

Name of meeting: Corporate Parenting Board

Date: 9th July 2018

Title of report: One Adoption West Yorkshire Annual Report

Report by: Sarah Johal, One Adoption West Yorkshire

Purpose of report

Elected Members in Kirklees recognise the importance of adoption and want to be updated about the management and outcomes of the adoption service. The report provides an overview of adoption service activity from April 2017 to March 2018. The report is attached at Appendix A.

1. Summary

Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield adoption functions as specified in the partnership agreement were delegated on the 1st April 2017 to Leeds City Council and One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY) formally opened. OAWY was the first Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) to open in the country as part of the Governments national reform agenda.

2. Implications for the Council

This report provides a summary on the developments of the service since it's opening on the 1st April 2017 to March 2018 and is the first annual report of the RAA.

2.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

Partnership working with Kirklees elected members, senior leaders, social work staff from all levels of the organisation and related professionals is given a high priority within the delivery of the adoption service. This links into early planning and intervention with regards to children's permanence arrangements and early tracking of children's cases. Working in this joined up manner will prevent drift for children and enable Kirklees to see improved timeliness with regard to Childrens' adoption plans.

The coming year will see further improvements made in our partnership working as we launch the plans for One Adoption to attend more key meetings with Kirklees colleagues such as the senior leadership team, managers meetings , IRO meetings and meetings with our fostering colleagues. In addition we are implementing a new joint process of data checking to ensure the data is clean and will soon start our joint tracking meeting for children pre adoption decision.

We were very pleased to show case our work with Kirklees to the Adoption Leadership Board (DFE) in a recent day long visit to One Adoption West Yorkshire. A Kirklees case/case study was jointly presented to DFE staff by one of Kirklees social workers and an OAWY family finder, this was a very good piece of work which clearly evidenced the benefits of early intervention and planning, it received positive feedback on the day.

Please see the report attached for full details.

2.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

One Adoption West Yorkshire is resourced through a joint pooled budget and underpinned by a partnership agreement. This is discussed more fully in the main body of the annual report at appendix A.

2.3 Improving Outcomes for Children

Performance data is contained within the report and shows how the work of OAWY impacts on outcomes for children.

The data below shows the year's data specifically relating to Kirklees children, for 2017/18.

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Number of ADM Decisions	12	13	5	21
Number of Placement Orders Granted	10	10	5	4
Number of children matched	4	9	7	7
Number of children placed	6	10	6	7
Number of children adopted	2	8	4	5
Number of disruptions	2	0	0	0

The totals for the year show that there has been 33 ADM decisions, 29 placement orders granted, 27 children have been matched with adopters, 29 children placed for adoption, 19 adoption orders granted and 2 disruptions for Kirklees children.

The reported number of Kirklees children adopted appears to be particularly low and on further exploration it appears that this is probable not accurate, during the changeover to One Adoption West Yorkshire an issue has occurred with regard to the collection of adoption order dates in Kirklees Childrens' case record system. Work is being undertaken to rectify this error.

The OAWY annual report shows how Kirklees compares to other RAA local Authorities and evidences how this compares to previous years data. Kirklees has seen an increase in the ADM decisions in the last quarter, although early indications is that this is levelling off and we may see a decrease in the first quarter of next year. Further analysis and consideration will need to be given to the low number of placement orders granted, this is an issue for all One Adoption West Yorkshire's LA'S, and may be a short term consequence of new reporting systems.

With regard to placement provision Kirklees figures appears to have remained stable against last year and have fared well against the other LA's of the RAA. In addition the timeliness data shows that Kirklees children have waited less time from coming into care to being placed with a family and less time from receiving the court authority to place and the LA deciding on a match to an adoptive family. While this has also been the case for other LA'S of the RAA, Kirklees have seen a greater improvement in this regard.

2.4 Reducing demand of services

A successful adoption service working hand in hand with fostering services and children's social work teams should help to reduce the numbers of children in care. OAWY monitors the numbers of children leaving care via adoption and tracks the timeliness of children's planning and placement. Full information regarding this is contained within the body of the annual report under Adoption scoreboard data (paragraph 3.3.18).

3. Next steps

The half yearly report will be available for the Corporate Parenting Board on the 21st January 2018.

4. Contact officer

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