

MAYOR AND CABINET		
Report Title	Adoption Service Update, Revised Statement of Purpose; Children's Guides to Adoption Support Services and Children's Guides to Adoption	
Key Decision	Yes	Item No.
Ward	All.	
Contributors	Executive Director for Children & Young People Executive Director for Resources & Regeneration Head of Law	
Class	Part 1	Date: 19 July 2017

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Mayor and Cabinet with an overview of the work of the Adoption Service and the Adoption and Permanence Panel in compliance with legislation, and to present the Statement of Purpose and Children's Guides.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This report sets out the work undertaken by the Adoption Service and presents the Statement of Purpose and the Children's Guides on Adoption.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Mayor notes the report of the work of the Adoption Service.
- 3.2 That the Mayor approves the review of the Statement of Purpose 2017-18 (Appendix 1).
- 3.3 That the Mayor notes the updated Children's Guides to Adoption and Adoption Support Services (Appendix 2, 3 and 4).

4. Policy Context

- 4.1 Lewisham is a registered Adoption Agency. Adoption Agencies are subject to the Adoption Agency Regulations (AAR) 2005 and 2011 and The Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012; Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013; Children and Families Act 2014 and are subject to the National Minimum Standards 2014 (NMS) which accompany the Regulations. Standard 25.6 of the National Minimum Standards requires

the Adoption Agency to produce a six monthly report to be received by the Council Executive.

4.2 Standard 18.3 of the National Minimum Standards requires that the Adoption Agency approves and annually reviews the Statement of Purpose and the Children's Guides.

4.3 This report links to the following key corporate priorities:

- Community leadership and empowerment
- Young people achievement and involvement
- Protection of children

4.4 The Statement of Purpose contributes to five of the key priority outcomes of Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020:

- **Ambitious and achieving** – where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential
- **Safer** – where people feel safe and live free from crime, antisocial behaviour and abuse
- **Empowered and responsible** – where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities
- **Healthy, active and enjoyable** – where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being
- **Dynamic and prosperous** – where people are part of vibrant communities and town centres, well connected to London and beyond.

4.5 The Adoption Service continues to develop new services and progress with the Central Government's agenda on establishing a London Regional Adoption Agency.

5. Regionalising Adoption:

5.1 The Department for Education (DfE) paper, Regionalising Adoption proposed the move to regional adoption agencies in order to:

- Speed up matching.
- Improve adopter recruitment and adoption support.
- Reduce costs.
- Improve the life chances of vulnerable children.

5.2 The government has reinforced their policy through provisions in the Education and Adoption Bill. The DfE's ambition is for all local authorities to be part of a regionalised adoption service by 2020.

5.3 The DfE highlighted the need to draw on the best of both the statutory and voluntary sectors to ensure that systems are designed around the needs of children. It also reinforced the vision to ensure that the voice of children and adopters is at the heart of policy making and service delivery.

- 5.4 On behalf of the London Local Authorities and Voluntary Adoption Agencies, the London Adoption Board (a sub group of Adoption Leadership Board) has commissioned a 'Regionalisation Project Steering Group', which consists of 1 representative from the London Council, 8 from Local Authorities, 3 from Voluntary Adoption Agencies and 2 consultants to work on the proposal.
- 5.5 Four adoption champions have also been appointed to promote the London Regional Adoption Agency. The champions are representatives from both Local Authorities and Voluntary Adoption Agencies. By working together, they will help shape and inform options for a regional adoption agency for London.
- 5.6 At the Mayor and Cabinet meeting on 11th January 2017, Lewisham Council signed up for the regionalisation plan. In London, 26 Local Authorities have signed up for this plan and there have been two workshops for Voluntary Adoption Agencies and Local Authorities staff to consider the options.
- 5.7 The Lewisham Adoption Team has been actively involving in the 'regionalising' agenda and has participated in various consultation and development meetings.

6 Background

- 6.1 The Adoption Service is primarily a service for looked after children. It is committed to finding and supporting stable and secure adoption placements for children when adoption is the identified plan for that child. The majority of children placed for adoption have been removed from their parents through the court system. All of these children have had their plan for adoption approved by the court.

