
**JOINT ADOPTION SERVICE OF LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND
RUTLAND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND FUNCTION INCLUDING
ANNUAL REPORT**

Report of the Corporate Director, Children & Young People's Services

1. Purpose or Report

This report introduces the Joint Adoption Service Statement of Purpose and Adoption Team Annual Report. (Attached).

2. Summary

2.1 The Statement of Purpose and Function explains the key aims, objectives and services provided by the Adoption Team. This document is a statutory requirement of the Adoption Regulations and National Minimum Standards 2000. Where the adoption agency is a local authority, the national minimum standards require the Statement of Purpose to be approved by the executive side of the council.

2.2 Section 2 (6) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, requires local authorities to provide adoption support services, these are subject to inspection by the Commission for Social Care Inspection. Such services include provision to adopted adults, birth families, adoptive families and are detailed from page 18 of the attached report.

2.3 The Annual Report provides a concise summary of the Adoption Team activity and performance. It highlights a number of the team's achievements and activities during the last year and how the service is developing to meet new challenges.

2.4 The implementation of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 at the end of December 2005 has required a significant number of legal and practice changes, which are being implemented by the team.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Social Services Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- i) Note the contents of the Adoption Team Statement of Purpose and Function and refer to Cabinet for approval; and
- ii) Note and commend the achievements of the Adoption Team and the monitoring of its activities as contained within the Annual Report.

3.2 Cabinet is recommended to:

- i) Approve the contents of the Adoption Team Statement of Purpose and Function; and
- ii) Note and commend the achievements of the Adoption Team and the monitoring of its activities as contained within the Annual Report.

4 Headline Financial and Legal Implications

4.1 The implementation of the National Minimum Standards in adoption continues to cause significant additional costs, especially in the area of post adoption support to placements, additional training and preparation of prospective and approved adopters. The Adoption and Children Act 2002 and The Adoption Support Services Regulations (2003 and 2005) also provide the potential for any adopters and holders of Special Guardianship Orders living in the area to seek adoption support services, which include financial provision.

4.2 Other additional costs associated with the implementation of the National Minimum Standards relate primarily to administrative and other resource costs, such as the requirement to provide written information and changes to the way the adoption panel is constituted.

4.3 The additional costs are being met out of the Post Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Grant, which will become part of the new Children's Services Grant in 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance Social care and Health Department

4.4 Under the Adoption Support Agencies (England) and Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2005 an adoption support agency is required to have a statement of purpose (regulation 5) and to keep it under regular review (regulation 6). The Secretary of State has published National Minimum Standards for Adoption Support Agencies in England (2005) under section 23 of the Care Standards Act 2000 in respect of the statement of purpose compliance against which the registration authority (CSCI) is obliged to take into consideration when making any decision. The National Standards require an annual review of the statement

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DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	Yes
Reason	Significant effect on one or more wards
Appeared in Forward Plan	Yes
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)