AGENDA ITEM NO
REPORT NO 354/11

ANGUS COUNCIL
SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE
19 MAY 2011

ESTABLISHMENT OF SCOTLAND'S ADOPTION REGISTER

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

ABSTRACT
This report notifies members that Angus Council has agreed to participate in Scotland's newly established Adoption Register.

1 RECOMMENDATION
It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee notes the contents of this report.

2 BACKGROUND
On 14 March 2011 the Scottish Government announced the creation of Scotland's Adoption Register that will hold information at a national level about children identified by local authorities as requiring adoption, alongside a list of people approved as prospective adoptive parents. The register will be operated by BAAF (British Association for Adoption and Fostering) and funded by the Scottish Government.

The register will provide greater opportunities for children who require placement for adoption. Potential links will be identified and brought to the attention of the authorities responsible for both the child and the prospective adopter(s). The initial stages of the linking process will be coordinated by specially trained staff employed by BAAF.

A memorandum of understanding has been developed between the Scottish Government and the participating agencies, setting out the protocols and procedures to be followed to ensure the register operates efficiently and within the terms of relevant data protection legislation.

Angus Council has strongly supported the development of the register and welcomes this development.

The development of the Adoption Register is linked to the implementation of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007. Social Work and Health Committee report 1/10, presented on 7 January 2010, provided elected members with information on the implementation of the Act. It was agreed that the Director of Social Work and Health would inform the committee about significant progress with regard to implementation.
3 PROPOSALS

It is proposed that elected members note the establishment of Scotland’s Adoption Register and Angus Council’s participation.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from the proposals in this report.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

6 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

7 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 CONCLUSION

The establishment of Scotland’s Adoption Register is a welcome development that Angus Council has been supporting for some time. It will make it easier to identify appropriate placements for children who have been identified as requiring adoption.

R PEAT
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

SW&H/RP/RD