

Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
All Wards

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**

**OSMB:**

**6<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

**Cabinet:**

**1<sup>st</sup> September 2008**

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**Annual Report of the Adoption Team and Statement of Purpose**

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**Report of the Corporate Director Children and Young Peoples' Services**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To introduce the Cabinet to the updated Leicester City Council Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose and Annual Report of activity during 2007 – 2008, contained within the Statement of Purpose at Appendix 2.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 The Leicester City Council as an Adoption Agency discharges this function through the Adoption Team, this is delivered through a joint arrangement with Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils.
- 2.2 The Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose must be reviewed and formally approved annually by the Executive side of the council (Standard 1.2 Adoption National Minimum Standards). Within the Statement of Purpose a section is required, to monitor and evaluate the provision of services and this is provided by the annual report (Standard 17.3 Adoption National Minimum Standards).

**3. Recommendations (or OPTIONS)**

- 3.1 Cabinet note and formally approve the Statement of Purpose.
- 3.2 Cabinet note and approve the activity of the adoption team (2007 / 2008).

**4. Report**

- 4.1 Cabinet are referred to the Statement of Purpose which describes the adoption service, functions and the way in which it delivers its' service. The Statement of Purpose has been reviewed and revised annually with few changes made and the previous Statement of Purpose was inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (now Ofsted) in their last inspection in September 2006. *(Please note that figures used in the Statement of Purpose relate to 2006 / 2007 and were the most up-to-date figures*

*available at the time, whereas the figures detailed in Appendix 2 are the most up-to-date figures available 2007/2008).*

- 4.2 The joint adoption service came into being following Local Government Re-organisation in 1997. This arrangement is unique in the UK in that three local authorities collaborate to provide all of their adoption services from one location. Leicester City and Leicestershire employ the staff operating the service, with Rutland making a financial contribution of 2% to the overall running of the service. The service is subject to periodic monitoring, in which the work activity of the team is analysed to ensure that the burden of work arising in each authority's area is reflected in the proportion each authority contributes financially to the running of the service. There have been four monitoring exercises since the inception of the arrangement which have shown minor fluctuations, but the percentage split: 59% City, 39% County consistently reflects the appropriate proportions for funding purposes.
- 4.3 The continuance of the joint arrangement is regularly reviewed in terms of value for money and benefit to service users. Although such an arrangement requires additional administration in terms management and budgets, the benefits derived from the arrangement are significant for service users.
- 4.4 The primary focus of the work of the adoption team has to be that of finding suitable adoptive placements for those children in the care of the local authority, for whom a plan of adoption has been agreed. Therefore it is important that the team continues to maintain its focus on recruiting a range of adopters to meet the permanent placement needs of a diverse range of children in care.
- 4.5 An area of significant growth has been in Post Adoption Support Services. The three authorities have always maintained a strong performance in the number of children placed for adoption. This inevitably means that some children who are placed for adoption continue to present significant challenges after they are adopted and require extensive ongoing support to maintain those placements. Significant resources are also committed to maintaining the 'Adoption Post Box' scheme and supervising some direct post adoption contact arrangements.

## **5. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

- 5.1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report, although Cabinet is asked to note the potential financial pressures from post-adoption support work referred to in the report. - Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance and Efficiency, CYPS, Ext. 29 7750

### **5.2 Legal Implications**

- 5.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. – Kamal Adatia, Interim Head of Service, Legal Services, Resources, Ext 29 7044

**6. Other Implications**

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	No		
Policy	No		
Sustainable and Environmental	No		
Crime and Disorder	No		
Human Rights Act	No		
Elderly/People on Low Income	No		

**7. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972**

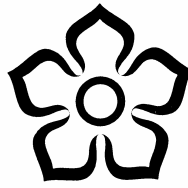
**8. Consultations**

**9. Report Author**

Mark Tingley, Service Manager, Social Care and Safeguarding

Andy Smith, Interim Service Director, Social Care and Safeguarding.

