

Decision Maker: Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by Children, Education and Families PDS
Committee meeting; 26 January 2021

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: ADOPTION ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Contact Officer: Vicky West, Head of Adoption, Fostering and Resources, and Children with Disabilities.
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Chief Officer: Director: Children's Social Care (ECHS)

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Education, Children and Families Budget and Performance Monitoring Sub-Committee with an overview of the work of the Adoption service in compliance with legislation.
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2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 **The Education, Children and Families Budget and Performance Monitoring Sub-Committee is asked to:**

- i) **Consider and comment upon the annual report of the Adoption Agency;**
- ii) **Recommend that the annual report be endorsed by the Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families**

2.2 **The Portfolio Holder for Education, Children and Families is asked to endorse the annual report**

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: £1,395,006
 5. Source of funding: Revenue Support Grant
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 5
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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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: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Bromley is a registered Adoption Agency. Adoption agencies are subject to the Adoption Agencies Regulations (AAR) 2005 (updated 2011) and the Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012; Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013 and are subject to the National Minimum Standards (2014) which accompany the Regulations. Standard 25.6 of the National Minimum Standards requires the Adoption Agency to produce a report to be received by the agency Executive.
- 3.2 The activities of the adoption service reflect the ongoing agenda of Central Government which is to ensure that children looked after achieve permanence in a timely manner and that adoptive families receive the support they need.

3.3 Key Themes:

- Bromley's Adoption Service has now moved forward with the implementation of the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA). The RAA being '*Ambitious for Adoption CORAM Capital*'. This RAA model was approved by the Department for Education on the 1st November 2018 and became live in July 2019. This RAA is made up of the following local authorities: Harrow, Redbridge, Hillingdon, Slough, Waltham Forest, Bromley, City, Chelsea and Westminster and CORAM
- Bromley is proud to be the first London borough to be awarded the '*Working towards Quality Mark*' in Early Permanence and have been benefiting from focal work on consolidating the Early Permanence service.
- There were 12 Bromley looked after children placed with prospective adopters during the year 19/20.
- 8 children were made subject to Adoption orders in 2019/20
- The Adoption Scorecard shows that timescales for children being adopted in Bromley are also improving
- In 2019/20, 5 prospective adopters, who were assessed and approved at Bromley Adoption Panel have transferred to Coram RAA and 2 Bromley residents were approved for adoption at RAA panel.
- No placements disrupted during 2019/20.

3.4 The annual report is attached as Appendix 1.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Please see paragraph 3.1

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