

Project Summary

Adoption Reform: supporting effective implementation, for the London Borough of Croydon

Policy, practice/research content

The Coalition Government launched a new adoption reform programme in 2012 with a focus on increasing the numbers of children adopted from care and reducing delays. The adoption reform programme promotes a range of changes to adoption practice including a new process for preparing and approving prospective adopters; more use of 'foster to adopt' and 'concurrent planning' to place children more quickly with prospective adopters; and new advice on matching children with prospective adopters.

Background to the project

Croydon commissioned The Colebrooke Centre to carry out a programme of work to support its response to the adoption reform programme and to other practice issues it had identified, with a view to understanding strengths and weaknesses in its current practice, identifying service innovations, supporting implementation, building staff capacity and skills, and strengthening the connection between adoption services and wider systems within children's services.

Project design

The project began in April 2013 and will continue to the end of 2013. It involves a four stage approach:

- exploration and analysis of existing provision
- design of and planning for service innovation, particularly using a series of workshops with practitioners
- training and support for implementation
- and designing approaches for monitoring both implementation and impact.

The project focuses on seven elements of the adoption service:

- the new assessment and preparation process for prospective adopters
- targeted recruitment of prospective adopters
- matching and profiling
- foster to adopt and concurrent planning
- liaison between adoption and fostering

- involving children and hearing their voices
- and supporting collaboration with the local family justice system.

Publications and outputs

A series of resources are being produced for Croydon.

Contact

Jane Lewis, Director of Implementation Support, jlewis@cevi.org.uk

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