<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Reason</b>	Is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising more than one ward
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	Yes
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)



Leicester  
City Council

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

### **ADOPTION TEAM 2007**

#### **The Adoption Agencies of:-**

**Leicestershire County Council**

**Leicester City Council**

**Rutland County Council**

**Eagle House  
11 Friar Lane  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
LE1 5RB**

**Telephone 0116 299 5899  
Fax 0116 299 5900**

**1. Introduction**

This Statement of Purpose explains the aims, objectives and services provided by the Adoption Team for The Children and Young People's Services of Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland. It is part of the responsibility in fulfilling the requirements of the Adoption Regulations and National Minimum Standards (2000).

The Statement of Purpose is made available to staff of the organisation, prospective adopters, children and young people, parents and other professionals.

The addresses of the three Local Authorities who have approved the statement of purpose and function are as follows:-

Leicestershire County Council  
Children and Young People's Service  
County Hall  
Glenfield  
Leicester, LE3 8RL

Leicester City Council  
Children and Young People's Service  
New Walk Centre  
Welford Place  
Leicester, LE1 6ZG

Rutland County Council  
Children and Young People's Service  
Catmose  
Oakham  
Rutland, LE15 6HP

**2. Aim of the Adoption Service**

The primary aim of the Adoption Service is to ensure that children, who are referred for an adoptive placement, are placed as a matter of priority, within a loving and supportive family that can meet their needs during childhood and beyond.

Additionally, it is the aim of the service to:-

- Place children at the centre of the adoption process and act in their best interests at all times, ensuring the process is timely and avoids delay.
- Recruit high quality adoptive families to meet the needs of children referred for adoption, whilst recognizing that family life can be achieved in families headed by married couples,

single people and couples in same sex relationships. Adults with and without birth children can provide suitable placements

- Provide advice and training for Child Care Social Workers on matters related to applying for an adoptive placement.
- Provide a range of services and information to adoptive families, birth families and adoptive children.
- Provide a range of support services for families and children to ensure adoptive placements are successful.

### **3. Objectives of the Service**

To ensure children's needs have been fully assessed and that it is considered that adoption is the correct plan for a child before a matching process starts.

To ensure, that the views of children and young people have been listened to and have been given due consideration in any decisions that are taken about their future.

To regularly publicise adoption services to enable all members of the community to consider adoption as a positive option and to recruit carers from a wide variety of backgrounds to meet children's specific racial and cultural needs as well as any issues arising from disability or illness.

To recruit adopters who will respect a child's birth and family origins and who will bring an adopted child knowing and understanding their origins.

To recruit adopters who will respect the diverse cultures and life styles within society and who will bring up children who will also respect these differences. To recruit adopters who will respect a young person's choice in terms of sexuality and religion.

To recruit, train and retain highly skilled and appropriately qualified staff who have experience in the making and supporting of family placements, and in understanding the effects the adoption process can have on all parties. To ensure all the staff of the service are committed to ensuring children and families receive the support and advice required to maintain stable family life.

### **4. Principles**

The Adoption Service believes that:-

- Children are entitled to grow up as part of a loving family which can meet their needs during childhood and beyond.
- It is best for children where possible to be brought up by their own birth family.
- The child's welfare, safety and needs are at the centre of the adoption process.
- The child's wishes and feelings will be actively sought and fully taken into account at all stages of the adoption process.
- Delays in adoption can have a severe impact on the health and development of children and should be avoided wherever possible.

- Children and young people’s ethnic origin, sexuality, religion and language should be fully recognised and positively valued and promoted when decisions are made about them.
- The particular needs of disabled children should be fully recognised and taken into account when decisions are made.
- The role of adoptive parents in offering a permanent family to a child who cannot live with their birth family should be valued and respected.
- Adoption has lifelong implications for all involved and requires lifelong commitment from many different organisations, professions and individuals who have to work together to meet the needs for services of those affected by adoption.
- Children have the right to grow up knowing they are adopted and should have access to information about their family of birth.
- Where appropriate children should continue to have contact, either directly or indirectly, with those family members who are significant to them.

**5. Management Structure and Staff Group**

The Adoption Service is provided through a joint arrangement between Leicestershire, Rutland and Leicester City Local Authorities. Leicestershire and Leicester City provide managers who are responsible for the Adoption Team. Leicestershire County Council is the lead agency.