7 New Development and Performance

7.1 Dual Approval/Concurrent Carers support group, Family and Friends group and partnership working with Consortium

- 7.1.1 The Concurrent Project has now been implemented for two years. A concurrent carer is one who has been approved as both an adopter and as a foster carer. This allows them to look after a child at the earliest possible stage, prior to the making of a placement order. This is an appropriate plan for a small cohort of children and means they can potentially be placed with their adopters from hospital discharge. The Department and the Legal Team fully embrace the idea and appreciate the benefit for children being looked after by the same family without needing to endure the repeated moves while the Local Authority is assessing the birth parents and extended families. At the initial legal planning meetings, careful consideration is routinely given whether a concurrent placement is appropriate for the child. We now work in partnership with our Consortium members to share this new resource to meet the needs of our children. We also share the task in training new staff in assessing families and facilitating the support group for concurrent/dual approval carers. The support group runs monthly.

7.1.2 We recognise that for adoption to be successful, adopters need a good support network, particular for concurrent carers because they have to deal with more complex issues than general adoption; hence we are in the process of developing a new service for family and friends of the prospective carers. We are hoping the workshop for members of the adopters' support network to learn more about concurrency and the needs of children who are in concurrent placements.

7.2 New practice in supporting a fostered child's transition to their new adoptive family

7.2.1 In the UK, currently 85% of adoption placements are to 'strangers'; meaning the child has no prior relationship with the adopters. Recent research has found that there is an association between poorly managed transitions and later disruptions to the adoption, a situation where a child is returned to the placing agency, either pre or post adoption order. The proportion of adoptions that disrupt post-order lies at 3.2% (Selwyn, 2014). Though the disruption rate in Lewisham is much lower at 1%; it is clear that difficulties in an adoptive family can result in a number of challenging behaviours presented by adopted children, and the potential need for psychological services, respite and/or alternative foster care arrangements, at considerable cost to Local Authorities.

7.2.2 Ultimately, some adopted children, who have experienced disruption, may move into adulthood with significant behavioural issues, ones that could mean further need for statutory services, and potential cycles of harm to continue.

7.2.3 Given these statistics, the Lewisham Adoption Team adopts a new child-centred approach in the transition process. We are moving away from the traditional planned brief introduction to an informal longer familiarisation process, so the child feels safe to develop a feeling of trust towards the potential adopter(s) and vice versa, the potential adopters are able to attune to, and with acceptance of, the individual child's needs. This new process is to address and manage the potential trauma of moving a child from their foster placement to an adoptive home. This new approach will be reviewed and revised in the next 12 months to look at learning and how it can improve our practice.

7.3 Adoption Support Services

7.3.1 The Adoption Support Team has commissioned a therapeutic group, namely Caring with Vitality Group for Adopters led by an Independent Therapist. This group was used by 10 Families (adopters) and it was deemed to be a huge success due to its creative and innovative use of alternative therapeutic approach. Evaluation was undertaken and testimonials offered by the participants. Feedback forms and a video are available for viewing. The families have asked that this programme to be rolled again. We are looking into the possibility of self-funding sessions as the adopters felt that it benefited them greatly.

7.3.2 Francis Michael Hare 6th Earl of Listowel (Cross Party vice Chair of the Looked After and Leaving Care Committee) became aware of the innovative approach being provided by the London Borough of Lewisham Adoption Support Team. As a result the Earl attended a mid-way feedback session with the attendees of the Caring with Vitality Group and subsequently as a way of thanking the team, he invited a small group of adopters and the Team Manager to visit the House of Lords.

7.4 New Services Currently Being Considered for Development:

7.4.1 In addition to the above the Adoption Support Team has applied for further funding from the Adoption Support Fund for Group Funding to help run a Therapeutic Life Story Workshop via an Independent Agency. The workshop will run over eight weeks for eight families at a projected cost of around £10,000. The application has recently been submitted and we are currently awaiting a response from the funding agency. It will initially facilitate therapeutic training for adopters.

7.4.2 There is also a plan to apply for a second Group Funding to enable us to undertake a similar group for our Special Guardians. The Therapeutic Life Story Workshop for Special Guardians will be run by the Adoption Support Team using the Adoption Support Fund. The Therapeutic Life Story Workshop will be run over eight weeks for around eight families.

