

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Committee:	Children & Young People's Select Committee
Date:	31 May 2012
Title:	Adoption Service Report
Reference:	3995
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Vanessa Courtney

Tel: 01962 845770

Email: Vanessa.courtney@hants.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To present the Adoption Service Annual report for 2011-2012.
- 1.2. To introduce the Adoption Balance Score Card published by The Department of Education on 11 May 2012.

2. Contextual Information

- 2.1. The attached Report details the activity of the Adoption Service for 2011/2012. This includes both the number of adopters recruited and the number of children placed for adoption during the year, adoption support and work with adopted adults.
- 2.2. The Department for Education is publishing new adoption scorecards which will form part of a new approach to address delays in the adoption system, as set out in ***An Action Plan for Adoption: Tackling Delay*** (published in March). As part of this, the Department set performance thresholds for the first and second indicators in the scorecard. They make clear the minimum expectations for timeliness in the adoption system. The performance thresholds from this year are set, but they will rise incrementally over the next four years until they reflect the levels set out in statutory guidance.
- 2.3. The adoption scorecard (attached) shows, against three key indicators, how swiftly children in need of adoption are placed for adoption, in each local authority area. These scorecards allow local authorities and other adoption agencies to monitor their own performance and compare it with that of others. In the future we will also include data on how swiftly local authorities and adoption agencies deal with prospective adopters.

2.4. It is important to note that the Annual Adoption Report covers year 2011-2012 but the published balance score card is based on data from 2008-2011.

3. Presentation to Select Committee

3.1. In addition to the report and balance score card a presentation will headline the issues with regard to Adoption on a national and local level.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. All Adoptive families should help children placed with them to understand and appreciate their background and culture

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. Children brought up in a loving family which can meet their developmental needs during childhood and beyond are more likely to a successful adult life.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? Not relevant

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts? Not relevant