**Leicestershire County Council**

Name of Manager: - Cath Sartoris  
Address: - Children and Young People’s Service  
 Bassett Street  
 South Wigston  
 Leicester, LE18 4PE

The experience and qualifications of the manager are:-

Cath Sartoris has a degree in Social Studies and a CQSW from the University of Leicester obtained in 1974. Cath Sartoris also has a Diploma in Management from the University of Leicester obtained in 1996. She has worked extensively in Children’s Services.

The registered provider is Leicestershire County Council Children and Young People’s Service.

The Agency Decision Maker on behalf of the Local Authority is Vanessa Bishop, Assistant Director.

**Leicester City Council**

Name of Manager: - Mark Tingley  
Address: - Eagle House  
 11 Friar Lane  
 Leicester, LE1 5RB

The experience and qualifications of the Manager are:-

Mark Tingley has a CQSW and BA (Hons) Social Science. He has over twenty-five years experience as a social worker and social work manager, having worked both in London and Leicester.

The registered provider is Leicester City Council Children and Young People's Service.

The Agency Decision Maker on behalf of the Local Authority is Lorraine White, Interim Head of Service, Children's Resources.

### **Rutland County Council**

Name of Manager: - Donna Gallagher

Address:- Children and Young People's Services  
Catmose  
Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP

Experience and qualifications of the manager are:-

Donna Gallagher has a CQSW from Trent Polytechnic in Nottingham obtained in 1984. Donna has an NVQ5 in Management obtained in 2005. She is also an accredited Practice Teacher. She has worked extensively in Children's Services and Mental Health Services.

The registered provider is Rutland County Council.

The Agency Decision-Maker on behalf of the Local Authority is Stephen Attwood.

### **The Adoption Team**

The Adoption Service employs a number of qualified and experienced staff as follows:-

- Two Team Manager posts (Faye Winterton\* works full-time for Leicester City Council and Bridget Puddepha works full time for Leicestershire County Council). The two managers are responsible for the day to day work of the Adoption Team. Both managers have social work qualifications and extensive experience of child care and adoption services over many years.

(\*From October 2007 until the end of 2008 Faye Winterton will be on maternity leave, her post is being covered by Sarah Draycott a qualified and experienced member of the adoption team)

- Two full-time and nine part-time social workers, who are all qualified and experienced in adoption work.
- Four adoption support workers - two qualified in social work and two support workers who have relevant experience.
- A new part time post specifically for the provision of birth records counselling was established in November 2007
- Two administrative assistants and four clerks who provide administrative support to the team and reception support to the Eagle House building

## **6. The Work of the Adoption Team**



The Adoption Team is based at:-  
Eagle House  
11 Friar Lane  
Leicester, LE1 5RB

This team provides the following services:-

- Recruitment of adoptive families; including publicity, information giving and regular information evenings.
- Assessment and preparation of prospective adoptive families, which includes visiting the home, undertaking a home study, references, checks, and preparation groups.
- Support for approved families awaiting placement.
- Advice, guidance and support to adoptive families during the matching process and post placement, this includes workshops and events for adoptive families.
- Running training and educational events and providing guidance for departmental staff who are preparing children, their parents and carers.
- Provision of adoption support services to adoptive families and birth relatives.
- The facilitation of direct and indirect contact arrangements.
- The provision of a specialist consultation and advice service.
- Counselling, information, and advice in relation to the following individual situations:-
  - Birth parents whose children might be adopted.
  - Prospective adopters.
  - Adults who have been adopted, including access to birth records counselling.
  - People who wish to adopt children from another country.
  - Non-agency adoptions including step-parents who wish to adopt their partner's children.

## **7. The Adoption and Children Act**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005 the Adoption and Children Act was implemented. This was the first major piece of legislation about adoption for a considerable number of years. The aim of the legislation is to put the child at the heart of the adoption process.

An implementation group oversaw the training and staff development needed to implement this legislation. The adoption panel was reconfigured to meet the new requirements, new paperwork and procedures were produced. A new legal order also came into being – Special Guardianship. This is meant to be a half way stage between adoption and residence orders. It is hoped that this will become a more acceptable order, than adoption, for relatives and step parents who wish to offer permanency for a child.

