





LB Bexley
Kent County Council
Medway Council
Equality Analysis/ Impact Assessment (EqIA)

#### **Directorate/ Service:**

**LB Bexley –** Children's Services - Adoption **KCC -** CY Integrated Children's Services – Adoption **Medway** – Children's Services - Adoption

Name of decision, policy, procedure, project or service: Creation of Regional Adoption Agency Partnership with London Borough of Bexley, Kent County Council and Medway Council

#### **Responsible Owner/ Senior Officer:**

Fi Cisneros – Assistant Director Bexley Caroline Smith -Assistant Director KCC Paul Startup – Head pf Provider Services,

Version: 1

#### Author:

Sarah Skinner – Interim Head of RAA Jerry Tosswell – Employee Relations and HR Policy Manager, Bexley Hillary Bland – Senior HR Business Adviser KCC Jesse Bhelay – Acting HR Business Partner, Medway

#### **Pathway of Equality Analysis:**

RAA Executive Board – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

#### Summary and recommendations of equality analysis/impact assessment.

- Context
- In March 2016, the Government announced changes to the delivery of adoption services setting a very clear direction that all local authorities' adoption services must be delivered on a regionalised basis by 2020.
- The premise of regionalisation is to:
  - o Promote early permanence planning across the region.
  - Improve the timeliness of children's adoption journeys and reduce the length of time children wait to be adopted
  - Improve post-adoption support services to families who have adopted children from care
  - Reduce the number of agencies that provide adoption services thereby improving efficiency & effectiveness.

#### Aims and Objectives







- The Bexley, Kent & Medway RAA are now formally proposing a partnership model that requires no physical transfer of staff but operates under a robust governance structure where each local authority will delegate to the Head of the Regional Adoption Agency, responsibilities for finance and staffing matters to ensure the effective operation of the partnership and our adoption practice. This preferred model is subject to legal agreement.
- This way of working will mean:
  - No TUPE or secondment of staff
  - Pooling of budgets and a clear structure in which the RAA Head of service has final accountability for budgets and staffing across the region
  - Practices will be aligned, over time, through co-design with staff at every level of the business
  - Where functions do need to be led by one Local Authority on behalf of the others, this will be identified and agreed by the Executive Board.
- The RAA is committed to designing services capable of improving outcomes for children for whom the plan is adoption through:
  - Securing good and timely adoptive placements for children to avoid delay and unnecessary time spent in care
  - Placing more children in an early permanence placement to avoid unnecessary moves
  - Compliance with timescales set for adopter assessments and fast track when appropriate
  - o Produce good quality adopter assessments
  - Recognising the impact of early trauma and life experiences for children and providing support to them and their adoptive families to ensure permanence and improve their life chances
- The proposed service delivery is based on an evidence base of what works in adoption and on initial consultation with the Heads of Service for adoption in all 3 LA's. Below is an outline structure for the RAA. This model is flexible and subject to change and will be informed by consultation with adoption staff from all 3 LA's through a series of workshops between October 2019 and March 2020. The model is also subject to the agreement of the RAA finances.
  - One Head of Service
  - Service Manager(s)
  - 4 thematic team areas; Recruitment and assessment, family finding and matching, adoption support and panels made up of:
    - Advanced practitioners
    - Senior social workers
    - Social workers
    - Social work assistants
    - Specialist practitioners
    - Administration support
  - Each team will be managed by a Team Manager and there may be more than one team within a thematic area.

#### Summary of equality impact

Screening of the proposed changes has not highlighted any negative impact on any protected group







# **Adverse Equality Impact Rating Low**

#### **Attestation**

I have read and paid due regard to the Equality Analysis/Impact Assessment concerning the Adoption service within KCC. I agree with risk rating and the actions to mitigate any adverse impact(s) that has /have been identified.

**Assistant Director** 

Signed: Name: Caroline Smith

Job Title: Assistant Director for Corporate Parenting Date: Friday 17 April 2020

**RAA DCS Member** 

Signed: Name: Sarah Hammond

Job Title: Director for Integrated Children's Services East Date: 27 April 2020







Part 1 Screening

# Could this policy, procedure, project or service, or any proposed changes to it, affect any Protected Group (listed below) less favourably (negatively) than others in Kent?

Could this policy, procedure, project or service promote equal opportunities for this group?

Updated 25/09/2020







Protected Group	Please provide a <u>brief</u> commentary on your findings. Fuller analysis should be undertaken in Part 2.				
	High negative impact EqIA	Medium negative impact Screen	Low negative impact Evidence	High/Medium/Low Positive Impact Evidence	
Age			Low Line managers to make time available to address any issues  For KCC the age ranges are split across a wide range and due to the number of staff involved in the ranges we are unable to provide percentages.  Medway Percentage in Age brackets; 34% - 30's 9% - 40's 9% - 50's 18% - 60's  For Bexley 78% of staff are over 55.	It is not envisaged that any particular age group would adversely affected more than another as a result of this proposal as age would not be a facto.  Agreed policies and procedures will be applied throughout the process and the principles, and arrangements that it sets out are applicable to all employees irrespective of their protected characteristic/s	







