

Agenda Item No. 8c

Committee	Scrutiny Committee for Social Services & Health
Date	27 March 2002
By	Director of Social Services
Title of Report	Final Monitoring Report on Implementation of the Action Plan for Best Value Review of Adoption Services
Purpose of Report	To provide Members with a progress report.

RECOMMENDATION

1. To note progress.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 Monies have been invested in the service for 2002/2003, funded from a reconfiguration of the base budget, together with grants, such as the Quality Protects Grant. Measures have been put in place from April 2002, which will lead to further improvement in service quality, outlined in the recommendations.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 A report of the Best Value Review of Adoption Services was presented to the Social Services Committee on 20 February 2001 along with an action plan, responding to key recommendations.

2.2 In August 2001, national minimum standards for adoption services were issued by the Department of Health. They must be implemented from April 2003. Thereafter, the National Care Standards Commission will inspect local authority adoption services annually against the minimum standards.

2.3 In East Sussex, implementation of the standards will begin on 1 June 2002. The standards relating to assessment of adopters and care planning will be implemented from this date. The required improvement to post adoption services, including services to birth parents, will not be fully implemented until April 2003.

2.4 A final monitoring report is attached as Appendix A detailing progress against the action plan. In the current financial year, the Adoption Service has made significant progress; 47 families have been approved as adopters, compared with 38 in 2000/01 and 51 children have been matched with adoptive families compared with 38 in 2000/01.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 1.Social Services Committee - 20 February 2001 Best Value Review of Services for Adoption Services.
- 2.Scrutiny Committee for Social Services & Health - 6 September 2001 Interim Report on Implementation of Action Plan for Best Value Review of Adoption Services.