

CORAM CAMBRIDGESHIRE ADOPTION AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

To: **Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee**

Meeting Date: **19 September 2018**

From: **Sarah Byatt
Managing Director, Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption
(CCA)**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Purpose: **This report fulfils a statutory responsibility to report to the Council on the service quality and outcomes in the adoption service.**

Recommendation: **The Committee is asked to note the content of the report**

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Summary:

This report puts on record the activity and the outcomes in relation to Cambridgeshire County Council's Adoption Service which is provided by a partner agency, Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption.

The service has three main functions: recruiting and approving adopters; finding and matching permanent families for children identified as requiring adoption and the provision of support to adoptive families, adopted adults and those affected by adoption.

This report details the outcomes involved in each of these adoption functions in the year 2017-2018.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Provision of adoption services is a key statutory requirement of the Local Authority. Adoption is an essential permanence option for Looked after Children who cannot return to live within their birth family due to serious safeguarding concerns and provides legal and emotional security for children.
- 1.2 The Children Act 2004, Care Standards Act 2000 and associated Relevant Regulations and National Minimum Standards require Local Authority Adoption Services to report regularly on the operation of the service.
- 1.3 In August 2014, Cambridgeshire County Council entered into a contract with Coram to provide its adoption services. A Voluntary Adoption Agency, Coram Cambridgeshire Adoption (CCA) was formed to deliver the service. CCA undertakes the majority of adoption service functions on behalf of the council namely:
 - Recruitment of sufficient and suitable adopters to meet the needs of Cambridgeshire children with adoption as their plan.
 - Family finding and matching for children requiring adoptive families.
 - Provision of adoption support for children placed for adoption, adopters and birth family members.
 - Provision of services to adopted adults and those affected by adoption.
- 1.4 Cambridgeshire County Council retained responsibility for two areas of adoption practice – Inter-country adoption and non-agency adoption (sometimes known as Step-Parent Adoption).

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 The CCA Annual Report is attached at Appendix 1.

3. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS.

3.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications of this annual report.

3.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

- CCA are contracted to provide adoption services on behalf of the Council until July 2019.
- Cambridgeshire County Council's adoption services are shortly to be joined with Peterborough City Council under the Government's Regional Adoption Agency programme.
- The new Regional Adoption Agency has achieved DfE approval and a procurement process begins in Autumn 2018 for a VAA delivery partner.

3.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

- Provision of adoption services is a highly regulated area and subject to scrutiny by both the Family Courts in respect of individual cases and by Ofsted inspections of Local Authority children's services.
- The annual report gives details of how CCA are meeting statutory requirements for practice and timescales
- CCA is registered with Ofsted as a Voluntary Adoption Agency with a judgement of 'Good'.

3.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

NA

3.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

NA

3.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

NA

3.7 Public Health Implications

NA

SOURCE DOCUMENTS

Source Documents	Location
None	