issues about the IT provision to the agency and the accommodation of staff as requested when this matter was last before the Corporate Parenting Panel.

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Deputy Director

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Portfolio:

Children's Services

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report asks the Corporate Parenting Panel to consider the Annual Report of One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY), as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 One Adoption West Yorkshire has been providing adoption services on behalf of Bradford Council since its opening in April 2017. The attached report provides a summary of the developments of the service since this time and is the first annual report of the Regional Adoption Agency

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Corporate Parenting Panel asked to be appraised of progress made in relation to the accommodation of OAWY staff relating to Bradford Council and the resolution of IT issues affecting the service.
- 3.2 Accommodation - The Family Finding and adoption support teams of OAWY are now based on 3rd Floor of Sir Henry Mitchell House (SHMH) adjacent to one of the locality children's services which facilitates good communication and working relationships with the Bradford teams and there are clinic arrangements with the Keighley office staff to enable communication around children with a likely plan of adoption.
- 3.3 IT - There have been great strides in IT provision to OAWY staff covering the Bradford District. All OAWY staff have now been issued with a Leeds laptop and have wired access to the Leeds system from their office base in SHMH. The IT project is now in the final phase of the plan to issue all OAWY staff with access via a Citrix fob, to the appropriate parts of Bradford's LCS system which will enable them to have read only access.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 One Adoption West Yorkshire is resourced through a joint pooled budget and underpinned by a partnership agreement. This is discussed more fully in the main body.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 The work of the adoption agency is overseen by the Joint Committee and Management Board and is underpinned by a detailed Partnership Agreement.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

None.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

One Adoption West Yorkshire has completed a full Equality Impact Assessment in 2018 which is an appendix to the annual report.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Not applicable.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no Community Safety implications arising out of the recommendations of this report.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

No outstanding issues have been identified.

7.6 TRADE UNION

The Trades Unions have been involved in the establishment of the Agency.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

There are no Ward implications arising out of the recommendations of this report.

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

Not applicable.

7.9 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

This report relates to the Corporate Parenting of Looked After Children with a plan for adoption.

7.10 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

The OAWY responsibilities under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) are addressed within Leeds City Council, as the host agency's Information Governance arrangements.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

Please see recommendations.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Parenting Panel reviews the Annual Adoption report and continues to support the work of OAWY to ensure that children receive the best possible support.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: One Adoption West Yorkshire Annual Report

Appendix 2: Performance Information for OAWY (One Adoption West Yorkshire)

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.