

Corporate Parenting Board

28 May 2025

Aspire Adoption Statement of Purpose 1st April to 31st March 2026 and Annual Report 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

For Review and Consultation

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr C Sutton, Children's Services, Education & Skills

Local Councillor(s):

Executive Director:

P Dempsey, Executive Director of People - Children

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Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

Members of Corporate Parenting Board are requested to note the content of this report which captures the work of Aspire over the last financial year and progress made against our priorities.

Reason for Recommendation:

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

Dorset Council along with BCP 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 8th annual adoption report presented by Aspire Adoption, summarising the work of the agency in the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025. It has been written to provide the local authority with an opportunity to satisfy itself that the requirements of the Statutory Adoption Guidance 2013 and the Adoption Minimum Standards 2014 are met and that the activities of Aspire were discharged to a high standard in the last year.

1. Report

1.1 Please see the reports attached:

- Aspire Adoption Statement of Purpose 1st April to 31st March 2026
- Aspire Annual Report 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

2. Financial Implications

2.1 Aspire Adoption Agency delivered services for the financial year 2024 to 2025 over the agreed budget. Aspire Strategic Board will have access to the full financial report.

3. Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications

3.1 Having sufficient adopters who reflect the diverse needs of Dorset Children ensures that Aspire is able to meet the needs of our children who have a plan for adoption and that the plan is achieved in a timely way.

3.2 This also reduces the amount of travel undertaken by families and children's services staff. Reduced travel will lead to a reduction in the associated emissions from travel which is in line with the council's priority of protecting the natural environment, climate and ecology.

4. Well-being and Health Implications

Children are able to achieve permanence in a timely way.

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

7.1 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.

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

8. ACCESSIBLE TABLE SHOWING IMPACTS

Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Strategy Commitments	Impact
Energy	No known impact
Buildings & Assets	No known impact
Transport	No known impact
Green Economy	No known impact
Food & Drink	No known impact
Waste	No known impact
Natural Assets & Ecology	No known impact
Water	No known impact
Resilience and Adaptation	No known impact

Corporate Plan Aims	Impact
Prosperity	strongly supports it
Stronger healthier communities	strongly supports it
Sustainable Development & Housing	strongly supports it
Responsive & Customer Focused	strongly supports it

TABLE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations	Responses -will this be incorporated into your proposal? How? And if not, why not?
Energy	
No recommendations found for this category	
Buildings & Assets	
No recommendations found for this category	
Transport	
No recommendations found for this category	
Green Economy	
No recommendations found for this category	
Food & Drink	
No recommendations found for this category	
Waste	
No recommendations found for this category	
Natural Assets & Ecology	
No recommendations found for this category	
Water	
No recommendations found for this category	
Resilience & Adaptation	
No recommendations found for this category	

9. Background Papers

- Aspire Adoption Annual Report 2024 to 2025
- Aspire Adoption Statement of Purpose 2025 to 2026

10. Report Sign Off

- 11.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring

Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the appropriate Portfolio Holder(s)