

## **SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
<b>Report Subject</b>	National Adoption Service and North Wales Adoption Service Annual Reports 2016-2017.
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Social Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer Social Services
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The report covers the National and Regional Adoption activities for the years 2016-2017.

The reports set out the work undertaken, challenges and future objectives for 2017-2018.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1	That the annual report for the National Adoption Service is reviewed and noted.
2	That the annual report for the North Wales Adoption Service is reviewed and noted.

## **REPORT DETAILS**

<b>1.00</b>	<b>SERVICE OVERVIEW</b>
1.01	Both reports cover the annual year for 2016/2017.
1.02	The National Adoption Service was established in 2015 with the aim of establishing national standards, targets and performance outcomes.
1.03	The North Wales Adoption Service was formed in 2010 with the aim of creating a regional provision to amalgamate shared resources, utilise the cross county border workforce and ensure consistency of service to all involved in adoption.
1.04	Both annual reports confirm the diverse nature of work in relation to adoption and note the strengths and challenges both at regional and local level.
1.05	<p>Both regionally and nationally the common risks can be identified as the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Insufficient range of adopters who can care for older children, children with complex needs and sibling groups.</li><li>▪ That children with these identifiable characteristics remain in the care system.</li><li>▪ That there is insufficient post adoption services across the social, education and mental health services.</li><li>▪ There remains the challenge of budget allocation and resource provision to meet these levels of demands and deficits.</li></ul>
1.06	<p>In seeking to mitigate these risks we are –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Seeking to recruit, select, assess and offer extensive post-adoption support to potential adopters who are able to meet and respond to the level of need reported.</li><li>▪ That children receive pre and post extensive adoption support to assist in responding to the daily challenges of family life and the complexities of addressing their life-long needs.</li><li>▪ That universal and specialised services are fully engaged in responding to the needs of these children and these services are responsive and flexible to changing levels of needs.</li><li>▪ That both national and regional budget resources are efficiently used to meet and respond to these level of needs.</li></ul>
<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	The Welsh Government continues to financially support the National Adoption Service via an annual grant. Funding for the North Wales Adoption Service is made up by the six local councils.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
3.01	<p>The National Adoption Service seek to engage with those involved in adoption and their 'strategy for engaging' (referenced on page 20) clearly demonstrates that consultation to assist and shape national targets and objectives are embedded into the practice, policy and service.</p> <p>The North Wales Adoption Service as referenced on page 41 report on a range of consultation exercises and responses from those involved in adoption.</p>

<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	The main report sets out the key risks and our response

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	<p>Appendix 1 - National Adoption Service Annual Report 2016/2017.</p> <p>Appendix 2 - North Wales Adoption Service Annual Report 2016/2017.</p>

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<p>None.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Neil Ayling, Chief Officer  <b>Telephone:</b>  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:neil.a.ayling@flintshire.gov.uk">neil.a.ayling@flintshire.gov.uk</a></p>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<p><b>National Adoption Service</b> – established in 2015 to establish a range of national targets, performance and objectives across Wales.</p> <p><b>North Wales Adoption Service</b> – established in 2010 to create a regional approach to the use of resources, staffing and recruitment.</p> <p><b>Post Adoption Support</b> – services and support to those who have been involved in adoption as a life-long commitment reinforced by appropriate statutory and legal frameworks.</p>