



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

8TH DECEMBER 2021

**VALE, VALLEYS AND CARDIFF REGIONAL ADOPTION COLLABORATIVE
ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee with an update against progress of the Regional Adoption Collaborative.
- 1.2 The report is required to be 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.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider the contents of the annual report.
- 2.2 Scrutinise and comment on the information contained within the report.
- 2.3 Receive a further report at future meetings

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 This is VVC's sixth annual report and covers the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. 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.

3.3 The report provides:

- information in respect of the governance and scrutiny of the regional arrangements at a local level, staff changes and areas of service development;
- key performance information relating to the placement of children for adoption, recruitment and assessment of adopters the provision of adoption support services;
- outlines the impact of COVID 19 on service delivery and how the service adapted to respond to these challenges and reduce delay;
- highlights some of the key challenges and future priorities for the service in terms of maintaining core business but also embracing changes being brought about at a national level with the implementation of Good Practice Guides and the two stage model of adopter assessment;
- The appendices to the report provide data in respect of key performance measures in respect of children, marketing activity, adopter recruitment, adoption support and the Adoption Panel. It also highlights activity in respect of the new grant funded posts. This information is broken down by local authority.

3.4 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

3.5 Angela Harris, Regional Adoption Manager, Vale, Valleys & Cardiff Collaboration will be in attendance to deliver the report and respond to Members' questions.