

Corporate Parenting Board

8 July 2014

Annual Report of the Adoption agency

Report of the Executive Director People's Services

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Corporate Parenting Board on the work of the Adoption Agency and Adoption Panels.

2 Background

- 2.1 Sunderland has strong commitment to adoption. In 2013/14 38 Sunderland children were adopted
- 2.2. On 1/9/12 Adoption regulations changed and the adoption plans for children no longer went to the Adoption Panel. They are now approved by the Agency Decision Maker alone.

3 Detail of Annual Report

- 3.1 2013 -14 has been another very busy year for Sunderland's Adoption Agency. Over the course of the year there have been more adopters approved than ever before; 28 sets of adopters approved. In 2012/13 21 sets of prospective adopters were approved. Due to the changes in the Adoption Regulations prospective adopters now have to be assessed and approved within much tighter timescales.
- 3.2 Adopters are still much more likely to be married couples than any other group; 20 sets of adopters were married. There were 2 single adopters. There is a small increase in same sex couples adopting.
- 3.3 Over the year 48 children were approved for adoption; 28 under 2 years, 13 aged between 2 and 5, and 7 over the age of 5. 12 children were approved to be placed with a sibling. Only one of the 48 children was from a non-white ethnic background.
- 3.4 There were 47 matches between children and their new families. This is a significant increase on the 30 matches approved in 2012/13. The biggest increase in matches has been for boys.

4 Family Finding

- 4.1 The addendum to the report gives detail of the family finding activity that has taken place in Sunderland, including the successful Opening Minds Events
- 4.2 The addendum also provides information on the innovative Adoption Parties/Activity Days, the first of which was held in February 2014. This led to 11 older and harder to place children being matched with new families.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Corporate Parenting Board is requested to accept this Annual Report of the Adoption Agency and Panels.