

Surrey Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose

2018-19

1) Introduction

The Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005 require Adoption Agencies to provide a clear annual statement of the aims and objectives of the service and our strategy for meeting these.

This statement provides details of:

- Service Aims and Objectives
- Service overview
- Activity
- Management structure, numbers, qualifications and experience of the staff
- Quality assurance and external monitoring mechanisms
- Arrangements for the handing of Complaints
- Arrangements for revision and circulation of the statement.

2) Service aims and objectives

Surrey's Adoption Service aims to secure adoption in a timely manner for children unable to live within their family of origin. We also provide support to all those affected by adoption, in recognition that adoption confers life-long challenges, for adoptees, adoptive families and birth families.

Our aims are informed by the following principles:

- Adoption is one of a range of permanency arrangements.
- In matching children with prospective families, the child's welfare is paramount.
- Practice is informed by the best available evidence.
- Promotion of early permanence
- We match both with Surrey families and families approved by other agencies.
- Support is available throughout the child's growing years and beyond.

- Enquiries are welcomed from a diverse range of families
- Enquirers receive a professional, timely and respectful response
- Matching is undertaken in a holistic manner, considering the ability of the proposed prospective adopters to promote the child's needs throughout their childhood.
- Surrey adopters represent a valued resource for our own children and children from other placing authorities

4) Service overview: we provide

- Family finding for children in need of adoption.
- A range of post order services -for families who have adopted.
- Assessment of adults wishing to adopt a child from care (Agency adoption)
- Assessment of adults wishing to adopt known children under a non-Agency process
- Counselling and support services - for adopted adults
- Support services for birth relatives- of adopted children

5) Family Finding:

We find families for children in need of adoption, whether this is a result of a request from the birth parent(s) for the child to be adopted, or more typically because a Family Court has given agreement to place the child for adoption.

We aim to settle a child in a permanent home as quickly as possible, given that this helps to secure positive outcomes for adopted children.

Timeliness is actively monitored both in terms of the average time taken for a child to be placed in an adoptive family, and on a case by case basis.

Holistic matching

We know that children from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds often wait longer to be placed in a family, so we adhere to current adoption guidance, enabling children to be placed within a family that can support their cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious needs, without the requirement that the family must match the child in every respect.

Siblings

Children are placed with their siblings, unless there are clear indications that this would not be in their best interests, mindful that for most children this is a life long relationship which confers considerable benefit.

Whilst finding a family for a larger sibling group is challenging, family size and limited placement options should in themselves not be a reason to move prematurely to planning to place siblings separately.

Where there is a belief that placement together is in the children's best interests, it is important to make every effort to find a family that can provide this.

For some, however, early neglect and abuse can result in developmental trauma, with long term implications for the child and parent. This means that careful consideration is needed, looking at both the risks and benefits of placing the children together.

Where it is considered to be in the best interests of children to grow up in separate households from their siblings, contact between siblings placed separately is actively promoted.

Interagency placements

Given the need to ensure that children do not wait longer than absolutely necessary, we will look beyond Surrey where necessary, making use of placements provided by other local authority adoption teams and voluntary adoption agencies.

Family finding process

The child is assigned to a specialist worker from the Adoption Service to work alongside the child's own social worker to identify a family. The family finder meets the child and their carer and together they create a profile of the child's personality and needs.

Where the child is of an age to express their wishes and feelings, these are incorporated into the child's profile, which is circulated to other adoption agencies and made available at events such as regional adoption exchanges-designed to bring the children to the attention of potential adopters. In recent years, children and potential adopters have also attended adoption activity days with their foster carers with the aim of encouraging 'adopter lead matching'.

Use of a national adoption register, Adoption Match, and a second commercial register, Link maker, also provide opportunities for children to be matched with adopters beyond their own local authority area or pool of approved potential adopters.

Foster carers who wish to adopt a child in their care

Where foster carers express interest in adopting a child in their care this is carefully considered. Research indicates that these placements based on an existing relationship often are amongst the most successful. 4 children were adopted by their foster carers in 2018/19.

Activity for the period April 2018-March 2019

34 looked after children from Surrey were matched with adopters, 25 were placed in new families, and 25 adoption orders were made in this period. (There is always a delay between a child being placed in an adoptive family and then formally adopted. This is because of the need for a settling in period, hence some of the adoption orders reflect placements made in the previous year when more placements were made).

