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| 24 October 2024 | | ITEM: 11 |
| Corporate Parenting Committee | | |
| Adoption Statement of Purpose | | |
| Wards and communities affected: All | Key Decision: None | |
| Report of: Sally Medbury – Team Manager Adoption Service Liz Shields – Service Manager, Fostering, Adoption, Children with Disabilities and Placements | | |
| Accountable Assistant Director: Janet Simon – Assistant Director Children’s Social Care and Early Help | | |
| Accountable Director: Sheila Murphy – Executive Director of Children’s Services | | |
| This report is Public | | |

Executive Summary

This report is to update members of the Committee on Thurrock Council’s Adoption Statement of Purpose which is reviewed annually. Members are advised that the Adoption statement of purpose now reflects the Adopt East Regional Adoption Alliance and is in common with regional partners.

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Members of the Committee review Thurrock’s Adoption Statement of Purpose and hold officers to account to deliver the services required as part of their statutory duties and the council’s ambition for children.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Adoption Statement of Purpose fulfils the requirement of Standard 17 and 18 of the Adoption Minimum Standards (Care Standards Act 2000) and Regulation 2 of the Local Authority Adoption Services (England) Regulations 2003.

2.2 Members are advised that the Adoption Statement of Purpose should be reviewed annually, and the current statement is attached.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 Thurrock’s Adoption statement of purpose 2024-2025 is attached.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 To invite Members of the Committee to review and provide comment on how Thurrock Council are meeting its statutory duties in relation to Adoption.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 None

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 None

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: David May
Head of Financial Management

All costs associated with Children Looked After are to be contained within the Placement budget of £24.416m.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: Petrena Sharpe
Safeguarding Lawyer - Team Leader

The Local Authority is required by the Local Authority Adoption Services (England) Regulations 2003 as amended in 2005 to have a statement of purpose. The Statement of Purpose covers the information that is required by the regulations.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: Natalie Smith
Head of Community Development

The Adoption Service is committed to practice which promotes equality, diversity and inclusion, and will carry out its duties in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and related Codes of Practice and Anti-discriminatory policy. Staff members are from diverse backgrounds and heritage. Marketing and recruitment materials are designed to ensure adopters irrespective of characteristics including age, sex, gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation and disability are welcomed.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e., Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children

None

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None

9. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 - Thurrock Adoption Statement of Purpose

Report Author:

Sally Medbury – Team Manager Adoption

Liz Shields – Service Manager