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Disability		Low		Vacancies will be filled
		The	e recruitment	where there is a clear
		•	ocess may require	business need to do so
		reas	asonable	and benchmarked against
		adju	justments to be	work requirements and
		mad	ade for staff with	capacity. The employing
		disa	abilities covered by	authority will be
		the	Equality Act 2010.	determined on a
				geographical basis e.g.
		Line	e managers to	requirement for a member
		mal	ake time available to	of staff to fulfil a role within
		add	dress any issues	the Bexley area -
			-	employee will be
		For	r KCC 88.1% are	employed by London
		dec	clared as not being	Borough of Bexley. The
		disa	abled. The	proposal is not expected
		rem	maining staff are	to have any adverse effect
		und	declared/unknown.	on staff within this
				category as disability
		<u>Med</u>	edwa <u>y</u>	should not be a factor
		100	0% of staff have not	Agreed policies and
		dec	clared a disability so	procedures will be applied
		und	declared/unknown.	throughout the process
				and the principles, and
		For	r Bexley 71% are	arrangements that it sets
		dec	clared as not	out are applicable to all
		disa	abled. The	employees irrespective of
		rem	naining staff are	their protected
		unk	known.	characteristic/s.







		Appendia
Gender	Low Line mana make time address a  For KCC 9 female.  Medway 90% are fe 10% are N  For Bexley female.	gender more than another as gender is not a factor.  Agreed policies and procedures will be applied throughout the process and the principles, and arrangements that it sets out are applicable to all employees irrespective of
Gender identity/ Transgender	unknown a during the process the be revisited For KCC to field and continued for the f	employees irrespective of their protected characteristic/s. ve declared e remaining







			Appendix
		that they prefer not to say.	
		Medway 54% have declared 45% have not declared	
		Bexley do not currently hold this information	
Race		Low If any issues currently unknown are revealed during the consultation process then this will be revisited.  For KCC 81% are declared as white. Due to the number of staff involved we are unable to provide percentages for any other ethnicity or Undeclared/Unknown	Agreed policies and procedures will be applied throughout the process and the principles, and arrangements that it sets out are applicable to all employees irrespective of their protected characteristic/s.
		Medway 100% have declared overall from which; 73% declared White	







			Appendix
		British 18% declared White Other 9% declared White Irish  For Bexley 64% are declared as white and 21% declared as BAME origin. The remaining are undeclared.	
Religion and Belief		Low If any issues currently unknown are revealed during the consultation process then this will be revisited.  For KCC 52.4% are declared as Christian. Due to the number of staff involved we are unable to provide percentages for any other declared category.  Medway	Agreed policies and procedures will be applied throughout the process and the principles, and arrangements that it sets out are applicable to all employees irrespective of their protected characteristic/s.







			Appendix
		55% Declared from which; 45% have declared Christian 9% Declared Atheism 45% have not declared For Bexley 43% are declared as Christian, 7% as Islam (Muslim) and the remaining as no religion or undeclared.	
Sexual Orientation		Low If any issues currently unknown are revealed during the consultation process then this will be revisited.  For KCC 81% have declared they are heterosexual. The remaining staff are Undeclared/Unknown.  Medway Only 55% have declared from which;	Agreed policies and procedures will be applied throughout the process and the principles, and arrangements that it sets out are applicable to all employees irrespective of their protected characteristic/s.







			Appendix
		46% have declared that they are heterosexual 9% has declared Gay Women / Lesbian 45% - Have not declared  For Bexley 57% are declared as heterosexual. The remaining staff are undeclared.	
Pregnancy and Maternity		Low If any issues currently unknown are revealed during the consultation process then this will be revisited.  For KCC due to the number of staff involved we are unable to provide percentages.  Medway Currently none known but can be revisited	Agreed policies and procedures will be applied throughout the process and the principles, and arrangements that it sets out are applicable to all employees irrespective of their protected characteristic/s.







			Appendix
		during consultation if required.  For Bexley no staff are currently recorded as pregnant or on maternity leave.	
Marriage and Civil Partnerships		Low If any issues currently unknown are revealed during the consultation process then this will be revisited.  For KCC 26.2% have declared Married, 61.9% are Undeclared/Unknown. For remaining categories due to the number of staff involved we are unable to provide percentages.  Medway 55% Declared that they are married 45% -	Agreed policies and procedures will be applied throughout the process and the principles, and arrangements that it sets out are applicable to all employees irrespective of their protected characteristic/s.







			Appendix
		Undeclared/Unknown	
		For LBB 35% are recorded as married, the remainder are divorced, single or undeclared.	
Carer's Responsibilities		Low If any issues currently unknown are revealed during the consultation process then this will be revisited.	Agreed policies and procedures will be applied throughout the process and the principles, and arrangements that it sets out are applicable to all employees irrespective of
		Medway Currently unknown but can be revisited during the consultation process if required.	their protected characteristic/s.









## Part 2

## **Equality Analysis /Impact Assessment**

# **Protected groups**

At this stage we do not envisage any particular staff groups will be negatively impacted by the change

## Information and Data used to carry out your assessment

Equality data from London Borough of Bexley, Kent County Council and Medway Council

# Who have you involved consulted and engaged?

HR and Managers from authorities

#### **Analysis**

The proposal will have limited impact on protected groups however we will continue to monitor the impact as the changes are implemented

# Adverse Impact,

None

# **Positive Impact:**

Unable to declare

#### **JUDGEMENT**

• No major change - no potential for discrimination and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken

## Internal Action Required NO