

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee/Panel:	Children & Families Advisory Panel
Date:	16 October 2018
Title:	Hampshire Adoption Service Annual Report 2017-18
Report From:	Stuart Ashley

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1. Recommendation

1.1. That the Panel notes the work of Hampshire's Adoption Agency.

2. Summary

2.1. The purpose of this paper is to share the Annual Adoption Report for Hampshire Children's Services for 2017-18.

2.2. This report is compiled under the National Minimum Standards 2013 (Standard 25.6) and the Care Standards Act 2000. Its purpose is to inform Senior Managers of Hampshire County Council and Members of the County Council of the management and outcomes of the Adoption Agency from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

3. Contextual information

3.1 The County Adoption and Integrated Recruitment Service comprises of a Service Manager who manages the Team Managers responsible for a county wide Adoption Child Care Team, Adoption Assessment Team, Adoption Support Team and the Panel Advisory Service.

3.2 The current Service Manager has been in post since 1 January 2016 and some of the functions of the panel service are now shared between the Team Managers. A Panel Coordinator has been in post since September 2016. The two Adoption Child Care Teams (East and West) became one County Team from the 1 September 2016 which has resulted in efficiencies and consistencies of processes.

3.3 Appendix A of the report sets out data of the key activities of the service for 2017-18.

4. Finance

- 4.1. There are no additional financial considerations as a result of this report that are not being managed in day to day operational practice.

5. Performance

- 5.1. The purpose of the Annual Adoption Report is to document the performance of the Adoption Service.

6. Other key issues

- 6.1. This report has an obvious connection to the Regional Adoption Agency report also being received by Panel on 16 October 2018.

7. Consultation and Equalities

- 7.1. No consultation has been undertaken.

8. Future direction

- 8.1. Performance in the Hampshire Adoption Agency will continue to be monitored.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Strategic Plan**

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
National Minimum Standards for Adoption Care Standards Act	2013 2000

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Children in care are one of the most vulnerable groups in society. Children's early experiences can have long-term impacts on their emotional and physical health, social development, education and future employment. Most children are taken into care because of abuse or neglect. Children entering the care system are likely to have complex needs. Adoption is one approach to permanence that is appropriate for some children, providing secure and stable families.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. Through providing high quality adopters for children, the anticipated longer term impact on crime and disorder is positive.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No impact on climate change identified.