## **8. Inter Country Adoption**

The service has always offered an Inter country service to prospective adopters who wish to adopt child from abroad. This has increasingly proved a complex and difficult area as each country has different adoption rules that change from time to time. In order to give a better service to this group of people a service level agreement has been agreed with The Doncaster Adoption and Family Welfare Society. This adoption agency has developed a good level of expertise in this area of work. From October 2006 they will deal with all enquiries and assessments for inter country adoption on behalf of the adoption agency.

## **9. Enquiries about Adopting a Child: (Recruitment of Prospective Adoptive Families)**

A range of leaflets are available to explain to people what adopting children is all about and the processes that prospective adopters will need to go through. The Adoption Service welcomes

enquiries from people from all backgrounds, whether single, in a relationship, or married, and regardless of sexual orientation, race or religion. There is no upper age limit for a prospective adopter(s) but adopters need to be in good general health with lots of energy and love to give to a child.

The Adoption Service has a well-defined recruitment strategy whose aim is to prioritize the recruitment of adopters who can best meet the needs of local children requiring adoption. The time scale for the assessment process is shown in Appendix 1.

#### **10. Local Authority Adoption Panel and Decision-Making Responsibilities**

Each of the three Local Authorities has an Adoption Panel to consider cases arising from their area. The Panel has the responsibility to:-

- Consider the assessment of prospective adoptive parent(s) and recommend whether they should be approved.
- Decide whether adoption should be the plan for a child.
- Agree the matching of children to a particular family.
- Take an interest in the general running of the adoption service and to receive reports giving over view information about the general running of the team.

The attendance of prospective adopters and approved adopters who are to be matched with a child is now part of the established procedure for the panel. In 2007 for the first time ever a young person who was going to be adopted by his foster carer attended panel.

The Adoption Panel is governed by guidance and regulations. Panel members include qualified social work managers, a medical adviser, elected Members of the Council, lay people (who are not employed by the Service/Council and who may have personal experience of adoption). A legal adviser and a panel adviser also attend the panel. All the panels have an independent chair.

Following a recommendation of the Adoption Panel, the papers and minutes of the meeting are passed to the "Agency Decision Maker" who has responsibility for decision making on behalf of the Agency. The decisions are made following consultation with the panel adviser and access to the panel minutes. Decisions are always made within seven days of the panel meeting. The decision is then put in writing to the prospective adopter(s).

#### **11. Monitoring the Quality of the Adoption Service**

The quality of the Adoption Service's work and standards are regularly monitored:-

- The managers of the Service ensure that the staff are appropriately skilled, trained and supervised on a regular basis to ensure they can undertake the functions of their work.
- The work of the adoption team is governed by Adoption Standards, Guidance and Legislation. The three local authorities submit information on achievements against performance indicators.
- A service plan is produced by the three Local Authorities on the activity, achievements and areas of development within the Adoption Service on an annual basis.

- The Adoption Panel independently scrutinizes all assessments and judgments made about children being considered for adoption and those of prospective adoptive parents. The Adoption Panel has a critical role to play in the provision of independent expert oversight.
- Elected members of the Council have a duty to be accountable for the Adoption Service. In Leicestershire the Lead Member for Children's Services observes a panel each year.
- The ADM also observes one panel each year and attends panel training days
- The Adoption Service is subject to a three yearly inspection by Ofsted.
- Feedback is gathered from a variety of service users through evaluation.

## **12. Complaints Procedure**

Each of the three Local Authorities has a complaints procedure. If a complaint is made, it will be considered by the relevant Authority and the complainant will be informed which of the relevant Authorities will be dealing with their complaint.

Copies of the procedure and complaints forms can be requested from the Adoption Team at Eagle House, 11 Friar Lane, Leicester, ☎Tel: 299 5899.

All complaints and matters of concern are treated with respect and are dealt with as promptly as possible. The adoption service aims to resolve problems in the first instance by informal negotiation. A central record is kept of all complaints as part of the agency's quality management process; these records are open to Inspection by Ofsted.

