

Cabinet

17 May 2022

Aspire Adoption Statement of Purpose 1st of April 2022 to 2023 and Annual Report 1st April 2021 to 31st of March 2022

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s):

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Michelle Whiting

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary: Dorset Council has a duty under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 to establish and maintain an adoption service for its area.

Along with BCP Council, Dorset Council discharges this duty through a delegation of functions to Aspire Adoption, a Regional Adoption Agency. Dorset retains overall responsibility for its adoption and special guardianship services, continuing to have parental responsibility for its own Children in Care but most adoption and some special guardianship functions are delegated to Aspire Adoption.

The appended report is the fourth annual adoption report presented by Aspire Adoption, summarising the work of the agency in the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. It has been written to ensure and provides the Council with an opportunity to satisfy itself that the requirements of the Statutory Adoption Guidance 2013 and the Adoption Minimum Standards 2014 are met.

This report provides a summary of the comprehensive self-evaluation of Aspire Regional Adoption Agency

Recommendation: That the Aspire Adoption Annual Report and Statement of Purpose be received and noted.

Reason for Recommendation: That Cabinet is satisfied that the Aspire Statement of Purpose accurately describes the activities that the agency discharges on behalf of Dorset Council and the Annual Report satisfies the report that these activities were discharged to a high standard in the last year.

1. **Report**

1.1 Please see the reports attached

2. **Financial Implications**

Aspire Adoption Agency delivered services for the financial year 2021 to 2022 within the agreed budget. Aspire Executive Board will have access to the full financial report

3. **Climate Implications**

None

4. **Well-being and Health Implications**

None

5. **Other Implications**

None

6. **Risk Assessment**

6.1 **HAVING CONSIDERED:** the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as: **LOW**

Current Risk: LOW
Residual Risk: LOW

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

The service promotes permanence for children through Special Guardianship and Adoption and services to support adopters and Special Guardians. It commissions an independent birth parent service.

The statement of purpose outlines the services commitment to dignity, equality and respect for all who come into contact with the service.

8. **Appendices**

Aspire Adoption Annual Report for Dorset Council – 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.
Aspire Adoption 3-year Financial Model
Aspire Adoption – Statement of Purpose 2022 - 2023

9. **Background Papers**

Aspire Adoption Annual Report 2021 to 2022
Aspire Adoption Statement of Purpose 2022 to 2023