23 children were placed with adopters approved by Surrey and 2 with adopters approved by another adoption Agency. A further 11 children from other local authorities were placed with adopters approved by Surrey, meaning that a total of 36 children were placed with our adopters.

9 children were placed with siblings, and 6 children were adopted by adopters who agreed to care initially under fostering regulations, enabling the children to join what might become a permanent family earlier than could be achieved otherwise.

6) Post Order Support Services:

Adoption is a life-long issue for the child, and for both their adoptive and birth families. This is reflected in the Adoption Support Services Regulations 2005, which consider the needs of various groups of people whose lives have been affected by adoption.

Adoptive families

Following the making of an adoption order, we review the need for an ongoing social work service, and agree any updates needed to the adoption support plan for that child. Many families choose to remain in contact informally with the Agency following adoption, through attending regular training or family events, and adopted children may attend one of a number of groups we run.

We provide a monthly drop-in for our adopters, with the facility to book a one to one slot for confidential advice. This type of support is available to anyone caring for a child adopted from care and living in Surrey and does not require an assessment of need.

In addition, many adopted children and their families receive targeted help following an assessment. Examples include help to manage direct or indirect contact on behalf of their child with members of the child's birth family, or financial support on a one off or regular basis where this is needed to enable the family to meet the exceptional needs of their child.

We also support young adopted people with regards to accessing and managing their adoption story, or in managing relationships at home or in school.

The Adoption Support Services Adviser

The Children and Adoption Act 2014 requires local authorities to ensure that adoptive families are aware of their entitlement to request an assessment of support needs following adoption, and we currently publicise this through our public facing website, regular newsletters sent out to over 600 adoptive families on our mailing list and also via a secure adoption website, to which access is given to approved adopters and those undergoing assessment.

An Adoption Support Services Adviser (ASSA), currently Debra Hale, assisted by our Referral and Information Officer, acts as a point of contact for those affected by adoption and seeking advice about support services.

The ASSA accordingly provides information, advice and signposting to relevant support services including partner agencies such as health, education and voluntary sector services.

Eligibility for support where another Agency acted as the placing Agency

Adopters caring for children placed by other agencies (or who move into Surrey) remain the responsibility of the placing authority for the first 3 years following the making of the Adoption Order. A placing Agency may, however, seek advice from the ASSA as regards accessing local support services on the child's behalf. Following three years from the date the order was made, responsibility for assessing support needs passes to Surrey, assuming that the family continues to live here.

Adoption Support Fund

In May 2015 access to a government funded Adoption Support Fund (ASF) was opened out to local authorities in England to enable them to apply for funding for therapeutic services following an assessment of adoption support needs. This has enabled the Service to increase access to support following placement in an adoptive family services, through commissioning independent providers, in addition to the offer of in house support or referrals to a specialist post order CAMHS service operating within the Surrey and Borders Partnership.

7) Assessment Service for adults wishing to adopt a child from care.

The Service aims to recruit a pool of adopters to meet the needs of looked after children with adoption care plans. We review our recruitment needs every 3 months, mindful that these can change over time. In communicating these needs to the general public, we aim to be transparent about the additional challenges involved in adoption, whilst encouraging enquirers to think about how adoption could enrich both their own and a child's life.

Recruiting families for children likely to wait longest for a family is generally a priority; typically these include: children over 4, siblings, children with health issues, developmental delay or uncertainty, children with complex emotional needs and children from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds

Initial enquiries

Up to 25 new enquiries are received a month via our web page or telephone. All enquirers are responded to within 2 working days, and the enquirer offered an opportunity to attend a Readiness2adopt session; held twice a month at our offices involving a brief presentation, followed by an interview with a social worker.

The purpose of the sessions is to inform the enquirer about the needs and characteristics of adopted children. We hope that this will enable the enquirer to make informed decisions as regards the following:

- Is adoption for them?
- Is Surrey the right Agency for them to seek to register interest?
- Is this the right time for them to register interest?

