



Report of Director of Children and Families

Report to West Yorkshire Adoption Joint Committee

Date: 25th January 2023

Subject: Head of Service Report

Author: Michelle Rawlings, Head of One Adoption West Yorkshire

| | |
|--|-----|
| 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 2022 to 30th September 2022. This report is attached at appendix A.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Joint Committee receives the half year 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 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 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 review and update of the Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Impact Assessment in 2022, which is attached at appendix 5.

4.3 Resources and value for money

4.3.1 At the end of September 2022 there is was s slight underspend of £2k. This was due to delays in recruiting to vacant posts.

4.3.2 The proposed budget for 2023/24 has been recommended by the Head of Service and is currently with the Management Board for a decision.

4.3.3 A balanced budget position for the year end is predicted. However, there will be pressures for next year's budget due to the increased interagency placement fee from the Voluntary Adoption Agencies. In addition, the pay award for 2023/24 will increase staff costs. Due to sufficiency pressures, it is unlikely that OAWY will generate income through adopters as all approved adopters are needed for West Yorkshire children.

4.4 Legal implications and access to information

4.4.1 There are no implications for this report.

5. Risk management

There is a potential financial risk with regards to the budget for 2023/24 due to increasing costs and budget pressures within Local Authorities. However, regular financial monitoring is in place and the management board have good oversight of this. The agency has a small amount of funds from previous underspend to mitigate.

6. Recommendations

6.1.1 It is recommended that the West Yorkshire Joint Committee receive the annual 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.