

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: IMPLICATIONS OF ADOPTION AND CHILDREN ACT 2002
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 29 JUNE 2005	Ref: FB/CC	

1. Purpose of Report

To advise Committee of the implementation of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and the possible implications for the Council.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Adoption and Children Act 2002 will be fully implemented in England and Wales in December 2005. The act modernises the existing framework for domestic and intercountry adoption, and introduces a new order known as special guardianship (only for England and Wales).
- 2.2. The Act amends the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978 to regulate intercountry adoption in both Convention and Non Convention cases (1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children).
- 2.3. The Act provides a legislative framework for post adoption support and specifies that the authority which places a child for adoption has the responsibility for post adoption support for the first 3 years of placement. Thereafter the authority in which the adoptive parent resides will assume responsibility for post adoption support.
- 2.4. The Act consolidates and modernises adoption practice for England and Wales.

3. Proposals/Considerations

- 3.1. For children placed for adoption within the North Lanarkshire area, the local authority will be required to assume responsibility for post adoption support for that child and the adoptive parents 3 years after the placement is made.
- 3.2. The British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (Scotland) will provide a full guidance note following the implementation date of 30th December 2005 and local authorities normally adopt this guidance.
- 3.3. The changes within the Act reflect the proposals of the Adoption Policy Review Group, which is due to report to the Scottish Executive in relation to Scottish adoption practice and legislative changes.

4. **Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications**

- 4.1. There are no implications for the Council's resources at the initial stage, however if cross boundary/intercountry adoption placements are made within North Lanarkshire Council there will be a need to expand the post adoption support services.

5. **Recommendation**

- 5.1. The Committee is asked to:

- (i) request the Director of Social Work to provide a future report following the implementation of the Act.
- (ii) otherwise note the content of this report.



Director of Social Work
(13th April 2005)

For further information on this report please contact

on telephone 01698-