

**From:** Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education  
Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

**To:** Corporate Parenting Panel – 21 July 2017

**Subject:** **ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017 – ADOPTION SERVICE**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:** This annual report outlines the structure and the work of the Adoption Service during 2016-2017.

**Recommendation:** Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **NOTE** 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 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, Specialist Children's Services work to achieve alternative permanent arrangements for the child within a family setting and these include adoption.
- 1.2 The Annual Report for 2016/2017 (Attached as Appendix 1) provides details of the outcome of the recent Ofsted Inspection (March 2017) as well as detailed analysis of the performance of Kent's Adoption Service in relation to children's and adopters adoption journeys between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017 in line with the National Minimum Standards and Statutory Guidance. It describes the nature and use of the vast range of support that is available to adopted children and their adoptive parents beyond the granting of the adoption order. It also suggests the direction of travel in respect of the plans to progress the government's vision of Regional Adoption Agencies.
- 1.3 The Annual Report for 2015/2016 demonstrated an improvement in the performance in relation to both 'the Child's Journey' and 'the Adopters' Journey' during that year. The current report demonstrates continued improvements in performance during the last financial year despite a fall in the number of Adoption Orders granted.

## 2. Conclusions

- 2.1 The service is very pleased with the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection and it is now striving to be 'Outstanding'. A business plan has been drafted for the coming year to consolidate the areas of good practice noted and to further develop the service.

## 3. Recommendation

**3.1 Recommendation:** Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **NOTE** 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

Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services full report  
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/kent>

## 6. Contact Details

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