

**Open Report on behalf of the Executive Director of Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Councillor Mrs PA Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning</b>
Date:	<b>03 September 2012</b>
Subject:	<b>Adoption Services Statement of Purpose 2012</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>02084</b>
Key decision?	<b>Yes</b>

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to inform Members about the work of the Adoption Service in accordance with the requirements of the Care Standards National Minimum Standards 2003, 2011, and The Adoption and Children Act 2002.

Under the requirements of the National Adoption 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 18 deals with the Statement of Purpose and requires the Executive to satisfy itself that the adoption agency/adoption support agency meets the aim and objectives of the Statement of Purpose.

The report sets out the relevant performance information and identifies the key developments within the service over the last twelve months.

Approval is required for the Adoption Services Statement of Purpose from the Executive Councillor, to authorise publication on the Lincolnshire County Council website.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Executive is recommended to approve the Statement of Purpose.

**Alternatives Considered:**

1. Not to approve the Statement of Purpose.
2. To accept the Statement of Purpose subject to amendments.

**Reasons for Recommendation:**

The Statement of Purpose is a requirement under the National Minimum Standards 2011.

Approval of the Statement of Purpose will achieve compliance with the National Minimum Standards and the Regulations applicable to Local Authority Adoption Services.

Not to approve the Statement of Purpose will put the Local Authority in breach of the regulatory requirement.

**1. Background**

In recognition of the highly specialised nature of adoption, Lincolnshire's Children's Services operate a discrete Adoption Service, on a countywide basis from three localities. This Statement of Purpose thus presents the performance of the service over the previous year 2011-2012 to the Executive Committee, Portfolio Holder and Elected Members.

**2. Conclusion**

The Statement of Purpose is attached at Appendix A and its purpose is to ensure children, staff and service users are clear about the aims and objectives of the adoption agency/adoption support agency and what services and facilities it provides

The Statement of Purpose fulfils the requirement of Standard 18 of the Adoption National Minimum Standards (Care Standards Act, 2000) and Regulation 2 of the Local Authority Adoption Services (England) Regulations, 2003.

The Statement of Purpose when approved will be placed on the Lincolnshire County Council Adoption website. Members of the Adoption Panel and staff working in the Adoption Service have been consulted.

**3. Legal Comments:**

The recommendation is lawful and within the remit of the Executive. Not to approve a Statement of Purpose would put the Council in breach of its obligations under the Adoption Services Regulations (England) Regulations 2003.

**4. Resource Comments:**

There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

## 5. Consultation

### a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

### b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

### c) Scrutiny Comments

This has not been considered by a scrutiny committee.

### d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

## 6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Adoption Statement of Purpose

## 7. Background Papers

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

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