Public, service user and staff engagement on outline proposals for the development of the Adoption West Regional Adoption Agency

Introduction

The Adoption West Regional Adoption Agency proposals are part of the national Regionalising Adoption agenda. The outline proposals set out a vision of a single combined adoption and permanence service for Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire working collaboratively with partner Voluntary Adoption and Adoption Support Agencies across the region.

This document sets out the outline proposals and key areas that we are requesting feedback on and begins by explaining the purpose of engagement and the approach to be taken.

Purpose

The purpose of the engagement programme on proposals for developing a Regional Adoption Agency is to:

- work in partnership with service users, Voluntary Adoption Agencies, Adoption Support Agencies and colleagues in health to ensure that all stakeholders are fully engaged in the development of proposals and delivery of the new service;
- inform stakeholders about the current position and rationale for proposed changes affecting the service and the anticipated timescales for the project;
- provide stakeholders with the relevant information necessary to enable them to make informed representations as part of the engagement process;
- clearly explain to stakeholders the different options, financial and service implications and any project constraints;
- provide a framework for engagement that enables stakeholders to participate in a timely, accessible and appropriate manner suitable to their needs;
- ensure a suitable response level to the engagement so that decision makers can make informed decisions based on the needs and views of service users and wider stakeholders;
- gather a clear evidence base to support the implementation of the project and future service delivery;
- ensure that the engagement and consultation meets statutory responsibilities, legal requirements and relevant policies.

Engagement and consultation approach

The formal engagement process is planned over 10 weeks from 25 July 2016 until 3 October 2016. To engage as many people as possible, there will be a wide range of engagement and consultation techniques including:

- The publication of an engagement document that outlines the vision and proposals in detail.
- A supporting website which provides access to all the documents, event information, surveys, presentation and impact assessment.
- A survey to gather views on key points available in various formats. We also welcome comments and views in writing, email or by phone.
- Engagement will also be facilitated by a series of workshops and events aimed at service users and other organisations and stakeholders.
- The project will also deliver presentations and opportunities for feedback on proposals at various other meetings, groups, forums and networks
- The project is also working with Adoption UK to coordinate specific engagement work with adopters.

The engagement will be promoted using local and social media and through existing adoption and permanence forums and networks.

Outline proposals and request for feedback

Each of the areas below will be clearly explained with outline options / proposals and feedback requested on specific aspects along with an opportunity for comments where appropriate. This outline is to provide a sense of the consultation document and key question areas.

1. Vision and Outcomes *(detail to be added)*

Question areas:
- How strongly do you agree or disagree with the overall vision?
- Do you have any comments you would like to feedback relating to the RAA vision?
- How strongly do you agree or disagree with the RAA outcomes?
- Do you have any comments you would like to feedback relating to the RAA outcomes?

2. Services to be included *(detail to be added)*

Question areas:
- How strongly do you agree or disagree with the range of services that will be brought together into the RAA?
- Do you have any comments you would like to feedback relating to the range of services that will be brought together into the RAA?
- What aspects of the current service do you think are important and should be retained or strengthened as part of the new service?

3. Service design *(detail to be added)*

Question areas:
- How strongly do you agree or disagree with the proposed service processes for adopters, the child, matching, post-adoption support?
- Do you have any comments that you would like to feedback relating to the proposed service processes for adopters, the child, matching, post-adoption support?
- How do you want to access RAA services?
- How strongly do you agree or disagree that services should be delivered locally?
- From your experience are there current gaps in the availability of the types of support you would like to be able to access? If so, what would you like to see improved?
- How strongly do you agree or disagree with proposals for working collaboratively with partner agencies?
- Do you have any comments that you would like to feedback relating to how the RAA could improve services by working differently with partner agencies?

4. General

Question areas:
- How satisfied are you with the current level of service and support that you receive?
- What impact do you think these changes will have on you and your family?
- What impact do you think these changes will have on improving outcomes for children?
- How should we measure success / improved outcomes?
- How can we involve service users, parents / carers, children, young people and families in the design, delivery and monitoring of services?
- What would you like to see in terms of equalities objectives for the new RAA?

5. Stakeholder information for monitoring

Question areas:
- Nature of interest in RAA developments (adopter, prospective adopter, foster carer, Partner Agency etc.)?
- Which services do you currently access?
- Equalities information (postcode, age, gender, ethnicity, disability etc.)?

What happens next?

The process and implementation timetable including key decision making points