7.4.3 The Adoption Support Team has also been in discussion with the Children and Adolescents Mental Health Service (CAMHS) to look at how we can work in partnership with their service in regards to using the Adoption Support Funding to undertake Assessments by a Clinical Psychologist. The Adoption Support Team can apply to the Adoption Support Fund for up to £2,500 for each child's assessment. We currently have identified a number of Children who would benefit from having an urgent Assessment by a psychologist as these children fall outside the criteria set by CAMHS.

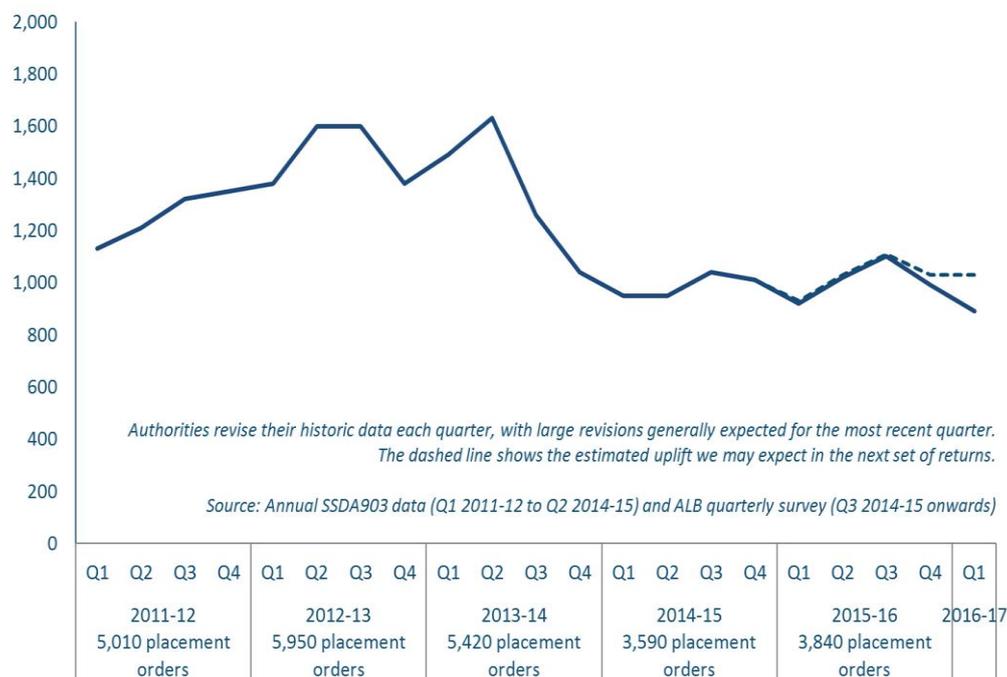
7.5 The Adoption Support Fund

7.5.1 The Adoption Support Fund has been fully implemented since May 2015 Lewisham adoptive families took appropriate advantage of the adoption support fund and received the recommended therapeutic support their children. Over the last 12 months, we have received a total of over £73,309.10 through the fund, to provide therapeutic support to our adoptive families.

7.6 Performance Indicators

7.6.1 Over the last 12 months, echoing the national trend, we have also experienced a reduced number of children for whom the final care plan was adoption. Nationally there was a continuous reduction in the number of placement orders made by the Court (45% decrease in making a placement order 2016-7 Q1, source: ALB Data return).

Number of new placement orders granted in each quarter since 2011-12



(source: ALB Data return 2016-7 Q1)

7.6.2 Adoption plans for the children are considered by two Agency Decision Makers; the Director of Children’s Social Care and one of the Service Managers. They make decisions on children’s permanency plans in rotation. The meeting is held weekly in order to meet the requirement to complete care proceedings within 26 weeks. They are able to consult with the agency’s legal, medical and adoption agency adviser and to request any further information deemed necessary. In year 2016-17, the Agency Decision Makers have agreed an adoption plan for 28 children but only 16 Placement Orders were granted by the Court.

	Apr 14- Mar 15	Apr 15- Mar16	Apr 16- Mar 17
Number of adoption plan	35	25	28

7.6.3 Due to the decreased number of placement orders made by the Court the number of adoption orders therefore was lower in the financial year 2016-17.