We also apply some general eligibility criteria

- Residence: we will consider non Surrey residents in exceptional circumstances, particularly if they are wishing to consider a child from any of the priority groups
- Applicants can be single, married, in a civil partnership or be an unmarried couple (same or opposite sex)
- There is no upper age limit, but applicant(s) must be aged 21 or over,
- They should be domiciled or habitually resident in the UK
- They should have no declared specified offences against children or convictions which might indicate unsuitability to work with children or vulnerable adults. (Formal checks are made later if the Agency accepts an application.)
- The applicants should not still be undergoing fertility treatment or investigations of fertility. (We generally consider that a minimum of 6 months should have elapsed since the last treatment.)
- We consider applicants who have children living as part of their household on a case-by-case basis.
- The applicant(s) need to be able to commit to having a parent at home full time for a minimum of 6 months following placement of a child for adoption.
- Health and fitness levels mean that they could meet the needs of a child through to adulthood
- We follow current evidence based guidance from BAAF on the detrimental effects of passive smoking for children under 5 and children with respiratory problems. We will refer any enquirers wishing to be considered for these children to their general practitioner with a view to working to the goal of cessation for a minimum period of 12 months before they seek to register interest.
- We are currently considering the emerging evidence base as regards the impact of e cigarettes.
- Enquiries are welcomed from single applicants and those applying as a couple (irrespective of whether the relationship is one that is legally recognised or whether it involves a same sex or different sex partnership).
- The applicant(s) should be settled in their accommodation, with suitable and sufficient accommodation for a child to be placed
- Applicants should be willing to engage with the assessment process including background checks.
- Applicants need to demonstrate childcare experience or be willing to extend their experience or obtain this.

Following the initial meeting enquirers receive a brief report for comment and amendment. They can then request to register interest in pursuing an application. We are not obliged to accept a registration of interest, but if we decline to take things further, we will provide reasons, and this may result in further dialogue and possible review of our decision.

Typical reasons for declining a registration might be that we do not have need of adopters for the age range or characteristics that the enquirer is most interested in, or we lack capacity to offer an assessment. Where we do not have capacity, we may signpost the enquirer to another adoption Agency. In other instances, we may decline to register interest where there are ongoing life events or commitments that mean we do not think this is the right time for the applicant to start the adoption journey.

Assessment

Those accepted progress to a 2 stage process. The initial stage lasting 2 months is adopter lead, and consists of the adopter furthering their knowledge about adoption, providing further information about themselves, through a series of self assessment tasks and undergoing background checks including a DBS check.

Whilst in the main, a case by case approach is taken with regards to any offences, our eligibility criteria does preclude offences involving children and we have an expectation that applicants are open and forthcoming with us as regards this, and indeed all other aspects of their application. A medical is also undertaken by the applicants' own GP and reviewed by our medical adviser.

On completion of stage one, the Agency reviews all the information held and determines whether or not to progress the applicant to stage 2, which is adopter lead and results in presentation of a completed assessment to the adoption Panel. Stage 2 should be completed within 4 months.

We agree a plan at the outset of both stages, to enable applicants to know what is expected and how we will work with them.

Bringing adoption to life

Applicants attend a preparation course held at our Woking offices. The learning style is informal, involving a high degree of applicant participation, and days are themed as follows;

- The adopter journey
- The child's journey
- The joining of the ways
- The lifelong challenges of adoption

The facilitators provide feedback on the applicant's participation, which is used to inform assessment, and applicants also complete their own reflections on the experience and what they feel they have learnt.

As part of any assessment, process visits are also arranged to foster carers and experienced adopters to hear real life stories. We also facilitate a monthly 'meet the adopters' session for applicants. Applicants are invited to visit our fortnightly adoptive Parent and Toddler group, providing additional opportunity to meet adoptive families and hear about the role that peer support plays in adoption.

Applicants and the assessing social worker work together during stage 2, with some meetings taking place in the applicants' home, others in the office. Adoption stories are used throughout to enable the applicants to consider the needs of children we place for adoption and to think about what life after adoption might entail. The result is a comprehensive prospective adopter's report, seen and commented upon by the applicants.

In practice, applicants contribute significantly to their reports. The assessment is overseen by a manager and a manager's report is also provided to the Adoption Panel. Where there is need of a second opinion to lend weight to the social worker's recommendation or to provide an independent view on any issue, this is arranged in order to assist the Panel.

In the few cases where the Agency is unable to support an application, it has the option to present either a full or a brief report to the Panel, detailing its enquiries and the reasons for its concerns. The applicants are always invited to attend the Panel meeting and present their own views.

Adoption Panel

Surrey has an Adoption Panel which draws on a central list of members, as required by the Adoption Agencies Regulations and National Minimum Standards. Panels must be quorate when they meet with a minimum of 5 members present including the Chair. Panels make recommendations as follows:

- Whether to approve applicants as prospective adopters
- To review approval where there has been a significant change of circumstances
- To consider whether a child should be placed for adoption in the event that there is a request from the child's birth parent(s) for the child to be adopted

- To consider proposed matches of children with prospective adopters
- To hear cases of placement disruption and consider learning
- To hold regular reviews of Agency activity, including updates on children or potential adopters presented previously.

