

THE EXECUTIVE

19 JULY 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ADOPTION SERVICE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	FOR DECISION	
<i>This report seeks the approval of the Statement of Purpose for the Adoption Service which is an annual requirement.</i>		
Summary		
<p>The Commission for Social Care Inspection will be conducting an inspection of Barking and Dagenham's Adoption Service between 8 and 18 August 2005. Preparation for the Inspection is underway. It is a requirement for the Statement of Purpose for the Adoption Service to be formally approved by the Executive annually. The Statement of Purpose sets out the role and duties of the Adoption Agency, and the service that it offers to the public.</p>		
Recommendation		
<p>The Executive is asked to agree the Statement of Purpose for the Adoption Agency attached as Appendix 1.</p>		
Reason		
<p>It is a requirement of the current National Minimum Standards for Local Authority Adoption Services in England and Wales (2003) that all Statements of Purpose are formally approved by the relevant Executive and reviewed on an annual basis.</p>		
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1. Background

- 1.1 Adoption Agencies are being inspected against the National Minimum Standards for Local Authority Adoption Services introduced from 1 April. Barking and Dagenham's Adoption service is due to be inspected between 8 and 18 August 2005 (4 days). There are 29 standards that will be used to make judgments about the quality of the service. The inspection will be carried out by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).
- 1.2 It is a requirement of the current National Minimum Standards for Local Authority Adoption Services in England and Wales (2003) that all Statements of Purpose are formally approved by the relevant Executive and reviewed on an annual basis.

- 1.3 This is the first time this requirement will be measured by The Commission for Social Care Inspection; hence the Statement of Purpose has not been to the Executive before. The Adoption Panel has already agreed the Statement of Purpose, attached as Appendix 1.
 - 1.4 The Statement of Purpose sets out the objectives of the Adoption service and the service it offers to the public. It describes the organisational structure of the service and the arrangements for the monitoring and evaluation of its activities.
- 2. Performance**
- 2.1 The Adoption Service achieved 15 adoptions last year (PAF C23 6.35% equating to ●●● three blobs) and has set a target of 8% equating to approximately 20 adoptions for 2005 / 2006. The Head of Children's Services holds regular meetings with the chair of the Adoption Panel.
- 3. Consultation**
- 3.1 Legal services, the Adoption service and the Adoption Panel have been consulted in preparation of this report. There are no legal, human resources or financial implications.

Background Papers

- National Minimum Standards for Local Authority Adoption Services