



# Equality Impact Assessment [version 2.9]

Title: Adoption West Contract Extension	
<input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other [please state] <i>Contract Extension</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review <input type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: People	Lead Officer name: Fiona Tudge
Service Area: Children, Families and Safer Communities	Lead Officer role: Acting Deputy Director Children, Families and Safer Communities

## Step 1: What do we want to do?

### 1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

The proposal is to seek a five-year extension to the Adoption West Commissioning Agreement from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022- 28 Feb 2027. Adoption West is the regional adoption agency for Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.

The services provided by Adoption West on behalf of Bristol City Council are required under the Children Act 1989 and the Children and Adoption Act 2006. Adoption is an essential part of the way in which the council discharges its statutory duties to safeguard children and provide permanent family care for children who cannot grow up within their birth family.

The Government set out its intent to move to Regional Adoption Agencies by the end of 2020 in its 2015 policy paper, Regionalising Adoption<sup>1</sup> and the 2016 paper, Adoption: a vision for change<sup>2</sup>. It emphasised the potential to achieve efficiencies whilst improving matching, recruitment and adoption support. It detailed the intention to maximise the use of adoption when this is indicated as the best outcome for a child, including increasing the potential to identify adopters for children who, in the past, local authorities have found it more difficult to identify adopters for.

To deliver regionalised arrangements Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire formed Adoption West in March 2019 a new public sector entity, a company limited by guarantee, wholly owned and controlled by the six participant local authorities.

The Integrated Service is responsible for providing a service to:

- Children who require adoption
- Adults who wish to adopt
- All adoptive families living in the region eligible for adoption support
- Adopted adults
- Facilitate family time (previously referred to as 'contact') between adoptive and birth family members
- Birth parents and former guardians eligible for adoption support
- Independent support to birth parents who risk losing their child to adoption

<sup>1</sup> [Department for Education \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [Adoption: a vision for change - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

## 1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bristol City Council workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service users	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The wider community
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commissioned services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City partners / Stakeholder organisations	
Additional comments:		

## 1.3 Will the proposal have an equality impact?

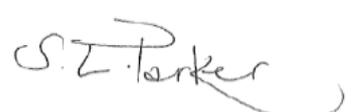
Could the proposal affect access levels of representation or participation in a service, or does it have the potential to change e.g. quality of life: health, education, or standard of living etc.?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	[please select]
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The original decision to create Adoption West, which was approved, included the option for contract extension. The implementation plans put in place at the time of the commencement of Adoption West to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 will remain in place through the extension proposed by this decision. As such, there are no significant equalities implications arising from this decision. There have been no new or emerging equality impacts arising that decision makers should have due regard to when considering whether to extend the contract. Adoption West continues to be fit for purpose, and still the best option to meet the needs of children.

## Step 5: Review

The Equality and Inclusion Team need at least five working days to comment and feedback on your EqIA. EqIAs should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the equalities impact of the proposal. Please seek feedback and review from the [Equality and Inclusion Team](#) before requesting sign off from your Director<sup>3</sup>.

<b>Equality and Inclusion Team Review:</b> <i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i> <b>Duncan Fleming</b> Equalities and Community Cohesion Officer	<b>Director Sign-Off:</b>  
Date: 28/1/2022	Date: 28/1/22    23-03-22

<sup>3</sup> Review by the Equality and Inclusion Team confirms there is sufficient analysis for decision makers to consider the likely equality impacts at this stage. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.