

Appendix 3 - Adoption West Joint Scrutiny Panel Forward Work Programme

| 2020-21 | Topic | Witnesses / presenter |
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| Wednesday 4 November | <p>BRIEFING – Adoption UK’s Adopter Advisory Board (AAB)</p> <p>What / who is AAB and its relationship with Adoption West (conduit for communication, monitoring of services from a “customer” perspective, etc.).</p> | AAB’s chair (who attends AW Board Meetings to feedback) |
| | <p>Key Performance Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review reports that have been received by each LAs in the past 2 to 3 years and the KPIs in these (this should also identify statistical neighbours); - Review what can be provided by CHARMS (software); - DfE scorecards; - How are other RAAs reporting performance; | |
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| Wednesday 20 January | <p>BRIEFING: AUK adoption Barometer (personal / emotional – case studies and quotes)</p> <p>AUK – Covid emergency scheme report</p> | |
| | Funding arrangements – outcome of review as undertaken for the Board | |
| | Adoption West – 6 months report (April to September) | |
| | Amended Terms of Reference (membership to include chair of the AAB as non-voting member of the panel) | |
| | Annual report for the AW Joint Scrutiny Panel | |
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| Wednesday 17 March | <p>BRIEFING – internal.</p> <p>Animation – adoption from a young person’s experience (AW website)</p> | |
| | <p>Develop knowledge of the AW adoption panels (e.g. approval of adopters, matching, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership of the panels - Adoption Panel Six Monthly Report (including quality assurance) | an adviser to explain the work of the panel, and |

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| | | a panel member to talk about experience. |
| | <p>Recruitment of adopters / adopter sufficiency (Q3 data)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - feedback and “lessons learnt” from national campaign (currently planned for September 2020); - current number of adopters for AW and “anticipated demand” - how AW does recruit and assess potential adopting families, and how the “supply” matches “demand”. | |
| | <p>Service / Covid-19 update</p> <p>To receive a verbal update on work under current restrictions (and impact) but also plans for “recovery” - including areas considered for changes in ways of working (e.g. better use of technology, virtual meetings avoiding the need for childcare, etc.) and aspirations for Adoption West for the year ahead.</p> | |
| | <p>Review the work of the joint scrutiny panel – lessons learnt and legacy (pre 2021 elections)</p> <p>Finalise annual report</p> | n/a |
| 2021-22 | | |
| Wednesday 14 July 2021 | BRIEFING – Adoption from an adopter’s perspective - focusing on adoption support | Adopters |
| | Meet the chairman of the Adoption West board | |
| NB – to remain single substantive item to allow time for consideration | <p>Adoption support - delving deeper into what is meant by “Adoption Support” and develop understanding of the ASF (Adoption Support Fund)</p> <p>Regarding the ASF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Process to apply (including criteria / what can be applied for) - Issues raised by adopters and Adoption Agencies regarding year-on-year funding - Adoption UK’s review of the covid emergency scheme (and any update from government since) <p>regarding support:</p> | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National blueprint for adoption support – how does AW compare (internal review taking place from February 2021) - Is there any support that is mandatory? - Overall support offered by AW showing universal support / on-demand - Funding of support (and monitoring of spend and efficiency) - Evaluation of need – how are adoptive families consulted / any other evaluation - The development of “early support” (priority for AW mentioned at the May 2020 meeting) | |
| | Adoption West - 6 months report (October to March) | |
| Wednesday 13 October 2021 | BRIEFING – adoption from an adopter’s perspective – focusing on the process to become an adopter. | Adopters |
| | <p>Adoption process The adoption process for the child (from a child being identified as “at risk”, being removed, being in care, etc. all the way to the adoption order). If possible, a diagram showing the process and the different decision-making stages (and decision makers).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AW’s animation “I am Tia” <p>The adoption process for adopters – expanding on something like this https://www.first4adoption.org.uk/the-adoption-process/</p> | Adoption social worker / Legal Services |
| | Adoption UK Barometer 2021 (should be published in September) NB focus on support for adolescent and young adults (key issue from Adoption Barometer 2020 as identified at January 2021 meeting) | Adoption UK rep? |
| | Update / progress on the AW development plan [NB may be superseded by update on chosen KPIs] | |
| Wednesday 12 January 2022 | BRIEFING - tbc | |
| | Evaluation of RAAs – should come out September / November 2021 Already 4 reports published as at 01.03.2021 DfE - Evaluation of regional adoption agencies - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) | |
| | Adoption West – long term vision (may be in 6 months report) Permanency planning – progress and plans | |
| | Annual review of terms of reference (last reviewed 20 January 2021) | |

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| | Update on arrangements / work to date with all 6 local authorities to “co-ordinate” reporting on adoption | |
| | Review the scrutiny panel’s annual report (DRAFT) For each member of the panel to consult with his / her overview and scrutiny committee on the draft report | |
| | Adoption West – 6 months report (April to September) | |
| Wednesday 13 April 2022 | BRIEFING - | |
| | Annual review - Recruitment of adopters / adopter sufficiency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - current number of adopters for AW and “anticipated demand” - Quarter x Data - AW performance in recruitment of adopters compared to national (CoramI stats) - how the “supply” matches “demand” (e.g. sibling adopters, older child adopter, BME adopter, etc.) - how AW currently advertises / recruits adopters (key “selling points” for adopters to sign up with AW rather than other RAA or VAA) - AW compliance with national requirement / targets for processing of adopters’ applications + matching + etc. (all scorecard data linked to adopters) - feedback and “lessons learnt” from any national campaign / drive to recruit adopters | |
| | Finalise scrutiny panel’s annual report | |

Repeat items:

January / February: annual review of terms of reference

February / March / April: produce the panel’s annual report (to be presented in / around May in conjunction with AW’s annual report and LAs performance reports)

June / July: Adoption West – 6 months report (October to March), produced in May

December / January: Adoption West – 6 months report (April to September), produced in November