

9 November 2016

**Annual Report of the Adoption Service
and Adoption Panel Report - April 2015 -
March 2016**

**Report of Margaret Whellans, Interim Corporate Director Children
Services**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present to Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Annual Report of the Adoption Service and Adoption Panel Report April 2015 – March 2016 which is attached at appendix 2.
- 2 To highlight:
 - Key activities and achievements of the Adoption Service and Adoption Panels from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.
 - Significant changes in Adoption practice in England and Wales
 - Priorities for the next period.

Background

- 3 Significant focus has been on adoption and permanence over recent years as part of the DfE Adoption Reform Programme. Key legislative drivers for Children's Services are:
 - The Children and Families Act 2014
 - The Adoptions Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013
- 4 The Local Authority provides the Annual Report to Cabinet and the Corporate Parenting Panel.

Conclusion

- 5 The Adoption Services continues to focus on achieving the best outcomes for children and to prevent delay in achieving permanence for the child with a plan for adoption.

- 6 There will be more challenges in the forthcoming year for the Adoption Service and the Adoption Panel. These have been highlighted in the attached report.

Recommendation

- 7 Children and Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
- Note the attached Annual Report of the Adoption Service and Adoption Panel Report at appendix 2.

Contact: Carole Payne, Head of Children's Services Tel: 03000 268657

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – One adopted, children are no longer looked after and therefore incur fewer costs, post adoption support is provided. Currently this is paid for from a national government grant but this is likely to end in 2020.

Staffing - None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – Adoption supports children’s right to a family life.

Consultation – None

Procurement - None

Disability Issues – Specific adoptive placements are recruited for disabled children.

Legal Implications – None