

From: Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Corporate Parenting Panel – 20 March 2017

Subject: **KENT ADOPTION SERVICE - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Divisions: All

Summary: This Statement of Purpose sets out the framework for Kent County Council's Adoption Service, as required under the Adoption and Children Act 2002, the Adoption Agencies Regulations and Guidance 2013 and the Adoption National Minimum Standards (Care Standards Act 2000).

Recommendation: Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **CONSIDER** the information contained within the report and **COMMENT** on the range of services provided and their suitability to meet the needs of adoptees and their families in order to provide an 'Outstanding' service.

1. Introduction

1.1 Kent County Council (KCC) is committed to ensuring that children are able to remain in the care of their parents and birth families wherever possible. However, where it is not possible to achieve stability for the child within the birth family, the council works to achieve alternative permanent arrangements for the child within a family setting and these include adoption.

2. Body of the Report

2.1 The outcome of the Statement of Purpose (National Minimum Standard 18) is to ensure children, service users and members of staff are clear about the aims and objectives of the adoption agency/adoption support agency and what services and facilities it provides. The Standard requires:

- The adoption agency and adoption support agency has a clear Statement of Purpose which is available to and understood by staff, volunteers, children, birth parents and guardians, prospective adopters and adopters, and is reflected in any policies, procedures and guidance.
- The aims and objectives of the Statement of Purpose should be outcome-focused and, for adoption agencies, show how the service will meet outcomes for children.
- The adoption agency/registered person of the adoption support agency formally approves the Statement of Purpose and children's guides, and reviews them at least annually.

- The agency's policies, procedures and any written guidance to staff and volunteers accurately reflect the Statement of Purpose.

2.2 The updated Statement of Purpose, which is attached as Appendix 1, will be uploaded onto TriX, which is a public-facing, on-line Children's Procedures Manual.

3. Conclusions

3.1 The purpose of the Adoption Service is to provide a comprehensive service to meet the needs of children who have been, or may become, adopted, birth families, and adoptive parents. This will include services in relation to those 'looked after' children with an adoption plan, and also in relation to the non-agency adoption service. The Statement of Purpose outlines the range of services delivered in order to achieve permanency for children through adoption.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Recommendation: Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **CONSIDER** the information contained within the report and **COMMENT** on the range of services provided and their suitability to meet the needs of adoptees and their families in order to provide an 'Outstanding' service.

5. Background Documents

5.1 The previous Statement of Purpose (January 2016) can be accessed on TriX (the central electronic system for all KCC policies and procedures) at http://kentchildcare.proceduresonline.com/pdfs/sop_adoption.pdf

6. Contact Details

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