Children who are already placed in adoptive placements (i.e. children in care of the Local Authority) also have access to the Council's Children's Rights Officer in Leicestershire and Leicester City, who will assist any child in making a complaint if they wish, and support them throughout.

## **13. The Recruitment of Prospective Adopters**

Adoption Team deals with a very high number of enquiries from people interested in adopting a child. In 2006/07 458 enquiries were received, an increase of over 70 from the previous year. Despite efforts by the team to recruit a wider range of adoptive applicants the majority of enquiries are still from childless couples who want to adopt a baby or very small child. This image of adoption is however slowly changing and there has been some success in recruiting single and same sex couples. The team has been very successful in recruiting Asian adopters.

In 2006/07 8 Information evenings were held, attended by 97 households, run by social workers from the team, with the help of adoptive parents.

4 Preparation Groups for 32 couples and 3 single people have also been held in the last year. These groups have involved the input of birth parents, adopters and adult adopters as well as the CAMHS Service.

The Team has continued to recruit a high number of appropriate adoptive families - 45 were presented to the adoption panel in the last year, all of whom were approved, 7 of these were single adopters, 11 were from Black and other ethnic minority groups.

There has also been an increase in the number of children referred for adoption, 73 children were referred in 2006/07, 61 of whom were presented to the adoption panel for panel to consider a recommendation for a plan for adoption. 46 children were placed in adoptive families

## 14. Adoption Support

There are now 4 ½ adoption support workers within the team.

A leaflet for schools on adoption issues has been produced and distributed. There has been a very positive response to this.

The CAMHS Service has now appointed two additional workers to respond to the needs of adoptive families, they contribute to network meetings chaired by the adoption team managers. The Educational Psychology Services from the city and the county contribute to this meeting as does the Therapeutic Social Work Team who has identified the equivalent of one social work post to work with adoptive families.

Adoption support services will be further enhanced with the development of a buddy Scheme (adopters supporting each other), a support group for adopted children and a mother and toddler group.

Total number of referrals to the adoption support service was 308. Of these, the majority continue to be from adopted adults (152) who were requesting a variety of services, but commonly are seeking access to their birth records and want help in tracing their birth relatives. Birth relative enquiries (78) seek similar services, often from people requesting contact with their adopted relatives.

Requests for help from adoptive families have increased from 54 to 78. These are the lowest in number but are usually the most time consuming and complex. The needs of families are often urgent and sometimes traumatic cries for help from adoptive families who are trying to care for extremely troubled adopted children and young people.

The adoption support workers run several evening support groups for adoptive parents (currently in Wigston, Loughborough, Melton and Desford). Attendance is variable but feedback is positive. An additional support group has been established in the daytime for parents of children with attachment problems.

The team has also twice funded a ten-week course run by 'Adoption UK' called 'A Piece of Care' for adoptive parents. This has been extremely successful in supporting and assisting the success of placements and participants have given very positive feedback.

The workers continue to organise day seminars by a well respected clinical psychologist on 'Attachment' issues and resolutions. These have been well attended by adoptive parents and have greatly enhanced their understanding of attachment issues as well as their skills to parent damaged children. Learning in the company of other adopters is experienced as supportive and sometimes useful ongoing contacts are established between them. Fortunately we have been able to invite a number of social workers and other professional workers to these events and hope they can be repeated.

Social events such as the annual adoption party for children and parents continue to provide opportunities for families to support each other. Summer events such as picnics have been organised by adopters.

Education issues are a central concern of many of the parents who ask for help. Currently there is only limited understanding of attachment issues and its effects on behaviour within schools. The P.L.A.C.E. (Promoting Looked After children's Education) Panel has now extended its remit within the County to consider the needs of children placed for adoption.

There is no equivalent forum in the City or Rutland but most of the adoption support work current lies within the County area.

The City's LAC support team which intervenes directly to work with children and families has been of considerable benefit to some adoptive families, and has proved a very useful additional resource.