7.6.4 The table below shows the number of adoption orders achieved in Lewisham in the last three financial years 2014-5; 2015-6 and 2016-7:

	Apr 14- Mar 15	Apr 15- Mar 16	Apr16- Mar 17
Number of adoption orders	33	36	16
Adoption orders, child placed with family approved Lewisham	21	27	13
Adoption orders, family approved by Inter-agency	12	9	3
Number of single adopters	4	6	4
Number adopted by foster carer	2	0	7
Number adopted by relative	1	1	0
Male / Female	18/15	23/13	11/5

7.6.5 The increased number of children adopted by their foster carers reflected the increased use of Concurrent placement and Fostering for Adoption placement. This indicates that children remain with the same family without needing to endure repeated moves.

7.6.6 During the last year between 1st April 2016 and 31st March 2017, 12 children were placed for adoption, that is, they were placed with approved adoptive parents prior to an adoption order being granted.

7.6.7 The table below shows the details of the children placed for adoption over the last year. It includes details of who the children were placed with including their ethnicity and gender. In 2016/7 the Adoption Service along with colleagues across the children's directorate has an increased focus on children from a diverse ethnic background. We have partnership arrangements with other Voluntary Adoption Agencies and the London Consortia and member of AdoptionLink to identify families for those children. In the last 12 months, we participated in 3 Exchange Days and one for 'Black and Minority Ethnic Children' event. We will continue to work closely with our partner agencies to place children from BME background; older children; sibling groups; and children with complex needs.

Children placed for adoption	Apr 14- Mar 15	Apr 15- Mar 16	Apr 16- Mar 17
Number of children placed for adoption	36	19	12
With families approved by Lewisham	23	12	10
With families through inter-agency placements	13	7	2
Number of children placed with single adopters	5	1	5
Number of children placed with LGBT adopters	3	2	0
Number of children placed with foster carers	1	2	5
Male / Female	20/16	13/6	6/6/
Ethnicity			
White UK (including European)	15	8	2
Mixed heritage (incl mixed white parentage)	13	7	8
Black African Caribbean	3	1	1
Black African	3	3	1
Black African Caribbean / Black African	0	0	0
Asian	2	0	0

7.6.8 Comparison of ages at time of placement for the last three years of data.

Age of child at time of placement for adoption	Apr 14- Mar 15	Apr 15- Mar 16	Apr 16- Mar 17
Children placed	36	19	12
Under 2 years	26	15	7
Age 2 to 3	7	2	5
Age 4	2	1	0
Age 5	1	1	0
Age 6	0	0	0
Age 7-15	0	0	0

7.6.9 Children's individual needs are considered very carefully regardless of their age, and if adoption is considered to be the suitable permanency plan, we will do our best to identify families for older children.

7.6.10 The 2013-2016 Adoption Scorecard published by the Department for Education (in March 2017) confirmed that the Adoption Service in Lewisham consistently performs above national average. For example, between 2013 and 2016, the average time between a child entering care

and moving in with its adoptive family is 57 days quicker than the national average.

National performance	558 days
Lewisham	501days

7.6.11 Between 2013 and 2016, the average time between a child receiving court authority to place a child and the local authority deciding on a match to an adoptive family. Again Lewisham performs better than the national average, i.e. 53 days quicker.

National performance	226 days
Lewisham	173 days

7.6.12 The Adoption and Permanence Panel considers and makes clear recommendations to the Agency Decision Maker who has the ultimate decision making authority on behalf of the Council on a) whether a child who isn't the subject of care proceedings such as a relinquished baby, should be placed for adoption, b) whether an applicant(s) should be approved to adopt; including the consideration of Concurrent carers and Fostering for Adoption applications c) whether a specific child/ren should be matched with an identified adoptive parent(s). The guidance advises that adoption agencies must not deny or delay a child an adoptive home on the grounds that they do not share the same ethnic or cultural background. Lewisham is clear that due consideration is given to the particular characteristics and circumstances and the background of children when matching to adoptive parents but this consideration will never delay the placement.

7.6.13 The Lewisham Adoption and Permanence Panel is fully compliant with the Adoption Agency Regulations. The Lewisham Adoption and Permanence Panel, which convenes on a fortnightly basis (more frequently if required to avoid delay in a child's placement), currently consists of one elected member, six independent persons of whom two are adoptees, two are adopters, one having personal and professional experience of long term fostering and another having knowledge and expertise on education. The Medical Adviser is a paediatrician with NHS Lewisham and the chair is independent of the Council and has extensive experience of chairing meetings and excellent understanding of adoption work. The Panel is supported by a Solicitor and an Adoption Team Manager who acts as Agency Adviser.

