

EIA Record

Date of EIA **12.10.09**

Directorate **Children, Young People and Learning – Children’s Social Care**

Function or policy to be assessed	Statement of Purpose for Adoption Service 2009
Is it a policy or function	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Function
Is it a new or existing policy or function?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Existing
Aim / objective / purpose of the policy or function	<p><u>The purpose of the function is:</u></p> <p>It is a requirement of ‘The Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003’ and the ‘National Minimum Standards’ for Local Authority Adoption Services in England that a ‘Statement of Purpose’ is produced by each Adoption Agency.</p> <p>The Statement of Purpose sets out the aims and objectives of the Adoption Agency and the services and facilities to be provided by the Adoption Agency.</p> <p><u>The aim of the Statement of Purpose is:</u></p> <p>To ensure that information about the Adoption Agency contained within the ‘Statement of Purpose’ is provided to Ofsted and made available upon request to anyone involved with the Adoption Service. This includes anyone working for the purposes of the Adoption Service, children who may be adopted, their parents or guardians, adoptive parents and prospective adopters and adopted persons.</p>
Who is responsible for the policy or function?	<p>The person responsible for this policy/function is:</p> <p>Sheila McKeand, Head of Service for Looked After Children, Children’s Social Care, Time Square Office, Bracknell</p>
With regard to the equalities themes, which groups might be impacted by the policy or function?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief
Which groups might be affected adversely?	<input type="checkbox"/> Race <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Age <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation
On what grounds can adverse or differential impact be	<p>All enquiries about adoption are welcomed without prejudice, however any recruitment plans must take account of the agency priorities, past trends, anticipating needs of the children, information from research and the Adoption register. The agency’s long term objective is to improve the agency’s capacity to increase the social and cultural</p>

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<p>justified?</p>	<p>diversity of its pool of prospective adopters in order to meet the needs of children being placed for adoption. This may mean that at times adoption applications may not be accepted because there is low demand. The numbers and kinds of children with a plan for adoption are very small (between 1 and 3 children adopted each year). In May 2009, there was only 1 child with a plan for adoption and this child had already been placed. Children for whom it is hard for us to find adoptive placements tend to be sibling groups, children over the age of 5, disabled children and children from BME backgrounds. If adoptive families for these groups cannot be found within the Berkshire consortium, then placements are sought across a larger geographical area.</p> <p>The targets for recruiting adopters are incorporated into the Family Placement Team's Recruitment and Publicity Plan and reviewed annually.</p> <p>The Adoption Service was inspected by Ofsted in March 2009 and the overall judgement was satisfactory. The inspection report stated that the agency demonstrates an excellent commitment to supporting children adopters and birth families and that the promotion of equality and diversity is good.</p>
<p>What evidence has been found to indicate that the policy or function might need to be amended?</p>	<p><u>None at present</u></p>
<p>What consultation will be necessary to support or confirm your conclusions?</p>	<p>User Feedback</p> <p>The Agency is committed to seeking feedback from service users in order to inform future service provision and does so by the use of evaluation forms.</p> <p>User Survey</p> <p>A survey of adopters' views of the agency is carried out every two years and a full survey will be undertaken in 2009 – 2010 and this will inform the next Statement of Purpose, if appropriate.</p>
<p>Will the conclusions drawn reduce or remove adverse or differential impact?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The statement of purpose is updated annually, taking into account the needs, views and concerns of children and adopters or prospective adopters, to ensure that there is no adverse or differential impact.</p>
<p>What changes are proposed to the policy or function to reduce or remove adverse or</p>	<p>The statement covers practice and policy in the areas relevant to equalities and diversity for both adopted children and their carers.</p> <p>The Statement of Purpose is a legal requirement for the Council. The service it describes is provided for any child or adult who is eligible and service users are not selected by choice or preference.</p>

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differential impact?	
Has the information in this EIA been made publicly available and where?	Yes it will be published on the BFC website
In to which plan or strategy has the necessary action been incorporated?	The statement of purpose is a legal requirement and is part of the overall strategy for permanency planning for looked after children who are unable to be cared for by their parents.
What monitoring arrangements have been put in place?	<p>A formal review of the Statement of Purpose takes place annually and this is a legal requirement.</p> <p>Children with a plan for adoption waiting for a placement are reported quarterly in the PMR.</p> <p>The Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel scrutinises activity, performance and services in relation to looked after children.</p> <p>The Berkshire Adoption Advisory Service also produces an annual report.</p>
Who is the relevant Chief Officer and have they signed off the EIA?	<p>Penny Reuter Chief Officer, Children's Social Care</p> <p>Signature...</p>  <p>.....</p>
Which PMR will this EIA be reported in?	CYPL 2009-10 Q3