



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

25th FEBRUARY 2021

REGIONAL ADOPTION COLLABORATION 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, Director of Children's Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with the Cabinet the Regional Adoption Collaboration's 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 reports have been considered at the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on 13.01.21, and at Corporate Parenting Board on 25.01.21.
- 3.2 This report is for information.

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 Taf 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 1st April 2019 to 31st 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, which also includes the following:
- 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who are subject to a referral to the Regional Adoption Collaboration, who do not go on to have a plan for adoption (withdrawn cases)
 - The 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 and therefore no Equality and Diversity screening is required.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 This is an information report.

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.

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 During the year there was 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
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Background Papers

- Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee - 13.01.21
- Corporate Parenting Board - 25.01.21
- The Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Joint Adoption Arrangements) (Wales) Directions 2015

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