

**APPENDIX A**

**Final Monitoring Report  
BV Review of Adoption Services**

<p><b>Item</b> Numbers in brackets refer to original recommendations from BVR</p>	<p><b>Progress Report</b></p>	<p><b>Date Target Achieved/New Target Date</b></p>
<p><b>1.</b> <i>Research formal permanency panel systems used elsewhere. Draft options for consideration by CFDMT</i></p>	<p>Various models compared. 2 Adoption &amp; Permanence Panels to be in place from 12.06.2002. Assistant Director will formally agree all permanence plans, in her role as Panel decision maker. Permanence Policy completed and endorsed by Lead Member on 31.01.2002</p>	<p>Target achieved by June 2002</p>
<p><b>2.</b> <i>Incorporate needs of Fostering &amp; Adoption Teams into Recruitment &amp; Retention Work Programme</i></p>	<p>Recommendations agreed at CFDMT October 2001.  Fostering and Adoption teams are now well staffed.</p>	<p>Achieved</p>
<p><b>3.</b> <i>Devise outline training plan to support full implementation of National Standards</i></p>	<p>Training Programme agreed 11.03.2002. Training for new Panels to commence May 02 Training for Managers to commence June 02 Training for Practitioners to commence August 02</p>	<p>Ongoing until September 2002</p>
<p><b>4.</b> <i>Use text of Draft National Standards to update</i></p>	<p>Development of service for birth parents is being explored with the voluntary sector; improved service will be in place by April 2003</p>	<p>By April 2003</p>

<p><i>Department Policy &amp; Procedure and strengthen link to Adult Mental Health and Substance Misuse Services</i></p>		
<p><b>5.</b> <i>Review the current and predicted workload. Develop Team Plan to address priorities for the year. 3 new SWA posts created through Q.P. funding to be integrated into team</i></p>	<p>Adoption Team establishment has been increased to 8 FTE social workers. A new post of Operations Manager, Adoption and Permanence has been created. Priorities are recruitment of 40 adopters per annum and placement of 50 children for adoption in 2002/03.</p>	<p>Enhanced staffing achieved by March 2002</p>
<p><b>6.</b> <i>Analyse current available placements against children in system. Identify shortfall and profile the children. Consult with consortium on likelihood of placement. Identify costs to SSD of failure to place and report to DMT on proposed action to recruit carers</i></p>	<p>East Sussex has placed 8 children via the South East Adoption Consortium. There continues to be a shortage of placements for children from ethnic minorities and older children, some with disabilities. National advertising is regularly undertaken and use of BAAF and other specialist agencies to remedy the issue. Reports on all children approved and couples waiting are presented to the Adoption Panel on a 6 monthly basis.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p><b>7. Following on from action in '5' above, specify separately the Post Adoption Support role that needs to be provided and analyse the potential benefits of some activity being undertaken by others</b></p>	<p>Initial meetings have taken place with Post Adoption Centre (PAC)  A check list has been undertaken identifying changes required to meet standards. This will include accessing this Service via P.A.C. and some of the other Voluntary Organisations  A more comprehensive Post Adoption Service will be in place from April 2003.</p>	<p>April 2003</p>
<p><b>8. Incorporate standards into policy, procedure and practice</b></p>	<p>The two new Adoption &amp; Permanence Panels are scheduled to commence on 12.06.02.   Written guidelines for presentation of work to Adoption &amp; Permanence Panels currently being drafted.   Work underway to incorporate National Standards into Operational Instructions by 1 June 2002.</p>	<p>Completed by June 2002</p>

March 2002