**15. Services to Adopted People (Birth Records Counselling and Intermediary Services)**

Adults who have been adopted can approach the registrar general when they are 18 and ask for details from their original birth certificate. Once they have obtained this information a request can be made to the team for a Birth Records Counselling service (BRC). This involves obtaining a file from either the local store or from another adoption agency. The amount in the file can vary considerably but has to be carefully considered in terms of sharing the contents with an adopted person.

Once this information has been obtained many people then request assistance with tracing their birth relatives and with achieving a reunion. BRC work is provided on a statutory basis. As tracing and reunion work has become more complex and time consuming the waiting list for BRC work has grown to over 12 months. As it is clearly unacceptable for adopted people to wait so long for a service, the agency has carefully reviewed its work in offering assistance with tracing and reunions and has decided to suspend this service for a time limited basis to enable the waiting time to be significantly reduced. This decision will be subject to on going review. A new part time post was established in November 2007 to help to deal with this problem, the BRC waiting time is now reducing.

**16. Services to Birth Families**

A leaflet has been designed and produced by the adoption support workers describing the services that are available and describing how to access information.

Birth mothers are offered the opportunity to join an independent support group. These are usually mothers of children recently adopted, not mothers of "adult children".

A new requirement (National Adoption Standards) is to offer independent counselling to birth parents during care proceedings. This means birth parents have the opportunity to use this service and then be offered the existing support group once an adoption order has been made. The independent counselling is carried out by PICS (Parent Independent Counselling Service) which is subject to a Service Level Agreement. Take-up of this service has been fairly slow, but may increase once it becomes better known and established.

Birth families can also ask for assistance in contacting adopted relatives but this service is not currently offered by the adoption team

**17. Contact Services**

Improved management of the Post Box (indirect contact) Scheme has been achieved. The workers who are responsible for this service have improved its quality and development. There are now approximately 482 active cases.

Separate files for direct contact arrangements have been established, as such arrangements have increased. A second review of direct contact cases will take place this year. Responses

will be shared with the team to inform our practice. Yearly listing of direct contact arrangements assists information for court statements, which are commonly requested on contact issues.

An email facility has now been established.

A leaflet on the Post Box Scheme has been updated and reprinted.


**18. Services to Children**

Indirectly, we have supported children through services to their parents and through the Contact Scheme. We have access to a supply of books, and tapes and videos for direct work with children. Counselling is possible with older children. Children participate in social events such as the annual party and summer picnic.

