

Report for: Corporate Parent Advisory Committee: 2 July 2018

Item number: To be added by the Committee Section

Title: Regionalisation of Adoption Update

Report

authorised by : 
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Ward(s) affected: NA

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non-Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This is a brief report setting out the current position regarding the regionalisation of adoption.

2. Recommendations

To accept the update and request a further update to the next meeting.

3. Background information

- 3.1 A report was submitted to Cabinet in December 2016 setting out full details of the plans and developments for the proposed London Regional Adoption Agency (LRAA). At that time Committee approval was given for Haringey to continue working collaboratively with the intention of joining the new London Regional Adoption Agency when it becomes operational.
- 3.2 In a letter to Directors of Children's Services in March 2018 the Minister, Nadhim Zahawi, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to the regionalisation of adoption and the RAA agenda. He confirmed that the Government had commenced the legislation that allows it to direct a local authority into a RAA with a view to moving to the new system as soon as possible. However, the minister confirmed that he did not expect to use this power during 2018 and the continued support to authorities to progress towards the expected RAA outcome.
- 3.3 Since November 2017 the regionalisation of adoption (RAA) agenda has begun to gather pace. The outline Business Case for the Adopt London RAA was presented and agreed in October 2017 at the London Board. This has enabled the team to move forward to develop the resources and finances that are

required to work on the detail of the business plan so that Local Authority partners involved in the LRAA can have a final business case to present to their members in the winter of 2018. It has been agreed that there will be four Regional Adoption Agencies for London.

- 3.4 Four Local Authorities have volunteered to be the hosts for the four regional London RAAs (North, South, East and West) in a hub and spoke model. Each of the four RAAs will have their own project teams to develop the local arrangements.
- 3.5 Haringey is part of the North London Adoption RAA which is hosted by Islington and consists of the members of the current and well-functioning Adoption Consortium, (Haringey, Islington, Barnet, Enfield and Hackney). The Project lead for North London Adoption has been appointed and is paid for by a grant from the Department for Education.
- 3.6 The project lead is tasked with writing the business case. The business case will be informed by the work of task and finish groups for Human Resources, Legal and Finance with each authority submitting information and taking part in the groups.
- 3.7 There are a number of issues to clarify before the RAA can become an operational entity and these are being progressed through work streams in the following areas:
- Finance
 - HR and
 - Performance
 - IT
 - Commissioning.
- 3.8 Senior managers meet at an executive board every six weeks to review the progress and Directors of Children's Services will be attending the next board. Based on learning from the RAAs that have gone before, early and appropriate DCS and Member engagement is critical to the successful implementation of a Regional Adoption Agency.
- 3.9 To keep Members abreast of the new regionalisation adoption arrangements in North London and more widely a Member engagement event is planned for 5 October and invitations will be sent in the near future.
- 3.10 The next report to CPAC will include the formal business case.

4. Contribution to strategic outcomes

Priority 1 – Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education.