

## **MAJOR REVIEW –ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN - WITNESS SESSION 1**

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### **REASON FOR ITEM**

To enable the Committee to gather evidence as part of their Major Review in relation to Adoption.

### **OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE**

1. Question the witnesses
2. Highlight issues for further investigation
3. To make a note of possible recommendations for the review

### **INFORMATION**

At this Committee's last meeting of 19 January 2012 Members gave consideration to a draft scoping report for their second major review into Adoption and Permanence of Looked After Children.

For this meeting Members have been provided with a background report which provides details of the process for Adoption, together with performance information locally and nationally to give Members an overview of the area of adoption.

For this **first witness session** Members will hear evidence from:

LB Hillingdon Adoption Panel Independent Chair, Panel members and Legal Advisor

Children's Resources Service Manager

Service Manager for Children in Care Services  
Head of QA & Safeguarding to represent Independent Reviewing Officers.

A British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) representative and/or

A representative from the review board being chaired by Martin Narey  
(Government Advisor on Adoption)

### **Possible Lines of Enquiry / questions**

Questions relating to the current performance in relation to securing permanence and those relating to the investment in permanence required to avoid escalating costs for Looked After Children?

What is the impact on children and families of support after adoption and the consequences of not providing it?

What can be done to avoid delays and to secure permanence for children who need it?

How will we attract and recruit a sufficient range of carers and adopters to meet children's needs?

What are the key roles in the partnership required to secure timely and appropriate permanence for children?

### **Information and advice**

### **PAPERS WITH THE REPORT**

Scoping report attached as Appendix A.  
Background Report on Adoption – Appendix B

### **SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ACTIVITY**

- (1) Members are asked to question the witnesses to enable them to gather evidence as part of the review.
- (2) To update the scoping report (if necessary) as a result of information gathered during the witness session and to identify any areas or other lines of enquiry which will be required to help Members in their review.