



Report of Director of Children and Families

Report to West Yorkshire Adoption Joint Committee

Date: February 2024

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 Annual 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 2023 to 30th September 2023. The report is attached at appendix A, with the performance summary at appendix B and MDT performance at appendix C.

Recommendations

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 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. On 1st April 2023 Bradford Children's Trust was established and also delegated adoption functions to One Adoption West Yorkshire.

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 consultation and engagement with staff and with Trade Union representatives where required. 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.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 There are no specific implications for this report, OAWY are completing a review and update of the Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Impact Assessment for 2024/25. This will be presented at the next Joint Committee meeting.

4.3 Resources and value for money

4.3.1 At the end of December 2023 there was a slight underspend due to staffing vacancies. Recruitment has been paused due to uncertainty around the budget. Some existing staff have taken on additional hours during Quarter 4 on a temporary basis to increase capacity and meet service demand.

4.3.2 The proposed budget for 2024/25 has not currently been agreed, which is placing significant pressure on the agency.

4.4 Legal implications and access to information

4.4.1 There are no implications for this report.

5. Risk management

There is a financial risk with regards to the budget for 2024/25 as this has not been agreed by the 5 Local Authorities. The budget for the multi-disciplinary team posts funded by the West Yorkshire ICBs has also not been agreed. A reduction or removal of funding poses a risk to service delivery and in the interim is impacting on staff morale with uncertainty regarding the security of their posts.

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.