



**Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy,
Executive Director – Children’s Services**

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| Report to: | Corporate Parenting Panel |
| Date: | 07 September 2023 |
| Subject: | Adoption Annual Report 2022–2023 |

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Corporate Parenting Panel about the work of the Adoption Service in accordance with the requirements of the Care Standards National Minimum Standards 2003, 2011, 2014, and the Adoption and Children Act 2002. The National Minimum Standards, together with the Adoption Regulations, form the basis of the regulatory framework under the Care Standards Act 2000 for the conduct of Adoption Agencies and Adoption Support Agencies.

Under the requirements of the National Standards, Members, in their role as Corporate Parents, should be informed on a regular basis about the activity of the Adoption Service.

The National Minimum Standards for the Adoption Service are broken down into 31 standards. Standard 17 deals with the "monitoring and controlling" and requires the Executive Councillor to satisfy itself that the Adoption Agency is effective and achieves good outcomes for children (Section 17.3). Standard 18 deals with the Statement of Purpose and requires the Executive Councillor to satisfy itself that the Adoption Agency and Adoption Support Agency meet the aims and objectives of the Statement of Purpose.

The Annual Report sets out the relevant performance information and identifies the key developments with the service of the last twelve months.

Actions Required:

The Corporate Parenting Panel is invited to review and endorse the Adoption Annual Report for 2022-2023.

1. Background

Lincolnshire Children's Services operates a discreet Adoption Service, on a countywide basis from three localities. The Annual Report presents the performance of the service over the previous year 2022-2023 to the Executive Councillor responsible for Children's Services and Elected Members.

2. Conclusion

The Annual Report attached as Appendix A contains a range of information about the Adoption Agency in relation to performance indicators and measuring good outcomes; the work of the Adoption Panel; and various regulations relating to the Act and Adoption Support.

Following consideration of the attached Annual Report, the Panel is requested to review and comment on the contents of the report and the work of the Adoption Service.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

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| These are listed below and attached at the back of the report | |
| Appendix A | Adoption Annual Report 2022-2023 |

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Deborah Crawford, who can be contacted on 07786 190414 or deborah.crawford@lincolnshire.gov.uk.