

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** **SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**REPORT BY:** **CHIEF OFFICER (SOCIAL SERVICES)**

**SUBJECT:** **REVIEW OF ADOPTION SERVICES FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To inform and advise of the Annual Report of the North Wales Adoption Services (NWAS) and National Adoption Service (NAS) for 2014/15.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 NWAS

This has been operational in its current form since 2010. Providing regional services for all aspects of adoption from recruitment, selection, assessment, matching and post adoption support.

The attached report (Appendix 1) provides a comprehensive and detailed analysis, evaluation and recorded activities for 2014/15.

2.02 NAS

This is the first full operational year of the N.A.S (appendix 2) The intent of N.A.S is to provide strategic overview in promoting “national” adoption issues and working collaboratively with Regional Adoption Services, third sector and voluntary partners.

The report highlights the progress of the service and the challenges associated with adoption matters.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 The regional and national services represent the continuing emphasis and growth in providing effective adoption provision. The advent of the national service is evidence of the Welsh Governments recognition of the value of adoption.

3.02 The local review further demonstrates the ongoing improvement in regional services and as noted in the annual report the need for further growth given the increase in adoption activity.

### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That both annual reports reflect National and Regional strategy, activities

and outcomes. They provide detailed and comprehensive information which captures and records key achievements and reflects the need for ongoing growth and development to meet the complex and sensitive work of adoption.

## **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 The local authority continue to make contributions towards both services. These continue to be reviewed locally and nationally in line with agreed funding formulas.

## **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 Empirical evidence demonstrates the socio-economic opportunities to children who have been adopted in terms of life style outcomes, employment opportunities and educational choices.

## **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None of any significant note.

## **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 The provision of adoption provides more opportunity to engage in social inclusion opportunities. From evidence children who would have remained in their birth family would be more likely to be subject to negative social and interpersonal experiences.

## **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None of any significant note.

## **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 See 11.01

## **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Both annual reports are subject to regional and national management boards with representatives from FCC or the NWAS

## **12.00 APPENDICES**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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