

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

Report to:	Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
Date:	03 September 2012
Subject:	Adoption Service Annual Report 2012
Decision Reference:	02085
Key decision?	Yes

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 Act 2000, National Minimum Standards 2003, 2011, and the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

Under the requirements of the National Minimum 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 Service 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 the adoption agency is effective and achieves good outcomes for children (Standard 17.3).

The report at appendix A 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 Annual Report from the Executive Councillor, to authorise publication of the Lincolnshire County Council website.

Recommendation(s):

The Executive Councillor is recommended to approve the Annual Report.

Alternatives Considered:

1. Not to approve the Annual Report.
2. To accept the Annual Report subject to amendments.

Reasons for Recommendation:

The Annual Report is a requirement under the Regulations and Standards which form the basis of the regulatory framework, The Care Standards Act 2000.

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

Not to approve the Annual Report will put the Local Authority in breach of the regulatory requirement.

1. Background

In recognition of the highly specialised nature of adoption, Lincolnshire Children's Services operate a discrete Adoption service, on a countywide basis from three localities. The annual report 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 report attached at 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.

The report, 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 recommendations is lawful and within the remit of the Executive. Not to approve an Annual Report would put the Council in breach of its obligations under 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 Service Annual Report

7. 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 Tara Jones, Head of Service, Regulated Services, who can be contacted on 01522 552686 or tara.jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk