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TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
Date: 23 JUNE 2017

**APPROVAL OF THE ADOPT BERKSHIRE ADOPTION SERVICE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE 2017 – 2018 AND ADOPTION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORTS 2016 – 2017
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING**

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 The purpose of the decision is to approve the Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose for 2017 – 2018 created by Adopt Berkshire on behalf of Bracknell Forest, the Bracknell Forest Adoption Service Annual Report 2016 – 2017, the Adopt Berkshire Annual Report 2016 – 2017 and the Berkshire Adoption Agency Service Annual Report 2016 – 2017.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Bracknell Forest Adoption Agency Annual Report 2016 - 17 [annex 1], Adopt Berkshire Annual Report 2016 – 17 [annex 2] and the Adopt Berkshire Statement of Purpose 2017 – 18 [annex 3] are APPROVED.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The compilation and annual review of the Statement of Purpose for the Adoption Service is a requirement under Part 1, section 4, of the Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None. It is a statutory requirement that the Statement of Purpose for the Adoption Service is reviewed annually and approved by the Executive Member.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The Statement of Purpose is the document outlining the of regulation requirements for Bracknell Forest's practice and procedures, Adoption Agency functions have been held by Adopt Berkshire since December 2014 and the reports are an opportunity to review how this arrangement is going and the impact upon the children of Bracknell Forest who require adoption.

Adopt Berkshire is the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, Wokingham Borough Council, Bracknell Forest Council and West Berkshire Borough Council who have joined their Adoption Services to provide a dedicated service for adoption across the four Local Authorities.

The main priorities of Adopt Berkshire are:

- to provide high quality adoption services for children who require placement for adoption;
- to provide a service where by applicants who are seeking to adopt within the UK can be prepared, assessed and approved for the adoption task and, where appropriate, achieve the placement of an appropriately matched child(ren) Adopt Berkshire is hosted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, but the main office base is in Wokingham.

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The post adoption functions which include support to families of children who are the subject of Special Guardianship Orders remain within the Family Placement Team at Bracknell Forest Council.

Sufficient resources exist to deliver this service.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are addressed within the body of the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that no significant financial implications arise from this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Equality Impact Assessment is in place

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 The strategic risk identified is that if the service does not complete an annual review of the Statement of Purpose the Council will be in breach of the National Minimum Standards. There are no changes completed or proposed in the content of the service that will constitute a strategic risk.

Other Officers

- 6.5 The Children's Social Care Management Team has considered and endorsed this Statement of Purpose and annual reports in June 2017.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 The relevant staff from the Family Placement service have contributed to the Statement of Purpose. A copy of the Statement of Purpose is also provided to the Ofsted Inspectorate, and it is available on the Council's public website.

Method of Consultation

The relevant staff from the Family Placement Team have contributed to this Review.

Representations Received

- 7.2 *There have been no representations received.*

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Background Papers

Bracknell Forest Adoption Agency Annual Report 2016 - 17 [annex 1]

Adopt Berkshire Annual Report 2016 – 17 [annex 2]

Adopt Berkshire Statement of Purpose 2017 – 18 [annex 3]

Contact for further information

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