

REPORT OF THE  
**Executive Lead Member for Children's Services**  
PART II

**1. REGIONAL ADOPTION AGENCY**

- 1.1. On 12 July 2018 the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services approved a model for delivery of adoption services through a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA), including making a financial contribution to its operation from existing budgets. Delegated authority was given to the Director of Children's Services to enter into the final partnership agreement.
- 1.2. The new agency comprising Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council is in line with Government policy, deriving from the Education and Adoption Act 2016, which required authorities and voluntary adoption agencies to join together to form Regional Adoption Agencies. The DfE expects the RAA programme to deliver consistently good and innovative adoption practice that ensures improved life chances for children. The model seeks to build on the current good practice within each authority to deliver a more cohesive, efficient and effective service for some of our most vulnerable children and their families. The service will be delivered at no extra cost to the taxpayer. The RAA, to be known as Adopt South, will continue to work with its existing voluntary adoption agency partners and other key stakeholders to help shape the new service.
- 1.3. It is estimated that there are approximately 100 (65fte) staff across the partnership that are in scope of the RAA as a whole. Most will remain within their home authority and between 5-10 staff are likely to be either seconded or transferred in to HCC as the lead organisation for the Regional Adoption Agency. Services provided through three centralised teams will be located in HCC and those teams will coordinate service delivery within the partnership. The other services undertaken by the partnership will be delivered locally.
- 1.4. Adoption in Hampshire County Council is rated an 'Outstanding' service by Ofsted and the model proposed will build on this track record.

Further details on these items can be found at the following links:

- [Regional Adoption Agency](#)

**Councillor Keith Mans**  
**Executive Lead Member for Children's Services**