

Corporate Parenting Board

18 July 2019

Report title	Adoption Annual Report April 2018-March 2019	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor John Reynolds Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Director of Children's Services	
Originating service	Children's Services	
Accountable employee	Alison Hinds	Head of children and Young People in Care
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Report has been considered by	Children's Leadership Team	11 July 2019

Recommendation for action:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Receive the Adoption Annual Report and provide feedback on the Adoption Service over the 12-month period between April 2018 and March 2019.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides the Corporate Parenting Board with the Adoption Agency's Annual Report for April 2018 to March 2019.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The statutory regulations require that elected members should be informed of the Adoption Agency's activity on a regular basis. This annual report covers adoption performance during the period April 2018 to March 2019 and provides an update on the work of the adoption team.
- 2.2 This report also includes information about the progress made towards Wolverhampton forming a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA).

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 The Adoption Annual Report April 2018 – March 2019 details the work of the adoption team during this period, how this work fits into the regional and national agenda and highlights some key performance indicators which have contributed to positive outcomes for children and young people in care.
- 3.2 The City of Wolverhampton continues to have an optimistic view of adoption as a way of seeking permanence for children in care who are unable to live with their birth family. The report details how the adoption team have continued to enable more children to experience the stability of adoption. Additionally, the report details the success the team have in placing harder to place children.
- 3.3 The Adoption Scorecard performance for 2015-2018 shows an improvement in the timeliness of adoption over the three-year period compared to previous reporting period. The performance over this period is positive given the harder to place characteristics of many of the children that have been placed for adoption, including children over five years old, children placed as part of a sibling group and children of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The total approved budget for the Adoption Service for 2018-2019 was £4.1 million, the actual outturn for the year was £4.1 million resulting in an overspend of £16,000.
- 4.2 Any costs associated with the Adoption Service were contained within the budget above.
- 4.3 There are no other direct financial implications as a result of this report.
[JD/12072019/L]

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.
[TC/10072019/Z]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 An equalities analysis has been completed and there are no equality implications. Adoption is one of the permanence options considered for children in the care of the City of Wolverhampton where there are no alternative options of care available within their birth family. Prospective adopters are recruited, assessed and supported to provide stability and permanence to enable them to meet the diverse needs of the children in the care of the City of Wolverhampton Council with a plan of adoption.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no human resource implications.

9.0 Corporate Landlord implications

9.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications.

10.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

10.1 There are no Health and Wellbeing implications.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 There are no relevant background papers to this report

12.0 Appendices

12.1 Appendix 1: Adoption Annual Report