

WEST YORKSHIRE ADOPTION JOINT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 15TH MARCH, 2017

Present: Councillor L Mulherin (Leeds) - Chair
Councillor E Hill (Kirklees), Councillor V Slater (City of Bradford) and
Councillor M Swift (Calderdale MBC)

Councillor H Hayden (LCC)

In Attendance: S Johal (LCC), S Tariq (LCC), J Jenkins (Calderdale MBC) R
Roberts (LCC), H Lovelady (LCC) and J Grieve (LCC)

1 APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

2 EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items identified where it was considered necessary to exclude the press or public from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be considered.

3 LATE ITEMS

There were no late items of business

4 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor O Rowley.

6 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to this, the inaugural meeting of the West Yorkshire Adoption Joint Committee. The Chair said the establishment of the "One Adoption Agency West Yorkshire" had already begun to forge strong relationships across the West Yorkshire region.

7 Business Report

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which explained that the Joint Committee's Constitution and Procedure Rules required and permitted the Joint Committee to take decisions on the following:

- The appointment of a Vice Chair
- To consider the appointment of and delegation of functions to any Sub – Groups or Advisory Groups
- Consider whether a standing invitation be made to any other party to attend meetings of the Joint Committee

The Chair sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Joint Committee

Councillor Slater nominated Councillor Swift, this was seconded by Councillor Hill.

Upon being put to the vote, Councillor M Swift was unanimously voted in as Vice Chair to the Joint Committee

A discussion ensued on the possible delegation of functions to any Sub Groups or Advisory Groups, but Members were not supportive of the proposal at this time.

In considering whether a standing invitation be made to any other party/ organisation to attend meetings of the Joint Committee, Members were supportive of the attendance of representation from the Voluntary Adoption Alliance.

The Chair made reference to the Joint Committee's Rules of Procedure for Meetings and the requirement for the WYAJC to meet a minimum of once per year.

It was suggested that for the first year meetings be arranged more frequently, possibly quarterly and then reviewed after the first year.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That Councillor M Swift be appointed as Vice Chair to the West Yorkshire Adoption Joint Committee
- (ii) That at this stage, no functions of the Joint Committee be delegated to any Sub Groups or Advisory Groups
- (iii) That a standing invitation to attend meetings of the Joint Committee be issued to representatives from the Voluntary Adoption Alliance (One senior representative with a wider Yorkshire and Humberside or national overview of adoption and one management representative with a local West Yorkshire overview)
- (iv) That for the first year, up to four meetings of the WYAJC be arranged.

8 Delegation of Functions

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought the approval of the Joint Committee to delegate the adoption functions to the Director of Children and Families at Leeds City Council.

The report explained the way in which it was proposed to discharge the adoption functions through the agency, to the Director of Children and Families at Leeds City Council in order that those functions may be sub-delegated to the Head of Service within the Agency to enable the day to day operation of the Agency and the adoption of the functions through the Agency.

RESOLVED – That approval be given to the delegation of the following adoption functions to the Director of Children and Families:-

- Adoption services including:-
 - a) Recruitment and approval of potential adopters;
 - b) Identification of potential matches between children and adopters
 - c) Provision of adoption panels; and
 - d) Provision of adoption support services to adopters, adoptees, birth families and relevant professionals.

9 Structure Report

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which set out details of the structural and reporting arrangements for the Regional Adoption Agency.

The report explained the arrangements in establishing the "One Adoption Agency West Yorkshire" (A new regional adoption agency) including the transfer of staff via TUPE from other Local Authorities into the employment of Leeds City Council to work within the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA)

An update on the progression of transfer arrangements, together with details as to where staff would be based was provided.

The report set out the Corporate Parenting Responsibilities for the agency and explained the operation of the Management Board.

Referring to the operation of the Management Board councillor Swift asked about the monitoring/ performance arrangements for the Board.

In responding officers reported that the One Adoption Agency West Yorkshire was the first regional agency to be established and that guidance around the inspection regime was still awaited.

RESOLVED –

- (i) To note the structural arrangements and support the progression of these arrangements
- (ii) To note that the structure would continue to be populated and updated with a view to the completed structure been circulated to Members by early April 2017

10 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – That the next meeting be arranged for Wednesday 28th June 2017 at 2.00pm in the Civic Hall, Leeds.