

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Governance Committee met on 13 December 2022 and 24 January 2023.

Attendances:

Councillor Glazier (Chair) (2)

Councillors Bennett (2), Collier (2) Simmons (2) and Tutt (2)

1 Adoption Agency Delegation

1.1 The Director of Children's Services has delegated authority to undertake all the powers and duties of the County Council as an adoption agency having regard to the recommendations of the Adoption Panel and to approve the charge for home-study assessments for inter-country adoptions in accordance with the policy agreed by Cabinet. This includes acting as the Agency Decision Maker in respect of whether a proposed care plan is the right decision for the child.

1.2 The National Minimum Standards for Adoption (last updated 25 July 2014) require that the person undertaking the role of Agency Decision Maker is a qualified social worker. In May 2022 it was agreed that authority to exercise these powers and functions also be delegated to the Head of Children's Safeguards and Quality Assurance, a role which requires a social work qualification.

1.3 To ensure sufficient capacity, it is proposed that authority to exercise these powers and functions is also delegated to the Head of Looked After Children Services (Provider Services), a role which also requires a social work qualification.

1.4 The Committee recommends the County Council to:

- agree to delegate authority to the Head of Looked After Children Services (Provider Services) to exercise the powers, functions and duties of the County Council as an Adoption Agency, which includes acting as Agency Decision Maker.

24 January 2023

KEITH GLAZIER
(Chair)