**19. OFSTED**

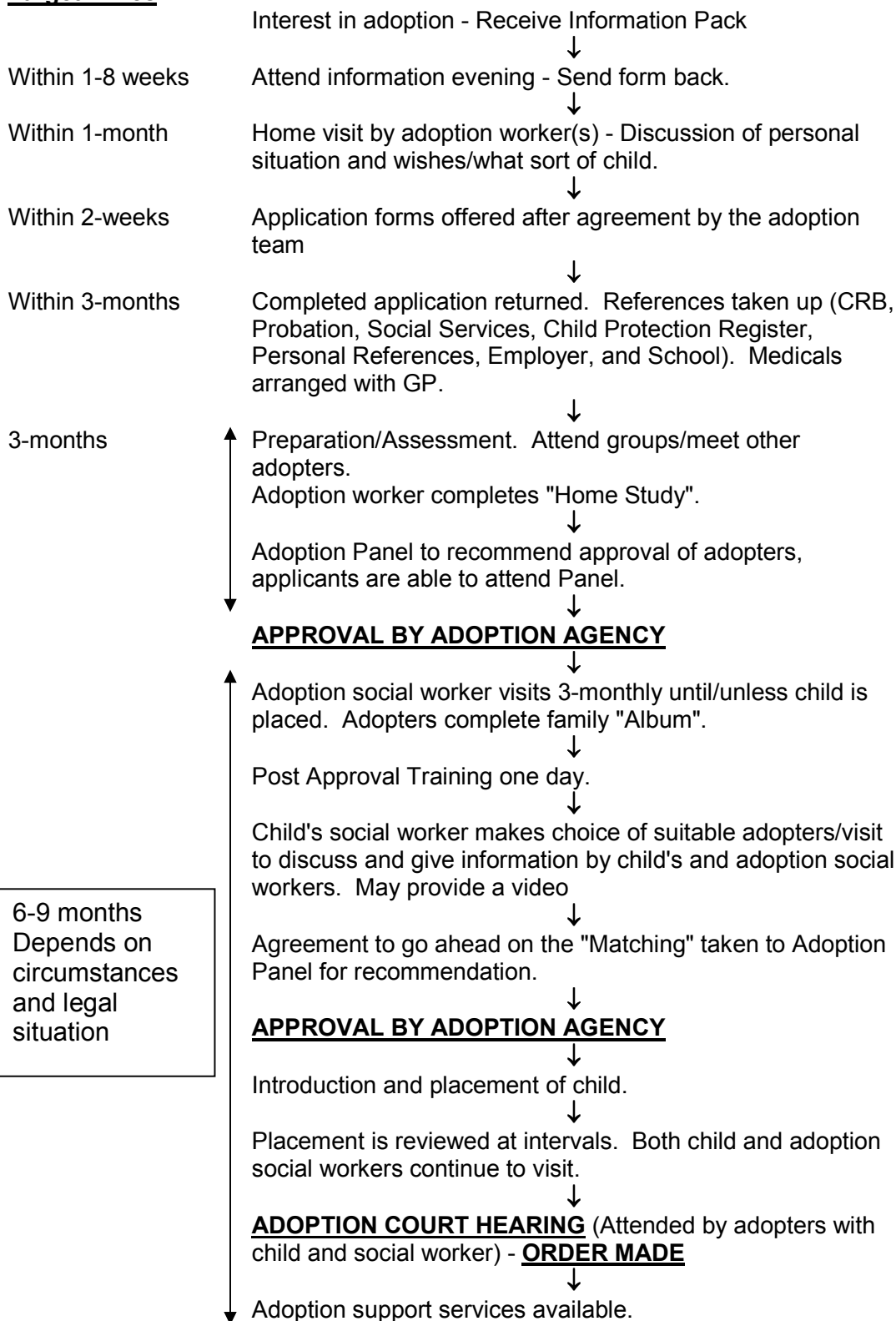
Ofsted is responsible for inspecting the Adoption Agency, usually on a three year cycle. The last inspection took place in September 2006. Ofsted will also receive and investigate any complaints about the Adoption Service. They can be contacted at:-

National Business Unit  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Royal Exchange Buildings  
St. Anne's Square  
Manchester  
M27 LA

	08456 40 40 40
Fax	08456 40 40 49
Email	<a href="mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk">enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk</a>

**Process for Assessment and Approval of Adopters**

**Target Times**



6-9 months  
Depends on  
circumstances  
and legal  
situation

**1. NEW REFERRALS TO TEAM**

Total Number	<b><u>1058</u></b>	(06/07 total = 1115)
City	288	
County	517	
Rutland	29	
Out of Area	171	

**2. CHILDREN****a) Children referred by child care teams for permanence**

<b><u>Total Number</u></b>	<b><u>91</u></b>	(06/07 total = 73)
City	64	
County	23	
Rutland	4	

**b) Children presented to Panel for adoption placement**

<b><u>Total Number</u></b>	<b><u>45</u></b>	(06/07 total = 61)
City	33	
County	10	
Rutland	2	



**c) Children placed for adoption with adoptive families**

(including foster carer adoption)

<b><u>Total Number</u></b>	<b><u>37</u></b>	(06/07 figure = 46)
City	17	
County	17	
Rutland	3	

**d) Details of children placed for adoption**

• **Ages of children placed**

0-1	10
1-5	23
5-10	4
10+	0

• **Sibling groups**

Single	29
Groups of 2	4
Groups of 3	0

• **Ethnic Origin**

White / British	29 (County – 10)
Asian	2
White / African Caribbean	3
White / Moroccan	2
Asian / Portuguese	1

- **Length of time the children waited for placement**

(calculated from date the child first presented to Panel to date of "matching" Panel)

0-3 months	3
3-6 months	19
6-12 months	7
12-18 months	5
18-24 months	3

- **Inter-agency placements**

(children placed with other agency approved adopters)

(06/07 total = 6)

