

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES & LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL
10 JUNE 2009**

**ADOPTION AGENCY INSPECTION
Director of Social Care & Learning**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the Ofsted findings on their inspection of the Bracknell Forest Adoption Service and the Action Plan developed in response. The Action Plan was approved by the Executive Member for Children and Young People on 12 May 2009.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Panel notes the Inspection Report and Action Plan, attached as Annex1 and Annex 2.

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 This was a planned 3 yearly inspection, which took place between 9 and 12 March 2009. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors under the Care Standards Act 2000, Adoption National Standards, Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005, The Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003.
- 3.2 The overall outcome of the inspection was that the service was deemed to be 'Satisfactory', with some aspects of provision being judged as 'Good' and 'Outstanding'.
- 3.3 The Inspection Report concluded that: 'The agency demonstrated excellent commitment to supporting children, adopters and birth families and sees this work as an integral part of maintaining positive outcomes for children in placement. This encourages inclusive and enabling practice. The quality, depth and range of the support provided, in addition to the uptake of the services and the positive impact on some of the users, are exceptional. The promotion of equality and diversity is good. There are some weaknesses; particularly regarding some aspects of the assessment of adopters and of the monitoring of the work of the adoption service'.
- 3.4 The last inspection in December 2005 made nine statutory requirements and eleven good practice recommendations. These were found to have been addressed with the result that the work of the adoption agency is described as 'more robust'. There are still some minor omissions in vetting of staff, performance issues and lack of rigour in quality control. These are addressed in the action plan.
- 3.5 The inspector set out three required actions to comply with standards and regulations, and made three recommendations to improve the quality of practice and provision.
- 3.6 The Action Plan fully addresses the requirements and recommendations made in the Inspection Report. Progress against the Action Plan will be monitored through the Children's Social Care Management Team and all actions will be completed by the end of September 2009

Contact for further information

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