

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education  
Matt Dunkley, Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education

To: Corporate Parenting Panel – 19 September 2018

Subject: **ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018 – ADOPTION SERVICES**

Classification: Unrestricted

**Summary:** This annual report outlines the structure and the work of Kent's Adoption Service during 2017-2018. It provides detailed analysis of the performance of the Adoption Service in relation to children's and adopters' adoption journeys during this time, measured against DfE performance indicators. 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. Members also requested information on Kent's placement of sibling groups and some research on this is included.

## 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, we work to achieve alternative permanent arrangements for the child within a family setting and these include adoption.

## 2. Body of the Report

Section 1:	Introduction & Overview
Section 2:	Ofsted Inspection Findings 2017
Section 3:	Adoption Service
Section 4:	The Child's Journey - Adoption Data
Section 5:	The Adopter Journey - Adoption Data
Section 6:	Post Adoption Activity
Section 7:	Commissioned Services
Section 8:	Compliments, Feedback and Complaints
Section 9:	Regionalisation
Section 10:	Conclusion
Section 11:	Appendix

### 3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The annual report demonstrates continued improvements in performance during the last financial year. The adoption service has developed a business plan which is included as an appendix to the report and this identifies the priorities for the current financial year. The service is committed to consolidating areas of good practice noted and developing the service in order to be recognised as outstanding.

### 4. Recommendation

**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.

### 5. Background Documents

- 5.1 The annual report contains within it links to DfE statutory guidance 2013 and national research regarding sibling placements and disruptions.

### 6. Contact Details

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