

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

Report to:	<b>Cllr Mrs P A Bradwell, Executive Councillor</b>
Date:	<b>3 October 2011</b>
Subject:	<b>Adoption Statement of Purpose</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>01920</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.

**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 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 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 measuring good outcomes; the work of the Adoption Service; and various regulations relating to the Act and Adoption Support. 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 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 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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