

**REPORT TO: OSC****DATE: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018****REPORT TITLE: London Regionalisation Adoption Agency Business Case****REPORT AUTHOR/S:****Anne Stoker****Anne.stoker@enfield.gov.uk****PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

It is a national requirement that all local authorities join a regional adoption agency by 2020.

This report updates Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the progress in developing a London Regional Adoption Agency (LRAA).

**SUMMARY:**

Progress has been slow with the loss of project management in October 2017. The pace has picked up with London project leads now in place and the spoke project managers appointed.

A full business case is expected to be ready to be shared and agreed locally with Members by the end of 2018.

**1. 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.
- 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Executive 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.

- A meeting took place in October 2017 with London DCS's and AD's to agree the overarching business case and funding was secured from the DfE to proceed. There is London wide project management in place, the local North London manager has been appointed starting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 which will help inform the local business case.
- The proposed London model consists of a central hub and 4 spokes, each spoke broadly emulating the current regionalisation arrangements. Enfield is part of the North RAA alongside Camden, Islington, Barnet, Hackney and Haringey. Islington are the host authority for the spoke. The Assistant Directors from the North London group are meeting every 6 weeks to progress local arrangements to feed into the London Executive group.

## **2. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

- The business case is still in development and it not clear what roles will be held in the Hub versus the spokes. The proposal from the North London RAA is that the ICT matters are managed locally with HR and legal held centrally. There are appointments (HR and legal specialists) being made centrally to progress this and clarify the best options.
- There is a lot to do to set out a clear detailed business case regarding legal changes, staffing implications and expected improved outcomes for children.

## **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

## **4. NEXT STEPS**

April 2018 - December 2018:

- Continued planning and development, building on the current North London consortium arrangements so that it is integrated into the final practice model.
- Completion and confirmation of the business case to be signed off by L.A.