



Gwasanaeth
Mabwysiadu
Cenedlaethol

National
Adoption
Service

To Council Leaders and Lead Members for Children's Services

July 27th 2015

Dear colleague

Re: Adoption Services and Corporate Parenting

I write in my capacity as Chair of the National Adoption Service Governance Board to encourage you to ensure that the council has robust links with the service, particularly your local regional service and that these links are embedded in the Corporate Parenting duties of the Council.

As you are aware the National Adoption Service was launched in November 2014 with a considerable commitment by local government in putting the five regional adoption collaboratives plus the office of the Director of Operations in place to improve services. There are early signs of progress as evidenced in the first annual report of the service which is available on the website www.adoptcymru.com This report also contains priorities, a plan and targets for 15/16 which the whole service will be working to.

Alongside this early consultation with adopters and adopted young people has identified a range of issues which have informed priorities. These focus primarily on the support that is available from local government and health services to secure good outcomes pre and post adoption. There is some specific intelligence emerging from research about how the needs of adopted children are met in school which is informing service priorities. Produced by Adoption UK Wales and with input from teachers and adoptive parents in Wales, a video has been produced about the importance of understanding adopted children and their needs in the education environment. This has been made available to education services in Wales and is also available via the following link:

<http://www.adoptionuk.org/walescymru/education-video>

I would encourage you to ensure that your Corporate Parenting Committee / Board makes itself aware of these issues alongside receiving reports about how the service is working to meet the needs of the looked after children in your area that are to be or have been adopted.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Mel Nott
WLGA Presiding Officer
Chair of the National Adoption Service for Wales Governance Board