City	6
County	2

- **Disruptions**

(Pre-adoption order)

A county sibling group of 2 disrupted shortly after placement

- **Children whose plan was adoption but where family finding was unsuccessful** (does not include children where plan changed e.g. placement with relatives)

County	none
City	none
Rutland	none

e) **Adoption Orders Made**

<b><u>Total</u></b>	(06/07 total = 43)	<b><u>53</u></b>
City		28
County		24
Rutland		1

3. **ADOPTIVE FAMILIES**

a) **Enquiries/referrals from people interested in adoption**

<b><u>Total</u></b>	(06/07 total = 458)	<b><u>460</u></b>
City		124
County		267
Rutland		13
Out of Area		56

b) **Inter-Country enquiries/referrals**

10

(06/07 figure = 18)

[**N.B.** from September 2006, following a Service Level agreement, these are dealt with by Doncaster Adoption & Family Welfare Society].  
We are responsible for post-placement work.

c) **Information Evenings**

Number held	7
Number attending	135

**d) Preparation Groups**

Number held	3
Number attending	47

**e) Post Approval Groups**

Number held	2
Numbers attending	21

**f) Home Study Assessments**

<b><u>Number started</u></b>	(06/07 figure = 34)	<b><u>37</u></b>
City		11
County		24
Rutland		2

**g) Adopters presented to Panel and approved by Agency**

<b><u>Total Number</u></b>	(06/07 figure = 42)	<b><u>35</u></b>
City		8
County		25
Rutland		2

**h) Adopters not approved**

None

**i) Details of approved adopters**

• <b><u>Foster Carer adopters</u></b>	<b>3</b>
City	0
County	3
Rutland	0
• <b><u>Mainstream Adopters</u></b>	<b>30</b>
City	7
County	21
Rutland	2
• <b><u>Inter Country Adopters</u></b> 2	
City	
County	1
Rutland	0
• <b><u>Single adopters</u></b>	<b>2</b>
City	1
County	1
Rutland	0
• <b><u>Couples</u></b>	<b>33</b>
City	7
County	24
Rutland	2

- **Ethnic Origin**

White British	30
White American	1
Asian/Hindu	3
White/African –Caribbean	1

**j) Inter Agency Placements**

(families placed with children from other agencies)

City	2
County	1
Rutland	0

**4. BIRTH PARENTS**

There is a statutory duty to offer independent counselling to birth parents whose children have an adoption plan. We have an agreement with PICS (Parent Independent Counselling Service) to give this service, and occasionally we refer other birth relatives.

<b><u>Total number of referrals to PICS</u></b>	(06/07 figures = 16)	<b><u>16</u></b>
City		6
County		9
Rutland		1
Birth Mothers		11
Birth fathers		4
Maternal grandparents		2 (1 referral)

## 5. **POST ADOPTION ORDER SUPPORT SERVICES**

### a) **Referrals for Support Services** (post adoption order)

<b><u>Total</u></b>	(06/07 figure = 308)	<b><u>311</u></b>
City		
58		
County		143
Rutland		6
Out of Area		86

### b) **Source of Referral**

Adopted adults	163
Birth relatives	87
Adoptive parents/families	60

### c) **Services available**

- General support groups for adoptive parents
- "Play and Stay" group for adopters/young children
- Regular presentation/workshops on attachment by Clinical Psychologist
- "It's A Piece of Cake" training workshop for adoptive parents (Adoption UK)
- Buddy Scheme for adoptive parents (Adoption UK)
- Children's/Young Person's Support Group/activities
- Financial Support packages
- Referral to Birth Mother's group
- Referral to PICS (Parent Independent Counselling Service) for birth parents
- Post box indirect contact scheme
- Direct contact liaison/supervision
- Birth Records Counselling to adopted adults
- Intermediary services to adopted adults
- Intermediary services to birth relatives
- Sign posting for services from other teams and/or statutory and voluntary agencies

**6. NON-AGENCY ADOPTIONS**

**a) Enquiries/referrals received**

<b><u>Total Number</u></b>	(06/07 figure = 175)	<b><u>101</u></b>
City		28
County		62
Rutland		5
Out of Area		5



