

**Summary Sheet**

**Council Report**

**Title** Adoption Service Annual Report

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

*This is not a Key Decision*

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Ian Thomas

**Report Author**

Jill Stanley

**Ward(s) Affected**

All Wards are affected

**Executive Summary**

This is a report which is prepared on an annual basis to provide Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's Adoption Panel with information on the business of Panel and the Adoption Agency. The report also provides a brief summary of the work undertaken by Panel and considers the feedback and monitoring completed by the Panel, and the quality of the reports which are presented to Panel.

The Adoption Panel has two primary functions which are making recommendations regarding the suitability of prospective adopters, and matching children who have a plan of adoption to suitable prospective adopters.

**Recommendations:**

That members note the Adoption Agency and Adoption annual report 2014/15, and the addendum highlighting performance from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015.

## **List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1: Adoption Service Annual Report to The Adoption Panel

Appendix 2: Addendum

## **Background Papers**

No

## **Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Appendix 1 report has been considered by the Local Authority Adoption Panel

## **Council Approval Required**

No

## **Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Adoption Service Annual Report**

### **1. Recommendations**

- 1.1 That Corporate Parenting Panel note the contents of the report
- 1.2 That Corporate Parenting Panel note the key role that Adopters play in caring for our most vulnerable children and young people
- 1.3 That Corporate Parenting Panel members do their best to promote the role of Adopters in providing secure and stable family lives for children where adoption is the plan for a child.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The Local Authority in Rotherham operates an adoption service to provide loving permanent homes to Looked After children with a plan of adoption. The service provides adoptive families for children who can no longer live with their parents or extended families.

### **3. Key Issues**

The Adoption Agency needs to achieve a high level of recruitment of prospective adopters to meet the needs of the children who have an adoption plan and to ensure timeliness for children in achieving permanence. This is in line with the Governments agenda of tackling delay. Both within Rotherham and nationally there has been a significant

increase in the number of approved adopters, however the challenge remains in recruiting prospective adopters for the harder to place children.

The focus of the recruitment campaign continues to be for children of all ages but with an emphasis on older children, sibling groups and children with additional needs. The Adoption Agency promotes the use of Early Permanence planning for children and the support available from the Therapeutic Team.

To continue to improve timeliness for children with an adoption plan by commencing family finding at the earliest stage.

#### **4. Options considered and recommended proposal**

That members note the Adoption Panel Report.

#### **5. Consultation**

Adoption Panel Report has been shared with the Adoption Panel Chair.

#### **6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

The Adoption Team Manager and Service Manager are responsible for implementing the report.

#### **7. Financial and Procurement Implications**

No

#### **8. Legal Implications**

No

#### **9. Human Resources Implications**

No

#### **10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

To improve outcomes for Looked After Children in a timely manner by providing secure and stable adoptive family homes for children where this is the plan.

**11 Equalities and Human Rights Implications**

Not applicable.

**12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates**

None

**13. Risks and Mitigation**

None

**14. Accountable Officer(s)**

Team Manager and Service Manager

Approvals Obtained from:-

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services:- Named officer

Director of Legal Services:- Named officer

Head of Procurement (if appropriate):-

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