

West Sussex County Council

Proposed Executive Decision for **17 October 2019** call-in deadline **5 p.m. on 28 October 2019**

The following proposed decision has been endorsed by the Cabinet Member and will come into effect at the end of the call-in period unless the call-in procedure is activated.

Decision Title & Ref No:	Formation of a Regional Adoption Agency - CYP04(19/20)
Cabinet Member responsible for Decision	Mr Marshall - Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
West Sussex Plan priority	Best Start in Life
Electoral Divisions	All Divisions
Key Decision	Yes
Purpose	<p>In June 2015 the Department for Education (DfE) published a paper, Regionalising Adoption, which proposed the move to regional adoption agencies in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speed up matching between children and adopters• Improve adopter recruitment and adoption support• Reduce costs• Improve the life chances of vulnerable children. <p>Since this time West Sussex County Council, in conjunction with Brighton and Hove City Council, East Sussex and Surrey County Councils has developed a proposal to deliver its adoption services via a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA), Adoption South East (ASE). In October 2017 local authorities were advised of continued ministerial resolve to complete regionalisation by April 2020. The Adoption South East arrangement now requires formalising to meet the Government's expectation that all local authorities become part of a RAA by April 2020.</p>
Decision	<p>The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approved the establishment of and West Sussex County Council's participation in a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA), to be known as Adoption South East (ASE), in partnership with Brighton and Hove City Council, and East Sussex and Surrey County Councils as described in this report.2. Delegated authority to the Director of Children's Services to take any action necessary or incidental to the above including entering into and signing the Partnership Agreement and any other agreement between the participating Authorities in order for the Regional Adoption arrangement to be implemented by

	<p>April 2020.</p> <p>3. Delegated authority to the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Director of Finance and Support Services to determine and agree the transfer of the County Council's contribution to a pooled RAA budget as set out in this report and to settle arrangements for the pooled budget through the Partnership Agreement.</p>
Interest and nature of interest declared	None
Service Contact	Wendy Wood, Group Manager- Adoption and Permanent Placement - Tel: 033 022 25340
Democratic Services/ Call-in Contact	Wendy Saunders - 033 022 22553
Background Papers	See report for details