In accordance with the Regulations, National Minimum Standards and statutory Adoption Guidance we have appointed an Independent Chair and Vice Chair. We also appoint a non-voting Panel Adviser to provide advice and support to the Chair and Panel.

Additional voting members include:

- Medical Advisor
- County Councillor
- Independent Members
- Children's Services Representatives

The independent members include a number of adoptive parents, with lived experience of the adoption process and members who were themselves adopted as children.

All Panel Members undergo an application process including the taking up of references and DBS checks. In accordance with National Minimum Standards, they are required to have annual appraisals and the Agency must maintain files for each Panel member which can be made available for inspection by Ofsted. Annual training is provided.

Legal and medical advice is made available to the Panel, and the Panel can make use of additional advice as required from other disciplines. The Panel is assisted by an administrator, who provides detailed minutes from each Panel meeting.

The Panel meets most weeks in order to ensure that there is no delay in cases being heard.

Applicants are given the choice whether to attend Panel meetings. In recent years, it has been the case that all applicants have elected to attend and this has been considered very helpful by the Panel, enabling them to gain a fuller sense of the applicants and what they have to offer our children.

The Panel has three options available: to recommend that the Agency accepts the application, that it rejects the application or to defer the application for additional information. In all instances, the practice of Panel is to provide the applicants with verbal confirmation of the recommendations following its deliberations on the day, with the proviso that formal ratification of the recommendation is required.

The Agency Decision Maker

The Agency Decision Maker, a senior member of Surrey Children's Services, decides whether to ratify the Panel's recommendation, taking account of all the available information including the minutes of the Adoption Panel meeting. The decision is then confirmed in writing.

In the event that the Agency does not approve an application or decides not to complete a partially assessed case, the applicants have the choice of seeking a further determination by a review Panel (see IRM) or Surrey's own adoption Panel.

Independent Review Mechanism (IRM)

The Independent Review Mechanism was launched on 30th April 2004. It is currently operated by CoramBAAF on behalf of the Department of Education. The IRM provides a review of the information considered by the original Panel, plus any additional information the applicants think is relevant. No cases were referred to the IRM last year.

Review of approval

All approved adopters who have not had a child placed with them within 12 months of their date of approval are required to have an annual review of their approval. This is completed internally within the adoption service, unless there has been a significant change of circumstance or the approval is of 3 years duration, in which case a fuller review is required and must be presented to Panel.

Following approval

The adoption worker remains in contact with the family following approval, and a matching plan is agreed to look how the prospective adopters and Agency can work together to secure a match.

There is a regular training programme provided, and adopters are expected to continue in their learning and development pending matching and following placement of children, in recognition of the additional challenges that adoptive parenting brings. As such, we try to ensure that adoption remains a 'live' issue following the end of the application process. Sessions typically run most monthly and are held in the evenings as part of a rolling programme.

The subjects are selected to build on the earlier training, with sessions such as: Introductions, Attachment, Related by Adoption (for friends and family of adopters), Matching, Social networks and adoption, Use of the post box, Contact and Life story books.

Matching with a child

We are notified of any child in Surrey where there is consent given for adoption (this might be provided by the birth parents or, more typically, the Family Court following care proceedings.) The Agency Adviser maintains a list of all families currently approved by the Agency to adopt and meets with the child's social worker to identify a family best able to meet the child's needs.

As such, there is no waiting list whereby adopters are matched on the basis of length of time waiting. In practice waiting times vary considerably, influenced by the numbers and needs of children available for adoption and the range of acceptance of the waiting adopters.

The adoption worker discusses any potential match with the family, thus starting a process of information sharing, designed to help all involved to think about the merits and possible risks of the proposed match. As part of this information sharing, the prospective adopters meet the current carer, our medical adviser and any other professionals involved with the child. We also organise an opportunity to see the child-typically at a distance to check that they wish to commit to the next stage.

Only when both the family and the professional network are satisfied about the match and a support plan has been agreed, is the match then formally considered by the Agency-which seeks a recommendation from the adoption Panel and ratification by the Agency Decision Maker.

