

Improving Lives Summary Report

1.	Date of meeting:	15th January 2019
2.	Title:	Update regarding the Regional Adoption Agency
3.	Directorate:	Children & Young People's Services (CYPS)

1. Background

This report provides a brief update regarding the development of the South Yorkshire Regional Adoption Agency. As has previously been reported the Business Case developed by Doncaster Children's Services Trust (DCST) was rejected by both Rotherham MBC and Sheffield City Council as it did not meet the essential criteria set down at the start of the process namely that the new model should:-

- Bring no increased costs to RMBC
- Have no negative impact on current performance
- Have no negative impact on the terms and conditions of RMBC employees.

2. What's Working Well?

Following a further meeting convened between the respective Directors of Children's Services and the Department for Education (DfE) an additional sum of money has been allocated to DCST by the DfE to underwrite the further project development costs. This will enable a project manager lead to be employed to re-write the Business Case.

3. What are we Worried About?

If there is no functioning Regional Adoption Agency within South Yorkshire by 2020 then within the legislation the government has retained the right to impose a model on the region. There is a resulting risk that this model will not best meet the needs of RMBC, its children and families or its employees.

4. What are we going to do about it?

RMBC will remain fully engaged in the process and development of the model in order to ensure we are best placed to shape and influence the development of the model so that it will best meet the essential criteria as set out in Section 1 above. It is anticipated that the revised Business case will be completed by April 2019 from which point it can be presented for the various levels of approval required for ratification.

5. Name and contact details

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