

Report of the Director of Children and Families

Report to Executive Board

Date: 26th June 2019

Subject: Annual Report of the One Adoption West Yorkshire



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Elected Members 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 2018 to March 2019. The report is attached at Appendix A.
2. This report provides elected member with an 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.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that the Executive Board 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. This is to enable the Executive 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.
2. This report also asks the Executive Board 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 Executive side of the council to agree the changes to the Statement of Purpose on an annual basis.

3. It is also recommended that the Board agrees 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.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report asks the Executive Board 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 Executive 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.
- 1.3 It is also recommended that the Board agrees 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 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 as Leeds City Council is the host local authority for the regional adoption the Council's Executive Board it has been felt that this was the most appropriate body to provide formal approval for the Statement of Purpose and to review the work of OAWY.
- 2.3 However, following legal advice and guidance it is recommended that the Executive Board agrees 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.
- 2.4 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 Executive Board in July 2018. 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.

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.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 This report contributes to the delivery of the Best Council Plan outcome for everyone in Leeds to 'be safe and feel safe' and well as to become a Child Friendly City. In addition, the Children and Young Peoples Plan identifies Looked After Children as one of the three priority 'Obsessions'. OAWY is integral to these plans to provide stable and secure placements for looked after children.

- 4.3.2 *Climate Emergency Strategy*: the reduction in travel for staff across the region supports the Climate Emergency strategy in reducing the carbon footprint associated with car travel. We have an all staff event in June and will discuss with the staff the best ideas that we have to contribute to this strategy across the region.

4.4 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.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 It is a requirement of the National Minimum Standards 2011 for adoption that the Executive side of the council receives a written report, although it is recommended that future 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.

- 4.5.2 This is addressed in 2.1- 2.4 above and is subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 Not applicable

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 This report seeks that Executive Board 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 Elected Members 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 Executive Board 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. This is to enable the Executive 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 Executive Board 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 Executive side of the council to agree the changes to the Statement of Purpose on an annual basis.

It is also recommended that the Board agrees 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.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 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.