

Decision Maker: Care Services Portfolio Holder

For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Care Services PDS Committee on:

Date: 26th June 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: **ADOPTION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

Contact Officer: Kay Weiss, Assistant Director Safeguarding and Social Care
E-mail: kay.weiss@bromley.gov.uk

Ian Leadbetter, Head of Social Care, Care and Resources
E-mail: ian.leadbetter@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Executive Director of Education, Care & Health Services

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

1.1 Standard 24.6 of the National Minimum Standards 2011 requires the Adoption Agency to submit reports to the Executive, to:

- Receive written reports of the management, outcomes and financial state of the agency
- Monitor the management and outcomes of the services in order to satisfy themselves that the agency is effective and is achieving good outcomes for children and/or service users
- Satisfy themselves that the agency is complying with the conditions of registration

1.2 The adoption agency is also required to update and publish its statement of purpose. The annual report of the Bromley Adoption Agency (appendix 1) and Statement of Purpose (appendix 2) are attached.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 **The Care Services Policy, Development and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:**

- Consider the content and comment upon the annual report of the adoption agency and revised statement of purpose;**

ii. Recommend that the annual report and revised statement of purpose be endorsed by the Care Services Portfolio Holder

2.2 The Care Service Portfolio Holder is asked to endorse the annual report and updated statement of purpose.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: 833110
 4. Total current budget for this head: £1,048,670
 5. Source of funding: Base Budget
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 15fte
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The London Borough of Bromley is a registered adoption agency. The work of the Bromley Adoption Agency is governed by the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and is subject to the Adoption Agency Regulations (AAR) 2005, 2011, 2012, 2013 and the National minimum standards (NMS) 2011.
- 3.2 Local authority adoption services are no longer inspected by Ofsted independently. Adoption forms part of the new single assessment framework and adoption performance (as opposed to the work of the adoption service) is a separate judgment.
- 3.3 Standard 24.6 of the National Minimum Standards 2011 require the Adoption Agency to submit reports to the Agency executive, to:
- Receive written reports of the management, outcomes and financial state of the agency
 - Monitor the management and outcomes of the services in order to satisfy themselves that the agency is effective and is achieving good outcomes for children and/or service users
 - Satisfy themselves that the agency is complying with the condition of registration
- 3.4 The annual report of the Bromley Adoption Agency 2013/14 is attached as appendix 1.
- 3.5 The Agency is also required to update and publish a statement of purpose, outlining the work of the agency that is accessible to adopters, children, staff and members of the public.
- 3.6 The updated statement of purposes for 2014/15 is attached as appendix 2.
- 3.7 Adoption activity (2013/14) at a glance

Activity	Outcome	Notes
Number of enquiries	185	<i>153 enquiries in 2012/13</i>
Adoption information Sessions	10	<i>45 prospective adopter units attended</i> <i>6 sessions held in 2012/13</i>
Adopter Stage One Workshops run	4	<i>4 days in total / 13 prospective adopter units attended</i>
Adopter Stage Two preparation Groups run	5	<i>9 days in total / 14 prospective adopter units attended</i>
New adopters approved	18 <i>(*3 approved under new two stage process)</i>	<i>Also, 17 adoptive units were already in the pool from the previous year as at 1st April 2013</i> <i>14 adoptive units left in the pool as at 31st March 2014.</i> <i>14 new units approved in 2012/13</i>
New family finding referrals for children with an adoption plan	18	<i>40 other children were already awaiting to be found a match as at 1st April 2013</i> <i>19 children with an adoption plan and awaiting an adoption match as</i>

		<i>at 31st March 2014</i>
Children subject to Adoption Orders	14	<i>17 in 2012/13</i>
Children placed for Adoption	27	<i>7 of these children became subject to Adoption orders 20 were in pre-adoptive placements as at 31st March 2014. 10 children placed in 2012/13</i>
Adoption panel meetings	13	<i>44 cases considered (adopter and matching cases)</i>
Bromley adopters supported as part of inter-agency placements	11 <i>(16 children from other local authorities being placed)</i>	<i>7 adoptive units for placements started in the 2013/14 4 adoptive units for placements started in previous year</i>
Adoption support workshops for approved adopters	4	<i>4 days in total</i>
Letterbox contact arrangements in operation as at 31 st March 2014	439	<i>572 exchanges for 195 children 321 exchanges for 165 children in 2012/13</i>
Birth records counselling-new referrals from adopted adults	24	<i>59 in 2012/13</i>
Children in adoptive families where direct contact arrangements with birth families were in place as at 31 st March 2014	53	<i>56 in 2012/13</i>

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Standard 24.6 of the National Minimum Standards 2011 require the Adoption Agency to submit reports to the Agency executive.
- 4.2 Standard 18 of the National Minimum Standards 2011 require the Adoption Agency to Review, at least annually and publish its statement of purpose.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy implications Financial implications Personnel implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	