

**Meeting: Policy Development and Decision Group  
(Joint Commissioning Team)**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Wards Affected: All**

**Report Title: Annual Adoption Report**

**Is the decision a key decision? No**

**When does the decision need to be implemented?**

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## **1. Proposal and Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the area of social care activity within adoption.

## **2. Reason for Proposal**

2.1 There continues to be a sustained government focus upon adoption as part of permanence planning in order to secure better outcomes for children by increasing the choice of adopter, avoiding drift and delay and improving post adoption support.

2.2 Torbay has continued as an active member of Adopt South West (AdoptSW) The focus of the last year has been meeting the timescale of the transition to the Regional Adoption Agency, Adopt SW, for the 'go live' of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

2.3 Attached is the annual report for adoption activity summarising activity between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

2.4 After 8 years of continued progress Torbay will, by 2017/18, continue to have exceeded the national threshold for the average time taken between entering care and the child moving in to their adoptive placement. Compared to the position as at 2010-13 (715 days) to the position as at 2015-18 (382 days) children are, on average, waiting 333 days less on this measure. Over the same period Torbay has also reduced by 174 days the average time taken between receiving the court authority to place and the finding of a match (information based on the 3 yearly average 2010-13 (334 days) to 2015-18 (160 days)).

2.5 As a small authority, Torbay has struggled to recruit adopters and it is hoped that the work underway to further develop a regional approach will provide a greater pool of adoptive families, to meet the needs of particular cohorts of children, from which Torbay can draw and enable the service to share resources around common areas of activity such as recruitment and marketing. At a local level, key areas for development include increasing the numbers of foster to adopt placements and ensuring that planning for adoption commences at the earliest opportunity, particularly for unborn or newly born children where this represents a positive option.

### **3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision**

3.1 The Policy Development and Decision Group is recommended to:

- note the Annual Adoption Report 2017/18;and,
- agree to receive updates on progress to a future meeting as part of Member oversight of the establishment of the Regional Adoption Agency.

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Annual Adoption Report 2017/18