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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 16 November 2006

### Subject: Adoption in Leeds – Inquiry Session Three

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<b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b>	<b>Specific Implications For:</b>
	Ethnic minorities <input type="checkbox"/>
	Women <input type="checkbox"/>
	Disabled people <input type="checkbox"/>
	Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/>

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the board's first meeting in June, members agreed to carry out an inquiry into adoption in Leeds as one of their major pieces of work this year.
- 1.2 The board appointed a small working group to draft terms of reference for the inquiry which were agreed at the board's July meeting. A copy of the agreed terms of reference is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.3 The first and second formal sessions of the inquiry were held on 7 September. The third and fourth formal sessions of the inquiry were scheduled for this meeting. These sessions will complete the formal evidence gathering stage of the inquiry.
- 1.4 Session three aims to gather the views of a range of stakeholders who are involved in the adoption process alongside Social Services.
- 1.5 The following stakeholders will be represented at the meeting:
  - Leeds City Council Legal Services
  - Magistrates Court
  - County Court
  - CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service)
  - Adoption Panel
  - Health service
  - Barnardo's
  - NCH

In addition, Social Services staff involved in adoption will be at the meeting to present the information and respond to members' questions and comments.

1.6 Some of the stakeholders have provided background information which is attached as Appendices 2-5:

- Appendix 2                      Leeds City Council - Legal Briefing
- Appendix 3                      Adoption Panel
- Appendix 4                      NCH
- Appendix 5                      Barnardo's

## **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 The board is requested to consider the issues raised by the third session of this inquiry.