

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

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

**REGIONAL ADOPTION COLLABORATION ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH  
THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR C LEYSHON**

**Author(s): Annabel Lloyd, Director, Children's Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Corporate Parenting Board members with the annual regional adoption collaboration annual report, which was considered at the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 13.01.21.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the information contained within the report.

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 This is an information report.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Adoption Collaborative (VVC) is the largest of the five regional collaboratives which form part of the National Adoption Service in Wales (NAS). It provides a regional adoption service to the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Cardiff Council and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. The service is hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- 4.2 This is VVC's fifth annual report and covers the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The Collaborative is required to review the service it provides by regulation, and as part of the reporting requirements set out in the legal agreement underpinning the operation of the

collaborative. The Report seeks to combine the various reporting requirements in one report.

4.4 The report is attached at Appendix 1 with data appendices 2- 5 also included as follows:

- Appendix 1 Annual report
- Appendix 2 Family Finding Data
- Appendix 3 Recruitment and Assessment Data
- Appendix 4 Adoption Support Data
- Appendix 5 Adoption Panel Data

4.5 At Scrutiny Committee on 13.01.21, Angela Harris, Regional Adoption Manager, Vale, Valleys & Cardiff Collaboration was in attendance to deliver the report, and respond to Members' questions. Scrutiny Committee Members were able to pursue lines of enquiry in relation to:

- The decline in RCT demand for adoption during the reporting year
- Recruitment of adopters
- Children who are subject to a referral to the regional adoption Collaboration, who do not go on to have a plan for adoption (withdrawn cases)
- Operational arrangements, and impact for the regional adoption collaboration and its services during the Pandemic
- Arrangements for post adoption support

## **5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This is an information report.

## **6 CONSULTATION**

6.1 This is an information report.

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

7.1 There are no direct financial implications aligned to this report.

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

8.1 The report was brought before Scrutiny as part of the governance arrangements outlined in Regulation 22 of the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2007 and section 15(c) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Joint Adoption Regulations) (Wales) Directions 2015.

## **9 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

9.2 The business covered in this report contributes to the following well-being goals:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A globally responsible Wales

## **10 CONCLUSION;**

10.1 During the year there has been a reduction in demand for adoption across Wales, and within VVC by 34%. During the first 3 quarters of 20/21 there has been a subsequent increase in demand.

10.2 There has been a clear improvement noted in the provision of Life Journey Work, from 44% last year to 60 % during this year, with further to go on that if we are to achieve the target of 84%.

10.3 Although there has been changes and significant work carried out leading to 35% increase in supply of adopters this year, supply remains insufficient, and this will remain a focus for the year ahead, alongside continuing to work to reduce the number of months children wait between placement order and being placed with adopters.



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD**

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