



Gwasanaeth  
**Mabwysiadu**  
Cenedlaethol

National  
**Adoption**  
Service

Ms Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair - Children, Young People and Education Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Date: November 5<sup>th</sup> 2018 – by e-mail

Dear Ms Neagle,

**Re: National Adoption Service for Wales (NAS) – Review of arrangements 2018**

I wanted to provide the committee with an update about the above review.

As the Committee will be aware the review was commissioned by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). It has been undertaken independently by the Institute of Public Care at Oxford Brookes University, overseen by the NAS Governance Board. Its aim was to undertake a detailed review leading to recommendations to strengthen the coherence of the NAS arrangements in order to enhance the achievement of strategic objectives and improvement priorities for adoption services across Wales.

The review thus far has concluded with a preferred option for the future which the NAS Board has agreed in principle. This is outlined in a detailed report the key points of which are that:

- There is broad recognition of hard work and extensive efforts to establish NAS regionally and nationally and that the arrangements have been made to work;
- NAS has established a nation-wide service which has achieved improvements and shows the potential for securing significant further benefits;
- The needs and challenges faced by children presenting for adoption are changing rapidly which requires a more effective response especially in the recruitment of adopters and in ongoing support services;
- There are major further steps to be taken to evolve to a new stage of development which is a shift in emphasis to NAS 'realising its full potential';
- Although the review focuses on structures and arrangements, it is about making the adoption experience better for children, young people and their parents.

There is a proposed revised model suggested which includes the following:

- Revised ways of working for all parts of the NAS, clarifying roles and functions across the 3 tiers, revised governance arrangements nationally and regionally as well as taking a different approach to resourcing and internal commissioning;
- Strengthened relationships with the wider regional children's services agenda and links to arrangements for planning and funding services;
- Detailed memoranda of understanding and schemes of delegation to underpin various elements of the model together with there being a need to consider changes to the legislative basis for NAS;
- The potential for the proposal to lend itself to incorporating appropriate national elements of the National Fostering Framework (NFF) in line with existing plans for that initiative.

We are about to commence the final phase of the review by further testing the proposed changes with key stakeholders alongside undertaking the detailed work to develop the revised model for agreement.

I hope that this update is helpful at this stage. I will be very happy to provide further updates as the work progresses should that be helpful.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank the committee again for the information provided in the early summer, to the Institute of Public Care, for consideration in the review.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Griffiths  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (NAS)

Mae'r Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn sicrhau ein bod yn cyfathrebu â chi yn eich dewis iaith boed yn Gymraeg, yn Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The National adoption Service welcomes correspondence in English and Welsh and we will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, whether that's English, Welsh or bilingual as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.