Matching with a child from another local authority

Adopters are not restricted to adopting from their home authority, and so called 'adopter lead matches' have become increasingly common. We currently are working within an informal partnership with colleagues from Brighton and Hove City Council, and East and West Sussex County Councils. This means that in practice we are likely to approach those agencies first when we need a placement and vice versa.

Adopters can express interest in children from other local authorities following attendance at adoption events and having searched registers such as the National Adoption Register and Link maker. As with local matches, the priority when managing inter agency enquires will be to ensure that the adopter under consideration is able to meet the child's needs throughout childhood

Moving into the new family

The child's social worker and foster carer carefully prepare the child to move onto their new family, using story books and a welcome book which has been made by the adoptive family.

A planning meeting agrees a plan for introductions of the child to its new family, typically over 10-14 days with a review midway to check that things are on course and that everyone remains committed to the plan.

Regular visits are required under Adoption regulations following an adoption placement, weekly for the first 4 weeks of a placement, with a looked after child review held within the first 28 days

of placement. Visits to the family are usually shared between the adoption worker and the child's own social worker during this period.

Working with the local authority

When placed in the new family, the child is still formally a looked after child and as such prospective adopters share parental responsibility with the local authority, and to a limited extent, the child's birth parents.

The local authority will delegate authority for day to day decision making to the prospective adopters under an agreement made prior to the child moving in. This enables the prospective adopters to act in the role of a parent, pending the finalising of the adoption, typically some months later.

The child's progress within the placement is monitored by their social worker who continues to visit the child regularly. This continues until the adoption order has been made. In some instances, additional support may be provided, dependent on individual circumstances such as provision of financial support, visits from a family support worker, or therapeutic help.

Role of the Court

At such time that the family and the Agency are of the shared view that the child no longer needs to remain a looked after child, the family are encouraged to make an application for an adoption order. The timing of this is discussed at the child's looked after child reviews - which happens at prescribed intervals-within 28 days of placement, thereafter 3 months later and then 6 months after that.

The Court cannot consider an application for an adoption order before the child has been in their new home for at least 10 weeks, and in practice the timing of each application varies. When the time is right however, applicants are assisted to submit their application, and briefed as regards the court process.

Birth parent's views as regards the adoption application are sought, and some exercise a right to seek leave to oppose the making of an adoption order, perhaps hoping that the child can be returned to their care. The court applies a 2 stage test to any such application-considering whether there has been a change of circumstances for the birth parent sufficient to warrant consideration of the application and also the welfare of the child.

Approvals

We approved 42 applications in 2018-19, including heterosexual couples, single adopters and same sex couples.

We are pleased to see an increasingly diverse range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds reflected in our approvals, which is helpful given the needs of our children.

8) Non Agency Adoption:

Non agency adoption is a service to families applying to adopt a child who was not placed by an Adoption Agency. Applications are generally driven by the wish of somebody who already is caring for a child to formalise the relationship through adoption.

This service is mainly accessed by step parents, and relatives wishing to adopt a child of their family following placement under a private arrangement. However, we also work with inter country adopters who have adopted a child overseas where the adoption is not recognised in the UK.

With children to be adopted from abroad, there are additional visiting and reviewing requirements as specified under the Adoptions with foreign elements Regulations 2011.

All non-Agency adoption applicants are required to give the local authority 3 months notice of their intention to make an application for an adoption order, and this provides a window for counselling and information gathering, ahead of the need to respond to a request for a report from the Court.

As with agency adoption, extensive checks are made, with other agencies and personal referees. Applicants undergo Disclosure and Barring Service checks, and for most a medical examination is also required.

The service then provides a comprehensive report to the Court. This must include consideration of the welfare checklist as set out in primary legislation, i.e. the social worker is required to consider how the making of the order will impact for the child in the present and in future years. They must also consider whether there are alternative legal arrangements which could better meet the child's needs and the impact of the order for the applicant, the birth parents, and the wider family network.

9) Adopted adults can access the following:

- Birth records counselling.
- Support and advice to adoptees in relation to adoption records held in the Surrey archive, or with regard to accessing alternative registered intermediary services
- Access to independent counsellors
- Access to a monthly support group
- Signposting for Intermediary services for adopted adults

10) Birth relatives affected by adoption can access:

- A specialist Birth Relative Parents worker,
- Counselling via a service level agreement with an independent adoption support Agency
- Assistance with maintaining contact through facilitated meetings or through the Surrey post box with their child's adoptive family, including assistance with letter writing if this is needed.

