

**TO: CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
3 JULY 2013**

**APPROVAL OF THE ADOPTION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2012 – 2013
Director of Children, Young People and Learning**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Adoption Service Annual Report 2012 – 2013 is noted.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **That the Adoption Agency Annual Report 2012 - 13 (annex) attached is noted.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The annual review 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. This is a statutory requirement that the Adoption Service Annual Report is approved annually.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5.1 The Annual Report takes into account the new Adoption regulations implemented in 2011. This is in essence an updating of regulation requirements with few substantial changes required for Bracknell Forest's practice and procedures.

5.2 The Government has introduced an ambitious Adoption Improvement Reform agenda which seeks to radically increase the number of children placed with adoptive families within reduced timescales. Part of this agenda includes establishing larger adoption agencies through amalgamation or joint arrangements between existing agencies. Discussion and planning towards meeting this requirement is in hand but unlikely to be in place during this financial year.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of the report. This report meets with the requirement under the regulations to produce annual statements.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that sufficient resources exist to meet the proposals in the Adoption Service Annual Report 2012 – 2013.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.3 As is described in the Annual Report the service aims to achieve the best possible outcome for any child receiving services, taking into account all factors of ethnicity, religion, language, culture and disability. These outcomes have not changed since the previous EIA.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 The strategic risk identified is that if the service does not complete an annual review 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.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Family Placement Service, Children's Services Management Team and the Department Management Team. A copy of the Annual Report is also provided to the Ofsted Inspectorate, and it is available on the Council's public website.

7.2 Method of Consultation

The relevant staff from the Family Placement Team have contributed to this Review. Adoptive families have been given a copy of this paper.

Representations Received

- 7.2 There have been no representations received.

Background Papers

The Adoption Agency Annual Report 2012 – 13 [**annex 1**]

Contact for further information

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