

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Briefing Paper

**MEETING TITLE AND DATE: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
25th July 2017**

REPORT TITLE: London Regional Adoption Agency Update

REPORT OF: Anne Stoker, Assistant Director, Children’s Social Care

BACKGROUND:

- The DfE require all local authorities to join a regional agency by 2020. In response, the Association of London Directors of Children’s Services (ALDCS) submitted a London proposition, which was approved for development.
- ALDCS have recommended the creation of a new local authority owned entity operating in a hub and spoke approach. The model is expected to retain a strong local link; it is recognised that local knowledge and relationships will be essential.
- Through the development of regional agencies, the DfE and ALDCS aspire to speed up matching, improve adoption support and achieve cost efficiencies. The London Regional Adoption Agency (LRAA) has been developed to meet the needs of London Boroughs. It would operate with governance through ALDCS and London Councils.
- Cabinet agreed on 16th November 2016, in principle, to join a London Regional Adoption Agency, subject to detailed financial analysis and business case and delegated authority to the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Protection, and the Director of Children’s Services to progress arrangements relating to the development and implementation of the LRAA model and negotiate with other RAA’s as appropriate.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

- Funding was secured from the DfE to proceed and work has begun to develop the business case.
- Workshops are taking place to look at the delivery model, practice standards and extent of integration, systems and information (including finance and IT), workforce (numbers, roles and transfers), logistics (sites, travel and equipment) and governance.

TIMESCALES:

January 2018 - October 2018:

- Completion and confirmation of the business case.
- Business case will be signed off by L.A.
- Stakeholder engagement and management will be in place.
- Pilot of proposal will be tested.

November 2018 – July 2019

- Phased implementation of practice, procurement, legal, finance, IT, estates, HR and staff transfer and tax and pensions

RECOMMENDATION:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive this brief update pending preparation of the full business case.
- Full business case to be tabled later in the year.