11) Quality Assurance and performance monitoring

We monitor the quality of our work in a variety of ways:

- Adoption Panel provides feedback on individual cases to the operational teams.
- A Quarterly Adoption Forum acts as a strategic interface between Panel and the Agency.
- Twice yearly Annual Adoption Agency Reports and updates are provided to elected members.
- We submit quarterly data to the Adoption Leadership Board-a national body set up to monitor performance and drive improvement in the field of adoption. We consequently receive an annual 'Scorecard' from the Department of Health based on this data.
- Ofsted inspects the Agency three yearly-most recently in 2018 where adoption services in Surrey were rated as 'good'.

12) Feedback from service users

Feedback mechanisms for service users are built in to all key stages of the adoption process and have recently been revised to improve opportunities for young people to be give feedback on the service. In addition, there is an active focus group for service users which meets quarterly and provides feedback on service delivery and development.

13) Management and staffing (See appendix 1)

The Service is managed within the Care Services part of Countywide Services, which forms one arm of Surrey Children's Services

Joanne Rabbitte was appointed as the Assistant Director for Children's Resources on the 1st of October 2019 and has strategic oversight of the service. She holds a Certificate of Qualification in Social Work and a Post Graduate Management Qualification.

Suzanne Chambers, Service Manager is the operational and policy lead for Adoption and registered manager following appointment in 2010. Suzanne holds a B.A. (Hons) Psychology: awarded by the University of Durham in 1981 and a MSc Social Policy and social work studies

and Certificate of Qualification in Social Work from London University (L.S.E.) awarded in 1987 as well as a Diploma in health and social care management level 5 (2013).

4 Full Time Equivalent Team Managers complete the management team, each holds functional leads as well as providing regular supervision to staff.

Casework and group work functions are provided by 15 full-time equivalent Social Workers, assisted by 4 Assistant Social Workers. The team is also supported by a dedicated team of business support staff. In addition the following are commissioned by the Adoption Service:

- Independent Chair of the Adoption Panel - David Goosey
- Adult psychotherapist -1 day per week provides consultation for adopters and carers
- 4 educational psychologists-all seconded to the team for half a day per week.

All social workers are appropriately qualified for their posts and registered with the Health and Care Professionals Council. A high percentage hold post qualifying awards such as the Child Care Award, or higher degrees and many have additionally undertaken specialist courses/training including Practice Teaching, Diploma in Adoption and Attachment, Counselling, Play Therapy, and Theraplay.

A satisfactory enhanced disclosure and barring service (DBS, previously known as CRB) check is required for all staff, including business support workers, employed within the Service.

14) Complaints

The Adoption Service adheres to the Council's corporate complaints procedure. All service users, as a matter of routine, are given a copy of Surrey's complaints leaflet. A children's guide appropriate for the age and needs of the children we work with is provided, either directly to the young person or their carer.

Complaints relating to children are handled under the provisions of the Children Act 1989, further defined in the Representation Procedure (Children and Young Persons) Regulations (1991) and extended via the introduction of the Children and Adoption Act 2002 and the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) 2003. In addition complaints can be made to:

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Telephone: 0300 123 1231

Email: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk

15) Revision and circulation

This statement has been produced by managers of the Surrey Adoption Service in consultation with staff and users of the service, in compliance with National Adoption Standards and the relevant Adoption legislation. Members of the Children's Social Care Executive will be asked to formally approve the Statement, (the revised Statement is presented to Members annually for their approval).

