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## Report of Director of Children's Services

## Report to West Yorkshire Adoption Joint Committee

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

## Subject: Adopter Development Report

Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?

Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?

Yes  No

If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:

Appendix number:

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## Summary of main issues

1. One Adoption West Yorkshire was formally opened on the 1 April 2017, with the councils of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Wakefield and Leeds formally entering into a Partnership Agreement to carry out shared adoption services. The adoption functions of Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield, as specified in the partnership agreement have been delegated to Leeds City Council.
2. This report sets out information from adoptive parents who are employed as development co-ordinators and their plan to work with the regional adoption agencies across Yorkshire and Humber region to develop adopter led services.

## Recommendations

The Joint Committee is requested to:

1. Endorse the information provided by the adopter development coordinators and to support the work going forward.

## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report sets out information from adoptive parents who are employed as development co-ordinators and their plan to work with the regional adoption agencies across Yorkshire and Humber region to develop adopter led services.

## **2. Background information**

- 2.1 There is an established adopter voice forum in the Yorkshire and Humber region. The adopter development co-ordinators roles link closely with the adopter voice forum to ensure that all regional adoption agencies are enabled to respond to the issues and concerns of adopters.

## **3. Main issues**

- 3.1 The Adopter Development Co-ordinators (ADC's) are roles funded by One Adoption to engage adopters in the region and ensure their voices are heard in the development of the new agencies, in the practice development within these agencies and in the ongoing provision of support for adopters in Yorkshire and Humber.
- 3.2 The three posts (one for each, North & Humber, West and South) were appointed in February 2017 and are in place until February 2018, each working 15 hours a week.
- 3.3 Their report (Appendix 1) sets out the main outcomes these roles are to achieve.
- 3.4 One Adoption West Yorkshire is committed to working closely with adoptive families in the region and the work that this report discusses will help to develop services and practice to ensure that family's needs are met.

## **4. Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 There has been ongoing consultation and engagement with adoptive parents in the recruitment of staff and the development of practice and services. This will be further developed over the next few months.

### **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 The work undertaken by the adopter development coordinator in West Yorkshire will aim to ensure that the adoption agency maintains an equal service which meets the varied and diverse needs of West Yorkshire's children and adoptive families..

### **4.3 Resources and value for money**

- 4.3.1 There are no specific financial implications for this report. It is envisaged that feedback from adopters will identify areas in which more effective use of resources and value for money can be achieved.

#### **4.4 Legal implications and access to information**

- 4.4.1 There are no specific legal implications for this report. Consultation with adopters and their families will ensure that the new agency fulfils the requirement to consult with all stakeholders.

#### **4.5 Risk management**

- 4.5.1 There are no specific risk management implications for this report. Feedback from adopters will assist in the identification of any risks for the new agency.

### **5. Recommendations**

The Joint Committee is requested to:

- 5.1 Endorse the information provided by the adopter development coordinators and to support the work going forward.

### **6. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 6.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.