



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 16 November 2006

Subject: Adoption in Leeds – Inquiry Session Four

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This is the final scheduled session of the board's inquiry on adoption in Leeds.
- 1.2 The focus of this session is to consider the findings from the working group activities which have formed part of the board's work on this topic. This work has included two visits to other local authorities to discuss their adoption services. A write-up of these visits, to Liverpool and Newcastle, will be circulated to members before the meeting.
- 1.3 Some members of the board will be meeting with adoptive parents and adopted children before the scrutiny board meeting. They will report at the meeting on the issues arising from these discussions.
- 1.4 Also attached at Appendix A is a report which outlines additional information requested from the Social Services department for this session, arising from the first two sessions of the inquiry. This information relates to financial and employment issues.
- 1.5 Social Services staff involved in adoption will be at the meeting to respond to members' questions and comments arising from this information.
- 1.6 The above evidence completes the scheduled activities for the board's inquiry. The board is therefore requested to consider whether it now has sufficient information to complete its inquiry and to consider the conclusions and recommendations to be incorporated into the draft inquiry report.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The board is requested to consider the issues raised by the fourth session of this inquiry.
- 2.2 The board is requested to consider the emerging conclusions and recommendations to be reflected in the draft report of the board's inquiry.