7.6.14 Adoptive families have been informed of their rights in terms of adoption leave entitlement and the new function of Adoption Match (previously known as Adoption Register) and AdoptionLink from the onset of the adoption process. All Lewisham adopters are also entitled to free membership of We Are Family, a support group for adopters and New Family Social, an organization which provides tailored support for LGBT adopters.

7.6.15 Over the last 12 months, our priority was to assess families who were willing to consider children from mixed parentage background (Black and other ethnic background); i.e. in year 2016-7, was the first time that the

number of children placed for adoption who are from BME groups was higher than children from White British background. In response to the changing needs, we successfully increased the number of adopters from BME background and families who were willing to consider children with a more complex background.

7.6.16 In responding to the decreased number of children having an adoption plan, over the last 12 months we focused on recruiting adoptive families who would consider children who were on our list.

	Apr 14- Mar 15	Apr 15- Mar 16	Apr 16- Mar 17
Number of applicants approved to adopt	22	25	12
Of these applicants, number who were heterosexual couples	18	23	11
Of these applicants, number who were single female	2	8	6
Of these applicants, number who were single male	0	0	0
Of these applicants, number who were same sex couple	4	2	1
Of these applicants, number who were second time adopters	2	10	1
Of these applicants, number who were foster carers	1	0	5
Ethnicity			
White UK (including other European)	16	18	6
Mixed heritage (including White UK/Asian)	1	2	2
Black African Caribbean	4	2	3
Black African	0	2	1
Black African Caribbean / Black African	0	0	0
Asian	1	1	0
Other	0	0	0

7.6.17 In responding to the decreased number of children needing adoptive families and increased number of approved adoptive families waiting, in the next financial year we will continue to focus on recruiting applicants who are willing to consider children from BME background and sibling groups. However we will review our priority regularly to ensure the right balance is achieved; i.e. we always have a pool of approved families ready to adopt the children in our care.

8 Inter-country Adoption

- 8.1 Adoption in the UK is principally a service for children in the UK. A small number of applicants in the UK want to adopt a child from overseas and Lewisham, as an adoption agency, has a statutory duty to ensure these applicants are assessed and supported. From 1st April 2016, IAC- the center for adoption provides this service on behalf of Lewisham. IAC is a long standing inter-country adoption agency; providing inter-country adoption services for many local authorities; including all our Consortium partners. IAC will manage all inter-country adoption cases from enquires through to post adoption support; including provision of post adoption report to the country of origin.

9 Adoption Support and Special Guardianship Support Services

- 9.1 The Adoption Support Team undertakes adoption support assessments and makes successful applications to the Adoption Support Fund. As of 31 March 2017, 19 adoptive families received therapeutic support via the fund.
- 9.2 The Adoption Support Team is available to adoptive families; birth families and families with a Special Guardianship Order. The support services provide a range of services to families and their children which includes counseling, advice and information, workshops/support groups, an annual funday, financial support and links with CAMHS. The team also coordinates post adoption contact arrangements. Counseling is also provided to birth relatives who are losing a child to adoption and Lewisham provides an intermediary service between birth relatives and adopted adults. We also commissioned the Post Adoption Centre (PAC) to provide the support services should the families require further or independent counselling. We offer advice to social workers in other teams with regards to Special Guardianship Support Plans. We work closely with our Referral & Assessment Team colleagues when there are referrals or concerns about children subject to either an SGO or an adoption order.
- 9.3 The Adoption Support Team and Adoption Team colleagues undertake joint work to ensure families receive support pre the adoption order.
- 9.4 Over the last 12 months, the Adoption Support Team have worked with 107 cases providing a range of support services including therapy letterbox and direct contact. The 107 cases consist of 14 adopted adults and 55 adoptive families, and 36 birth families
- 9.5 We also work in partnership with our Consortium members; together we organise and facilitate support groups for adopters, Concurrent careers and group for adopted adults and teenagers. We also jointly fund the 'We are Family' group; which is a user-led adoption community that runs groups for adopters across London. The Adoption Support Service runs an annual family fun day, which is highly valued by adopters, many of whom have attended for many years.

