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**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)**

**Date: 8 March 2007**

**Subject: Inquiry into Adoption in Leeds**

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**Electoral Wards Affected: All**

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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**1.0 Introduction**

1.1 Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) has now completed its Inquiry into Adoption in Leeds. The Board is now in a position to report on its findings and its conclusions and recommendations resulting from the evidence gathered.

1.2 The draft final report is attached for consideration, along with a summary of the evidence considered during the inquiry.

**2.0 Consultation**

2.1 Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 16.3 states that "where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice. The detail of that advice shall be attached to the report".

2.2 The relevant Directors have indicated that there is no specific advice that they wish to provide at this stage, before the Board finalises its report.

2.3 Once the Board publishes its final report, the appropriate Directors will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations in the new municipal year.

**3.0 Recommendations**

3.1 The Board is requested to:-

- (i) Agree the Board's final report and recommendations.
- (ii) Request that officers formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations in the new municipal year.