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Report of Director of Children's Services

Report to West Yorkshire Adoption Joint Committee

Date: 12th January 2018

Subject: Regionalisation of the Adoption Support Fund Pilot 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:

Summary of main issues

1. This report sets out information regarding piloting the regionalisation of the Adoption Support Fund Pilot.

Recommendations

2. The Joint Committee is requested to:
 - a) note the information regarding the pilot; and
 - b) support the development of this work.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report sets out the key aims and objectives of the regionalisation of the Adoption Support Fund Pilot being undertaken within One Adoption West Yorkshire.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield adoption functions as specified in the partnership agreement were delegated on the 1st April 2017 to Leeds City Council. One Adoption West Yorkshire formally opened.
- 2.2 The partnership agreement is clear that One Adoption West Yorkshire is responsible for the adoption support function of the adoption work.
- 2.3 In September One Adoption was successful in being granted a Practice Improvement Fund (PIF) grant from the government that seeks to strengthen services and spread good practice that will make a difference to adoptive families far beyond the period for which the funding is available. The overarching objective for this grant is to provide funding which will deliver better outcomes for children, by improving access to adoption support services.

3. Main issues

Aims of the grant

- 3.1 This grant relates to testing the regionalisation of the Adoption Support Fund (ASF) by supporting One Adoption to scope out and explore how this will work in practice.
- 3.2 The main aims through piloting the regionalisation of the ASF are to improve adoption support across the region by:
- Regional commissioning of the ASF
 - Engaging users in the development and testing of regionalised support services
 - Improving the speed and quality of adoption support assessments and
 - Developing the adoption support market across the regional agency
 - Improving links with other services such as health, education and Centres of Excellence
 - To test out how the ASF could be managed in a regionalised structure including how human and financial resources for adoption support will be deployed
 - To inform future national policy and delivery of ASF and share emerging practice with other regional adoption agencies.

Objectives

- 3.3 To explore the integration of ASF as part of the wider adoption support offer available to all adopted families.

- 3.4 A consistent process for use by the RAA, which ensures that requests for support assessments are dealt with in a timely way.
- 3.5 A process for decision making across the RAA regarding adoption support provision of services including match funding (see **Appendix 1** letter from the minister).
- 3.6 A regional commissioning strategy which develops the range and quality of support services and makes best use of funds.
- 3.7 To ensure user voices are integral to the development of a regionalised ASF.
- 3.8 To share learning from the ASF pilots and support the development of national ASF policy/
- 3.9 To liaise with Mott to identify and trial process requirements to manage regional applications

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 There has been ongoing consultation and engagement with the local authorities and with adoptive parents about regionalisation of the adoption support fund.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 There are no implications for this report.

4.3 Resources and value for money

- 4.3.1 There are no implications for this report.

4.4 Legal implications and access to information

- 4.4.1 There are no implications for this report.

4.5 Risk management

- 4.5.1 There are no implications for this report.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Joint Committee is requested to:

- a) note the information regarding the adoption support fund pilot; and
- b) support the development of this work.

6. Background documents¹

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website,

6.1 None

unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.