

## ASSEMBLY

17 May 2023

<b>Title:</b> Adopt London East and Corporate Parenting Annual Reports 2021-22	
<b>Joint Report of the Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care and Disabilities and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Integration</b>	
<b>Open</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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<b>Accountable Director:</b> April Bald, Operational Director Childrens Care and Support	
<b>Accountable Executive Team Director:</b> Elaine Allegretti, Strategic Director, Children and Adults	
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>The Adoption and Corporate Parenting annual reports are presented to Assembly each year to ensure Members have sight of the work being undertaken with the children and young people they are responsible for and/or whose plan is adoption.</p>	
<p>The Adopt London East Adoption Annual Report 2021-22 (<b>Appendix 1</b>) summarises the activity and performance of the East London Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) during this reporting year. ALE is jointly commissioned by Havering, LBBB, Tower Hamlets and Newham and is hosted by Havering. The report summaries all of the adoption work undertaken by ALE for all four boroughs which includes the recruitment of adopters, family finding for children awaiting adoption and all post-adoption support for children and adopted adults.</p>	
<p>The Local Authority is currently still measured on individual performance by the DfE requirements of A10 and A2 which are outlined at the end of the report at Appendix 1. This performance is a combined responsibility of the Local Authority and ALE as the LA is responsible for the children when they are Looked After awaiting court consent to the adoption plan and ALE is responsible for identifying suitable matches for children who have an adoption plan. Any delay in either of these areas impacts on these performance measures. The Local Authority retains all responsibilities for the children as Looked After until the adoption order is granted.</p>	
<p>The Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2021-22 (<b>Appendix 2</b>) summarises the activity and performance of the Council with regards to its corporate parenting responsibilities during that reporting year. It outlines our key achievements and how we are delivering on our promises to children in care and care leavers.</p>	

<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p> <p>The Assembly is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Note the Adopt London East Report 2021/22, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report; and.</li> <li>(ii) Note the Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2021/22, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reason(s)</b></p> <p>The Council is the corporate parent to all of our children in care and care leavers, including children awaiting adoption.</p>

## 1. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Antony Envoldsen-Harris, Finance Business Partner, Children's Care and Support

- 1.1 The report is a review of the performance for financial year 2021/22, its second year of functioning. It notes that service was delivered within the budget of £1,702,433, received from contributing authorities. There was a carry forward of £40k into 2022/23.
- 1.2 As it is a report of past performance it does not give rise to any future financial implications beyond the agreed annual contributions from Local Authorities including LBBD, who for 22/23 have contributed £505,404.

## 2. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Nicola Monerville, Principal Lawyer, Children Adult and

- 2.1 A child may be looked after during care proceedings by virtue of an interim care order (s.38 Childrens Act 1989) and on conclusion, a care order (s.31(1)(a)) or outside of care proceedings (s.20 Childrens Act 1989).
- 2.2 If the care plan for the child is to be placed for adoption a placement order must be granted at the conclusion of proceedings (s.21 Adoption and Children Act 2002) this order authorises the local authority to place a child with prospective adopters, alternatively if a child's parents have relinquished care they may consent to the adoption however the Local Authority remains responsible for the child until the adoption order is granted (s.46 Adoption and Childrens Act 2002).
- 2.3 Adopt London East via functions delegated to it act as an adoption Agency on behalf of the Local Authority. Local Authorities who act as an adoption agency must recruit, assess and approve suitable prospective adopters (*section 3A, ACA 2002*)

- 2.4 The Report is for note only and the contents of the report do not raise any issues that fall outside of the powers of the council and the report does not require a decision for which a legal implication would arise.

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report: None**

**List of appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Adopt London East (ALE) Report 2021/22

Appendix 2 - Corporate Parenting Annual Reports 2021/22