10 National Requirements

- 10.1 The National Minimum Standards require that a clear written statement of purpose is available to all users of the service which sets out the aims and objectives of the Adoption Agency and describes the facilities and services that are provided and the principles to which the service adheres. The Lewisham Statement of Purpose 2017-18 (Appendix 1) has been updated and is presented to the Mayor & Cabinet for approval. The Updated Statement of Purpose has included information on staff and new development and information of Concurrent Care and Fostering for Adoption programme.
- 10.2 The National Minimum Standards require that two Children's Guides to Adoption and Adoption Support are produced. The Guides (Appendix 2, 3 & 4) have been updated and are presented to Mayor and Cabinet for approval.
- 10.3 Our rate of disrupted placements has consistently also been very low, in the last 10 years. There were no disruptions in year 2016-7. The recent research study on adoption disruption indicates that the national figures were about 3%. Lewisham's figure of less than 1% compares very favourably.
- 10.4 Paragraphs 6 demonstrates that Lewisham has implemented the planned changes and developed new services, such as the Family and Friends Day for Concurrent carers. We have strengthened the role of the South London Adoption Consortium in order to deliver a responsive service to ensure there are no delays in the matching process; we have jointly worked with three other members to run the Information Events and Stage 1 Learning Group. We have also expanded our partnership working with other London Consortia to support families who are waiting for a placement. The monthly list, a list of all approved adopters and children waiting for adoptive placement continues to be circulated monthly to all London Consortia. A similar approach is being arranged for adoption support services and to ensure the service is able to meet the requirements of the adoption support fund. We work very closely with the 'Regionalising Adoption' consultant group.

11 Financial Implications

- 11.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the agreement of the recommendations of the report.
- 11.2 The new funding bids to the Adoption Support Fund are to enhance service provision, if the grants are not received there is no direct impact.
- 11.3 The current grant of £73k from the Adoption Support Fund is for therapeutic support and it is anticipated at the moment that it will continue.

12 Legal Implications

- 12.1 Section 3(1) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 places a duty on the Local Authority to establish and maintain an adoption service in its area designed to meet the needs of children who may be or who have been adopted, adults who have been adopted, their parents or guardians, including parents and former guardians, and both prospective or actual adopters.
- 12.2 The Local Authority is required to maintain and operate its adoption service in accordance with detailed statutory regulations, including The Adoption Agency Regulations (AAR) 2005 and 2011 and The Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012, Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013 and it is subject to National Minimum Standards which accompany the Regulations.
- 12.3 National Minimum Standards apply to how the Local Authority discharges its duties. They do not have the force of law, but are used by registration authorities when registering and inspecting adoption agencies and adoption support agencies, to determine whether the agencies meet their obligations under the mandatory regulations.

13 Equalities Legislation

- 13.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 13.2 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 13.3 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.
- 13.4 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to

meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>

13.5 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
3. Engagement and the equality duty
4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
5. Equality information and the equality duty

13.6 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

13.7 Lewisham's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme 2016-20 sets out the council's commitment to improve the life chances of residents across the borough. In the context of this report, the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme objectives that are particularly relevant are to: improve access to services, close the gap in outcomes for our citizens and increase participation and engagement.

14 Crime and Disorder Implications

14.1 Research indicates that early adoption secures better outcomes for looked after children and improves their life chances and thereby reduces the likelihood of them becoming involved in crime or becoming victims of crime.

15 Equalities Implications

15.1 Looked After Children are one of the most vulnerable groups of children. They are more likely to have poorer education and health outcomes that lead to social exclusion. Looked After Children are also more likely to have special educational needs. Outcomes for adopted children tend to be better than for Looked After Children so adoption is positive in terms of minimising inequalities.

16 Environmental Implications

16.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

17 Conclusion

17.1 The Mayor is asked to accept the report of the Adoption Service and to approve the revised Statement of Purpose 2016-17 and the two updated Children's Guides.

18 Background documents

- Adoption Agency Regulations 2005 and 2011
- The Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012; Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013
- National Minimum Standards (Adoption) 2003, 2011 and July 2014

Appendix 1-Adoption Service Statement of Purpose 2017-18

Appendix 2-Children's Guides-Young Children

Appendix 3-Children's Guides-Older Children

Appendix 4- Children's Guides for Adoption Support