

**Open Report on behalf of Peter Duxbury, Executive Director of Children's Services**

Report to:	<b>Cllr Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor</b>
Date:	<b>3 October 2011</b>
Subject:	<b>Adoption Services Annual Report</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>01921</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 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 Standards for the Adoption Service are broken down into 31 Standards. Standard 17 deals with '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 sets out the relevant performance information and identifies the key developments within the service over the last twelve months.

**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. This annual report thus presents the performance of the service over the previous year 2010-2011 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 recommendation 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 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?**

Cllr Bradwell

### **c) Scrutiny Comments**

This matter has not been referred to Scrutiny.

**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.

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