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**To: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)**

**16 October 2025**

**Subject: Children's Services Annual Adoption Report 2024/2025**

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## **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To inform the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) of adoption activity and performance in 2024/2025. (Appendix 1)

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Scrutiny Board (2) are recommended to:
  - 1) To note the outcome and progress in 2024/2025
  - 2) Identify any recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member.

## **3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 Each local authority is required by regulation to publish an annual adoption report. The Annual Adoption Report (Appendix 1) provides an overview of adoption activity and performance for the year 2024-2025.
- 3.2 Coventry Children's Services delivers adoption services in partnership with the Regional Adoption Agency – Adoption Central England (ACE), which has been operational since 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018. This is in accordance with national policy that all local authority adoption services were required to be part of a Regional Adoption Agency by 2020.
- 3.3 ACE provides a number of services as a local authority shared services arrangement hosted by Warwickshire County Council. Details of the services provided by ACE are included in the Annual report.

## **4 Local authority adoption activity and performance update**

- 4.1 The review of adoption activity and performance data is outlined in the Annual Adoption report attached. (Appendix 1).

## **5 Summary and priorities for the next 12 months**

5.1 In partnership with ACE the local authority plans to improve and develop its adoption practise in the following key areas:

- Continue to develop collaborative working across Children's Services to for effective pre-birth, pre-proceedings and care proceedings to ensure timely permanence is achieved for all children.
- Continue to ensure fostering for adopt / early permanence is considered for every child where appropriate and a rationale for decision is recorded.
- Continue to collaborate with ACE on an operational and strategic level (via the ACE Executive board) regarding sufficiency challenges in ACE to minimise delay for children being matched with adoptive families.
- All social workers who are working with children who have a plan / potential plan of adoption will undertake permanency planning training offered by ACE to continue to promote good practice in this area.
- All social workers will undertake training on life story work, life story books offered by ACE to continue to promote good practice in this area.
- Coventry to have an established framework for assessing and supporting post adoption relationship maintenance between Adoptive families and Birth families.

### **Appendix 1: Adoption Annual Report 2024/25**

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