
Statement of Purpose for the Adoption Service

Report 0 SB/6/05 to the Executive

26th April 2005

1. At its meeting held on 23rd March 2005, the Children's Services Performance Board, which is a sub-committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, considered Report 54/2005 which informed Members of the activity of the Torbay Adoption Service for the period April 2003 to September 2004.
2. The Report also asked the Board to endorse the service's Statement of Purpose (which is included at Appendix 1), a written statement of the service's aims, objectives, facilities and services as required by the National Minimum Standards for Local Authority Adoption Services in England and Wales.
3. Torbay Council has been an approved adoption agency since 1998, and since January 2003 it has developed its own in-house adoption service to provide a full range of adoption services.
4. Torbay's adoption service had its first inspection by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in July 2004. The inspection covered both the services provided by the adoption team and those for planning adoption for children. Whilst there were a number of requirements which were not being fully met, the overall report from the inspection indicated a positive start had been made in setting up the new service. An action plan was then produced which outlined a number of requirements that the service needed to meet in the future. One of these requirements was that the service needed to produce a Statement of Purpose, which would then be approved by the relevant authority within the Council.
5. The adoption service produced a Statement of Purpose, which was presented to the Children's Services Performance Board. The Board fully endorsed the Statement of Purpose and therefore recommends that the Executive accepts and approves the Statement of Purpose for Torbay's Adoption Service.