

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

Item	Outcome
Date Of Decision	4 December 2018
Decision Maker	Catherine Driscoll, Director of Children, Families and Communities
Brief Description Of Decision	Extend the ACE partnership arrangement between Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Coventry City Council, Warwickshire County Council and Worcestershire County Council to include Herefordshire Council.
Reason(s) For Decision	<p>Herefordshire Council first expressed an interest in joining ACE, during the project phase of ACE and an initial application was made dated March 2017. At the meetings of the ACE Project Board on 20 April 2017 and further on 21 August 2017 there is reference to this. Purdah prevented action at that time and it was recorded that a steer was required from the region via the Adoption Leadership Board and also from the DfE appointed coach.</p> <p>The ACE Executive Board at the Extraordinary meeting held on 23 October 2018 recommended that Herefordshire Council should be allowed to join Adoption Central England. This was subject to ensuring that their financial contribution is correct and cost neutral to the services and the production of a costed transitional plan. Further that ACE would require 85% occupancy rate of transfer of staff.</p> <p>Particular areas of strength identified in the Herefordshire application were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the ACE Governance arrangements – having officers at the appropriate level attending the key meetings • Service performance – Herefordshire has been assessed by OFSTED as having a good adoption service where adoption for children is achieved in a timely way, with family finding and matching identified as strong areas of practice. Further access to post adoption support is good enabling help and support to be available without delay • They have a stable and experienced workforce who are trained in areas that accord with ACE

Item	Outcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are highly motivated to be part of ACE having previously enjoyed a close working partnership with Worcestershire County Council Adoption Service, and having practices that are predominately consistent with those of ACE as outlined in the ACE Service Specification. <p>Other benefits for ACE are the opportunity to operate on greater scale extending the geographical reach of potential adoptive placements for children. ACE would also be in a position to strengthen its profile in the south west of the region with the development of 'sub hub' allowing easier access to services and support for prospective and approved adopters. There would also opportunities for greater efficiencies in working practices releasing in particular managerial capacity to specialise in aspects of practice and service development such as family finding and matching.</p>
Alternative Options Considered And Rejected	N/A
Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted	N/A