



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 5 February 2009

Subject: Request for Scrutiny – Adoption Service

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A request for scrutiny has been received from the Executive Board.
- 1.2 At the Executive Board meeting on 14 January, Members considered the Statements of Purpose for the Fostering and Adoption Services for Leeds City Council. As a result of the discussion, the Executive Board resolved

“That the Scrutiny Board (Children’s Services) be requested to examine the criteria for the consideration of applications for adoption and the manner in which they are applied.”

- 1.3 The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules state that “where the Executive or Council resolves to recommend that an Inquiry should be undertaken into a particular matter, the Proper Officer shall add this recommendation to the agenda for the next Ordinary Meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Board. Where a Scrutiny Board decides not to undertake an Inquiry recommended by the Executive or Council, the reasons for the decision will be minuted by the Scrutiny Board.”

2.0 OPTIONS FOR INVESTIGATIONS AND INQUIRIES

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Board is required to consider whether an Inquiry into this matter is appropriate and if so, what form that Inquiry shall take.

- 2.2 When deciding whether the Board will pursue a request for Scrutiny, it is important for Members to consider the request in the context of the Board's terms of reference, its existing Work Programme and commitments.
- 2.3 In order to assist the Board in making such a decision, Children and Young People's Social Care has provided the attached information on the current criteria for considering adoption applications, and an officer from the service will attend the Board to answer Members' questions.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Board is asked to consider the request for Scrutiny and to consider whether further investigation is to be undertaken.

Background papers

Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules
Executive Board minutes – 14 January 2009