



Report of Director of Children and Families

Report to West Yorkshire Adoption Joint Committee

Date: 31st January 2022

Subject: Head of Service Report

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Are there implications for equality, diversity, cohesion, and integration?	No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	No
If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:	N/A

Summary of main issues

1. The West Yorkshire Joint Committee has the responsibility to consider the six-monthly report of One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY), the Regional Adoption Agency (RAA).
2. This report provides an overview on the developments and activity in the service from 1st April 2021 to 30th September 2021. This report is attached at appendix A.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Joint Committee receives the six-monthly 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 Joint Committee is requested to:

- a) Note the progress and outcomes of the agency
- b) Ensure the agency is achieving good outcomes for children/service users
- c) Support the progression of these arrangements

1. Purpose of this report

This report asks the West Yorkshire Joint Committee to consider the half year report of OAWY (appendix A). 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 service users' and satisfy themselves that the agency is complying with the conditions of registration.

2. Background information

Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield adoption functions as specified in the partnership agreement were delegated on the 1st of April 2017 to Leeds City Council. One Adoption West Yorkshire formally opened on this date.

3. Main issues

The main issues are contained within the report itself at appendix A.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 There has been ongoing consultation and engagement with staff and Trade Union representatives. Consultation with service users, including adopted children and adults, adoptive parents and birth families is ongoing to inform the development of the service design and delivery of the agency.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 There are no specific implications for this report, OAWY completed a full Equality Impact Assessment in 2021, which has previously been considered by the Joint Committee.

4.3 Resources and value for money

4.3.1 At the end of January 2022 there is a projection of an overspend of £46k. There are some pressures on the budget with regards to a reduction in income from the Adoption Support Fund (ASF) and income from families not been matched with children outside the area. This has been challenging due to the impact of Covid on the ability of the agency to hold ASF funded groups and the number of children continuing to exceed that of adopters. Discussions are underway on relation to income generation from ASF funded work in 2022/23.

A pay award is expected for 2021/22, which was not considered within the budget. The amount has not yet been agreed, discussions with Trade Unions are ongoing. Once agreed, LA partners will contribute the amount in line with the agreed funding formula.

4.3.2 The proposed budget for 2022/23 has been recommended by the Head of Service and agreed by the management board and the 5 local authorities.

4.4 Legal implications and access to information

4.4.1 There are no implications for this report.

5. Risk management

There is a small potential financial risk with regards to the budget. However, regular financial monitoring is in place and the management board have good oversight of this. The agency has finds from previous underspend to mitigate.

6. Recommendations

6.1.1 It is recommended that the West Yorkshire Joint Committee receive the half year report for One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY), details in appendix A of this report, and:

- a) Note the progress and outcomes of the agency
- b) Ensure the agency is achieving good outcomes for children/service users
- c) Support the progression of these arrangements

7. Background documents¹

None.

¹ 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.