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**Adoption Service  
Annual Report 2019 / 20 & Statement of Purpose**

**Children, Young People & Schools  
Scrutiny Commission**

**Date: 29 Sept 2020**

**Lead director: Martin Samuels**

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## Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: David Thrussell, Head of Service, Corporate Parenting
- Author contact details: 0116 454 1657
- Report version number: v1

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. This report provides an overview of the activity and performance of the council Adoption Service from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, together with the Annual Statement of Purpose.
- 1.2. The Adoption Service is essential in supporting our delivery of high-quality care and support for our looked after children, allowing them to live and thrive in a family home.
- 1.3. The primary aim of the Adoption Service is to ensure that children, who are referred for an adoptive placement, are placed within a caring and supportive family that can meet their needs during childhood and beyond.
- 1.4. Adopters will become the permanent family for a child who cannot, for whatever reason, return home. They will take on all the rights and responsibilities of a birth parent. They will give the child stability, love and security throughout their childhood and beyond.
- 1.5. The service allows our children and young people to live in safe, stable and appropriately matched families. Our aim for children who are cared for is that they will have a clear understanding of why they are looked after by the local authority, be given an opportunity to make sense of their experiences; knowing who is there to support them to achieve their goals and lead successful lives.
- 1.6. We are committed to supporting our adoption families and continue to develop our support offer. More information about the adoption service and the support offered can be found on our website [www.leicester.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/adoption).

## **2. Recommended actions/decision**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Commission are asked to note and approve the Adoption Service Annual Report for 2019-20 and Annual Statement of Purpose.

## **3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement**

- 3.1 The report has been prepared in consultation with the Service Manager for the Adoption Service and shared with relevant stakeholders in the Adoption Team and Children's Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Team. The report contains some direct quotations from carers and adoptive parents who have been supported by the Adoption Service over the past year.

## **4. Background and options with supporting evidence**

- 4.1 This is a covering report for the attached Adoption Service Annual Report 2019/20 and Statement of Purpose.

## **5. Detailed report**

- 5.1 Please refer to the attached main report. If you have any questions about the information contained in this Annual Report or the Statement of Purpose, please contact the adoption team on 0116 454 4550.

## **6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

### **6.1 Financial implications**

- 6.1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

Martin Judson, Head of Finance  
Adult Services / Education and Children's Services  
Tel 37 4101

## **6.2 Legal implications**

6.2.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

Pretty Patel, Head of Law

Tel 37 1457

## **6.3 Equalities implications**

6.3.1 The equality act expects us to show due regard to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations. Our public sector duty expects us to demonstrate how we do this and included within this is how we undertake decisions, what information we are informed by and what impacts we have taken into consideration to address needs now and in the future.

6.3.2 The aims, objectives and services provided by the Leicester City Council adoption service in the annual report refer to the support provided to and outcomes of children across all protected characteristics.

6.3.3 The service advances equality of opportunity by ensuring that prospective adopters understand the relevance and importance of a young person's choice in terms of sexual orientation, gender and religion (although belief should be specifically included here as there are certain choices young people make from very early on such as being vegetarian or vegan that may not be related to a religion but a belief which is a protected characteristic also); by ensuring that Children and young people's ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, belief and language is fully recognised and positively valued and promoted when decisions are made about them and that the needs of disabled children are fully recognised and considered when decisions are made.

6.3.4 The service also advances equality of opportunity and fosters good relations by encouraging and publicising adoption services to enable all members of the community to consider adoption as a positive option and to recruit from a wide variety of backgrounds to meet children's individual needs and by recruiting adopters who will respect a child's birth and family origins and who will bring up

an adopted child knowing and understanding their origins. The commitment to providing Life Story Books and Later Life Letters of a high quality for adopted children also helps to ensure this happens.

- 6.3.5 In addition, the service helps to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by recruiting adopters who will respect the diverse cultures and lifestyles within society and who will bring up children who will respect these differences.

Surinder Singh, Equalities Officers  
Tel 37 4148

#### **6.4 Climate Emergency implications**

- 6.4.1 There are no significant climate change implications associated with this report.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Environment Team  
Tel 37 2284

#### **6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)**

- 6.5.1 None

#### **7. Background information and other papers:**

- 7.1 Adoption Service Annual Report 2019 / 2020 and Statement of Purpose.

#### **8. Summary of appendices:**

- 8.1 None

#### **9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

9.1 No

**10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?**

10.1 No