



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**

**NATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICE WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR  
CHRISTINA LEYSHON**

**AUTHOR: Annabel Lloyd, Service Director Children's Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with the Cabinet the National Adoption Service Wales Annual Report 2019-20.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The report attached at Appendix 1 is the National Adoption Service for Wales Annual Report.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The National Adoption Service for Wales (NAS) was launched in November 2014 bringing all local authorities in Wales together into a unique collaboration for the delivery of adoption services.
- 4.2 The National Service establishes governance arrangements that provide national direction and co-ordination. Its broad aim is to improve and make consistent the arrangements for timely placements of children, training and assessment of adopters, adoption support and collaborative working.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This is an information report and therefore no Equality and Diversity screening is required.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Consultation was undertaken by the National Adoption Service Wales in the preparation of the Annual Plan with children, young people, families, a variety of partner agencies and staff from the Regional Services.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 7.1 There are no adverse financial implications associated with this report.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 The legal basis underpinning the National Adoption Service is the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) which gave Welsh Ministers the power to direct how local authorities in Wales deliver their adoption functions. This was enforced through a set of regulations, The Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Joint Adoption Arrangements) (Wales) Directions 2015 [generally referred to as the 'Directions Powers'], which require local authorities to collaborate on a set foot print to create Regional Adoption Collaborative. The primary purpose of these Directions is to ensure that effective joint arrangements are in place between local authorities in Wales for the delivery of adoption services.
- 8.2 The Authority is a member of the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaboration and its annual report will be brought to Scrutiny Committee during the early part of 2021.

## **9. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 9.1 The provision of effective responses to the needs of children and young people is a key priority for the Council and is supported by the contents of this Annual Plan.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 Referrals to adoption agencies dipped during 2019-20 and there has been progress made with recruiting new adoptive parents and providing post adoption support.
- 10.2 The National Adoption Service priorities for improvement include:
- Placing more children for adoption
  - Continuing to improve adoption support

- Improve and influence legal policy and evidence framework that affects adopted children

**Other Information:-**

***Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Children and Young People***

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**Background Papers**

None

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