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## Report of Director of Children's Services

## Report to West Yorkshire Adoption Joint Committee

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

## Subject: Annual Report of One Adoption West Yorkshire & Statement of Purpose

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:

### Main issues

1. The Executive Board of Leeds City Council, as the host local authority for the regional adoption agency, recommended last year that future annual reports be submitted to the West Yorkshire Joint Committee for the regional adoption agency, as a more appropriate forum for this to be received, given this is a regional service.
2. The West Yorkshire Joint Committee recognise the importance of adoption and want to be updated about the management and outcomes of the service. The report provides an overview of adoption service activity from April 2019 to March 2020. The report is attached at Appendix A.
3. This report provides the Joint Committee with an updated statement of purpose for One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY). The Statement of Purpose for the service is attached at appendix B. The Statement of Purpose is required as part of the national minimum standards in order to be able to provide those services.

### Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the Joint Committee receives the annual report of One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY), detailed in Appendix A of this report, as required by the National Minimum Standards for Adoption 2014, pursuant to the Care Standards Act 2000. The report is to enable to committee to monitor the management and outcomes of the service so that they may be satisfied that the agency is effective and is achieving good outcomes for children and/or services users.

2. This report also asks the Joint Committee note the updated statement of purpose for OAWY. The Statement of Purpose for the service is attached at appendix B. The Statement of Purpose is required as part of the national minimum standards in order to be able to provide those services and enables to Joint Committee to agree the changes to the Statement of Purpose on an annual basis.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report asks the West Yorkshire Joint Committee to consider the annual report of the One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY), as detailed in Appendix A of this report, as required by the National Minimum Standards 2011. This is to enable the Joint Committee to monitor the management and outcomes of the service so that they may be satisfied that the agency is effective and is achieving good outcomes for children and/or services users; and satisfy themselves that the agency is complying with the conditions of registration.
- 1.2 This report also seeks elected members to note the updated statement of purpose for OAWY. The Statement of Purpose for the service is attached at appendix B. The Statement of Purpose is required as part of the national minimum standards in adoption in order to be able to provide those services.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 It is a requirement of the National Minimum Standards for Adoption Services, that each adoption service produces a statement of purpose, including its aims and objectives, a description of the service it provides and the facilities that are provided. This Statement of Purpose gives an outline of those requirements and also how the service is managed and its fitness to provide a comprehensive adoption service. It shows the policy and performance framework that underpins the work and shows how the welfare of children will be met. It also demonstrates the systems which we have set in place to recruit, assess, prepare and support adopters and to family find for children with a plan for adoption.
- 2.2 Children's services are inspected against these standards by Ofsted. The statement of purpose and any updates must be approved through the 'Executive side of the council' on an annual basis and following legal advice and guidance it the Leeds City Council Executive Board agreed last year that future reports will be submitted to the West Yorkshire Joint Committee for the regional adoption agency, as a more appropriate forum for this to be received, given this is a regional service.
- 2.3 The background issues in relation to the adoption annual report are addressed in detail in the report itself at Appendix A.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The statement of purpose and the annual report was last submitted to |Leeds City Council Executive Board in July 2019. The main issues are contained within the report itself at Appendix A.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 One Adoption West Yorkshire has good mechanisms to consult with and engage adopters and young people in order to develop and deliver service and the annual report contains a report regarding the voice and influence of those using the services.

## **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 OAWY completed a full Equality Impact Assessment in 2018 and is an appendix to the annual report. This is in the process of being reviewed.

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

- 4.4.1 One Adoption West Yorkshire is resourced through a joint pooled budget and underpinned by a partnership agreement. This is discussed more fully in the main body of the annual report at appendix A.

## **4.4 Legal Implications and Access to Information**

- 4.4.1 It is a requirement of the National Minimum Standards 2011 for adoption that the Executive side of the council receives a written report, and all reports will be submitted to the West Yorkshire Joint Committee for the regional adoption agency, as a more appropriate forum for this to be received, given this is a regional service.

## **4.5 Risk Management**

- 4.5.1 Not applicable

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 This report seeks that Joint Committee review the annual report, as outlined in Appendix A, and continue to support the work of OAWY to ensure our children receive the best possible support.
- 5.2 This report also seeks the Joint Committee to note the updated statement of purpose for One Adoption West Yorkshire. The Statement of Purpose for the service is attached at appendix B. The Statement of Purpose is required as part of the national minimum standards in order to be able to provide those services.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.3 It is recommended that the West Yorkshire Joint Committee receive the annual report of One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY), detailed in Appendix A of this report, as required by the National Minimum Standards for Adoption 2014, pursuant to the Care Standards Act 2000. This is to enable the Committee to monitor the management and outcomes of the service so that they may be satisfied that the agency is effective and is achieving good outcomes for children and/or services users; and satisfy themselves that the agency is complying with the conditions of registration.

6.4 This report also asks the Joint Committee to note the updated statement of purpose for OAWY. The Statement of Purpose for the service is attached at appendix B. The Statement of Purpose is required as part of the national minimum standards in order to be able to provide those services and enables to Joint Committee to agree the changes to the Statement of Purpose on an annual basis.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 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.