

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
3	<p><b>We recommend that the Director of Social Services considers whether a similar organisational approach to that taken in Liverpool would benefit adoption in Leeds, and reports back to us with a view within three months</b></p>	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> This proposal will be considered as part of the full review of the service as it represents a significant change to current practice and has budgetary implications Timescale: October 2007</p> <p><u>October 2007 update</u> The timescale for the review to be completed is now January 2008.</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> The timescale for completion of the review is now March 2008.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> The Liverpool model has been considered and rejected on the basis that the benefits from that approach can be achieved by other means in Leeds. Specifically, Leeds has instead invested in 3 additional adoption officers to help shorten the timescale for assessments – a key priority for the service.</p> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> To create extra capacity within the adoptions service as soon as possible, 1.5 of the posts available will be used to take on fostering work that has been covered by those responsible for adoptions. This will free up those staff to work entirely on adoptions. Half a post will be used to increase contact work and the other half a post will add to existing capacity. The process for filling these posts is currently being carried through. To stay within budget it has been necessary to reduce the 3 additional posts to 2.5.</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> In October the Board asked the Chair to monitor progress, with a view to signing off the recommendation once recruitment took place. The Chair has received a delegated decision report which is due to be considered by the Chief Officer (Children and Young People's Social Care) in January 2009, following which the posts can be filled/advertised.</p>	<p><b>4 or 5 (not achieved)</b></p> <p><b>Board to determine whether progress is acceptable</b></p>	