

Report title	Adoption Service Interim Report	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Beverley Momenabadi Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All wards	
Accountable director	Emma Bennett, Executive Director of Families	
Originating service	Adoption@Heart	
Accountable employee	Mark Tobin	Head of Service
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Report has been considered by	Childrens Social Care Leadership Team	10 March 2022
	Cabinet Member Briefing	15 March 2022

Recommendation for action:

The Corporate Parenting Board is recommended to:

1. Receive the Adoption Service Interim Report for Adoption@Heart.

Recommendations for noting:

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to note:

1. The progress made by the Regional Adoption Agency.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This interim report fulfils the obligations in Adoption National Minimum Standards (2011) and Adoption Service Statutory Guidance (2011) Adoption and Children Act 2002 to report to the “executive side” of the local authority. This has guided the structure and information set out in the report attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 It is important to note that data and information within this report is accurate as of 30 September 2021.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Adoption@Heart is a Regional Adoption Agency providing adoption services on behalf of Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall and City of Wolverhampton Councils. The service is hosted by City of Wolverhampton Council and went live on 1 April 2019. Following a directive from the Department for Education in 2015, all local authorities in England are required to enter into regional arrangements for their adoption services by 2020.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 The report (Appendix 1) provides the detail of performance and the progress the service has made from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The budget for 2021-2022 is £5,011,257 and the agreed contributions from each of the partners are shown below:

Partner Authority	Total Contribution 2021 - 2022
Dudley MBC	1,216,450
Sandwell MBC	1,318,780
Walsall MBC	1,219,797
City of Wolverhampton Council	1,256,230
Total to be funded 20/21	5,011,257

- 4.2 Any costs associated with the delivery of the service will be contained within the above allocation. Should additional costs be identified over and above the allocation then discussions will take with partners to agree additional contributions to fund the service. [JG/11032022/O]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 The collaboration agreement which outlines the requirements of all partners was agreed with oversight from the council’s legal service, prior to the service becoming operational

in April 2019. This remains the underpinning legal agreement. Primary legislation is in place requiring all councils in England to enter into regional arrangements by 2020.
[SB/10032022/Q]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no equalities implications to highlight at this stage.

7.0 Climate Change and Environmental implications

7.1 There are no climate change or environmental implications in place at this stage.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 Staff in the service are employed by the City of Wolverhampton Council following a Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) exercise in April 2019.

9.0 Corporate Landlord implications

9.1 The Adoption@Heart service is located at Priory Green Offices, Pendeford. There are no property portfolio implications at this stage as the service will remain at this location for the foreseeable future.

10.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

10.1 The health and wellbeing implications at this stage are coronavirus. Individual Risk Assessments have been carried out and the service is using the live dedicated coronavirus webpages on City People to keep up to date with advice and information.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 Appendix 1: Adoption Service Interim Report