

Appendix 2: Adoption West: In / Out of scope

Adoption West RAA will bring together the Recruitment, Matching and Adoption Support services across the six local authorities and establish formal arrangements with voluntary sector partners in order to provide the following services. Where references are made to adoption / adopters this also relates to special guardianship orders / special guardians.

For the child/ren:

- a. Family finding – shared responsibility with LAs and VAAs
- b. Matching – providing a range of options for selection
- c. Introductions
- d. Specialist work to prepare the child for adoption
- e. Supporting the life story work with the child (lead - local authority)
- f. Development of staff through supervision and training
- g. Early identification of potential for adoption – tracking of needs
- h. Challenge regarding timescales to ensure swift planning for children
- i. Review and inform sibling attachment assessments and advise the LA
- j. Oversight of concurrent/foster to adopt placements
- k. There is also potential to develop the RAA role in providing quality assurance on aspects of the child's journey, providing a greater level of challenge to custom and practice and, providing concurrency services
- l. Counselling and support in accessing birth records and liaison with LA that holds the file

For adopters:

- a. Family finding for adopters
- b. Marketing campaigns
- c. Assessment of adopters
- d. Role in introductions, adoption support assessments, adopter training
- e. Court process for adoption applications
- f. Support and supervision of placements
- g. Matching
- h. Panel and ADM
- i. Recruitment activity
- j. Provision of information
- k. Preparation groups
- l. Feedback from adopters
- m. Work with adoption link / and other providers.
- n. Services for post adoption contact
- o. Step-parent adoption assessments
- p. The arrangement of inter-country adoption

Adoption support for families:

- a. Creation and review of support plans
- b. Re-assessment of support needs as required
- c. Creation of a menu of support and ability to tailor support and commission
- d. Create and maintaining clear criteria for support – tiered approach
- e. Advertising the availability of support
- f. Commissioning bespoke packages
- g. Provision of training
- h. Direct provision of adoption support
- i. Health/psychological and therapeutic support services
- j. Seeking innovation, new income streams
- k. Planning support based of the need – analysis and review
- l. Contact – including letter box
- m. Intermediary services
- n. Birth relative counselling and support
- o. Creating and supporting an adoption community
- p. Support to Adult Adoptees
- q. Complaints

For the Regional Adoption Agency

- a. Strategic development and promotion of adoption including senior level influence with key stakeholders
- b. Relationship building and working arrangements / good practice with courts and other agencies
- c. Innovation and continuous improvement

Outside of scope

- a. The child's journey up to the point at which the decision that the child should be placed for adoption is made (local authorities)
- b. Timely agency decision maker (ADM) decision making for children (local authorities)
- c. The provision of post adoption financial allowances (local authorities – based on single agreed approach across all LAs)
- d. Duty to fund post adoption support for children (local authorities – subject to consideration of forecasting and agreement on funding model)
- e. Storage and retrieval of a child's file (remain with the placing local authority, as with all children looked after files that LAs are required to retain, but initial contact and process managed with RAA involvement and support)