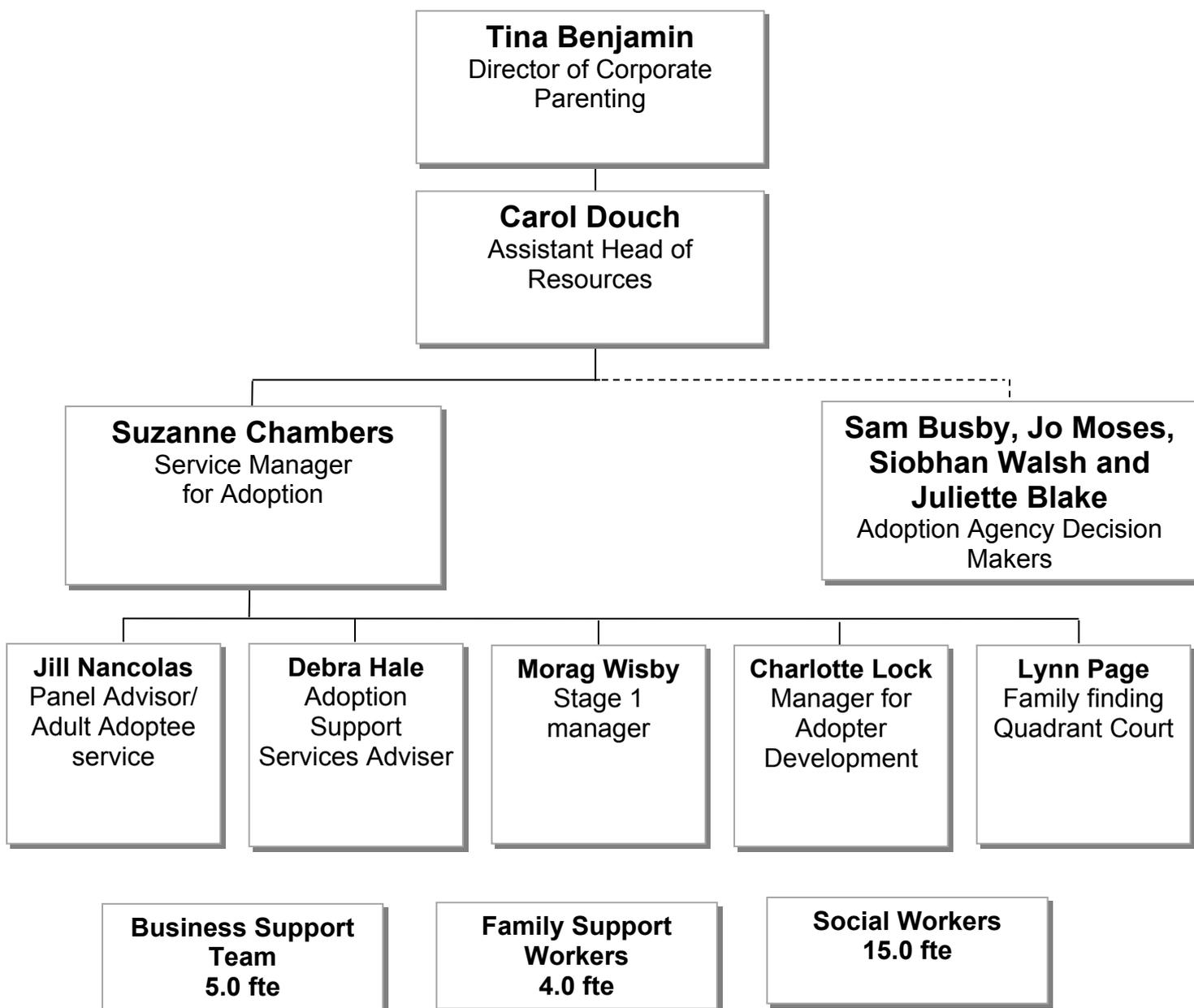
The Service Manager is responsible for ensuring that the Statement is updated or modified when necessary, but at least annually, and that a copy is provided to OFSTED.

The Statement will be provided to:

- All staff including independent specialists engaged in the adoption process.
- All current and prospective adopters and permanency carers.
- A copy of the statement of purpose is posted on the Adoption pages of the Surrey County Council website

APPENDIX 1

Management Structure



Adoption Assessment Services

Person being assessed	Services for which they are entitled to be assessed						
	Services to enable discussion of matters relating to adoption	Assistance in relation to arrangements for contact	Therapeutic services	Services to ensure the continuation of adoption relationship	Services to assist in cases of disruption	Counselling, advice and information	Financial support
Agency adoptive child	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Adoptive parent of an Agency adoptive child	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆
Child of adoptive parents				◆	◆	◆	
Natural parents or guardians of an Agency adoptive child	◆	◆				◆	
A relative (or someone with whom the Local Authority consider the child to have a beneficial relationship) of Agency adoptive child		◆				◆	
Intercountry adoptive child			◆	◆	◆	◆	
Intercountry adoptive parent				◆	◆	◆	
Natural sibling of an adoptive child		◆				◆	
Non-Agency adoptive children, their parents and guardians						◆	
Prospective adopters						◆	
Adopted adults, their parents, natural parents and former guardians						◆	
A relative (or someone with whom the Local Authority consider the child to have a beneficial relationship) of a non-Agency adoptive child						◆	

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