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**REPORT TO: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON  
9 JUNE 2010**

**SUBJECT: MORAY ADOPTION AND FOSTERING PANELS' REVIEW  
JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2009**

**BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the work undertaken by the Moray Panels during the period January to December 2009.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D(2) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating exercising of functions of the Council under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the work of the Moray Adoption and Fostering Panels in the period January to December 2009.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Moray Panels meet on a monthly basis with additional meetings associated with any increased workload. The key functions of the Panels can be found at **APPENDIX 1** of this report.
- 3.2 The composition of the Panels provides a wide range of knowledge and experience in relation to children separated from their families allowing different perspectives on these matters to be obtained. The membership of the Panels in 2009 can be found at **APPENDIX 2**.
- 3.3 The Adoption Panel considered the following during the year:-
- (i) Recommendation and subsequent approval of six new prospective adoptive families. There were six families awaiting adoptive placement at the end of December 2009.
  - (ii) Consideration and subsequent approval one child for matching with a prospective adoptive family.
- 3.4 The Fostering Panel considered the following during the year:-
- (i) Recommendation and subsequent approval of nine foster families.

- (ii) Recommendation and subsequent approval of one child in need of permanent foster care by the local authority.
  - (iii) Recommendation and subsequent approval of one child for matching with a permanent foster family.
  - (iv) Recommendation and subsequent approval of changes in the approval categories of two foster families.
- 3.5 Tabulated data in **APPENDIX 3** to this report illustrates the work of the Panel over the last five years for which annual reports to committee were produced.
- 3.6 All prospective foster carers have available to them a preparation course and equivalent arrangements are in place for prospective adopters.
- 3.7 The two Moray Panels routinely invite prospective carers and children in need of permanent placements to Panel meetings in accordance with guidance issued in the implementation of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 and now the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007 so making the decision making more inclusive.
- 3.8 The Moray Council is a member of the North and North-East of Scotland Placement Consortium to improve the effective sharing of resources for children in need of permanent placements.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Corporate Development Plan/ Community Plan/ Service Improvement Plan**

There is clear coherence in the work of the Moray Fostering and Adoption Panels and the aim of the Council's Children's Services:- to protect and promote the welfare of children and young people in need in Moray in partnership with children, their families, communities and others providing services.

##### **(b) Policy and Legal**

Both the Moray Adoption and Moray Fostering Panels have procedural guidelines in accordance with Scottish Government guidance and Regulations. The Adoption Panel made recommendations to the Community Services Department for the payment of adoption allowances under the Adoption Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 1996 and now does so under the Adoption Support and Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

##### **(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

There are no such implications associated with this report.

(d) **Consultations**

Katrina McGillivray, Senior Personnel Advisor, Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant, Alistair Stobie, Senior Solicitor and Dave Cameron, Team Manager (Fostering & Adoption) have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with the content relating to their areas of responsibility.

5. **CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 **The Moray Adoption and Fostering Panels play a key role in the scrutiny of prospective adopters and foster carers who wish to be approved by the Moray Council. The Panels' also scrutinise care plans for children and young people in need of permanent care away from home either through adoption or permanent foster care.**

Author of Report: Lori McQuaker, Secretary to the Moray Adoption & Fostering Panels  
Background Papers: with author  
Ref: HB777101

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 27 May 2010

Designation: Director of Community Services

Name: Sandy Riddell

## The Key Functions of the Moray Adoption & Fostering Panel

### Adoption Panel

1. To consider whether adoption is in the best interests of a child.
2. To consider applications by people for approval as prospective adoptive parents.
3. To consider the placement of particular children with approved adoptive parents (matching).
4. To review annually approved prospective adoptive parents.

### Fostering Panel

1. To consider requests for permanent placements for children through foster care.
2. To consider applications by people for approval to become foster carers.
3. To consider permanent placement of particular children with approved foster carers (matching).
4. To consider re-approval of carers in specific referred cases.

## Composition of the Moray Adoption and Fostering Panels 2008

Chairperson	Mr J Carney, Head Of Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services, Community Services
Depute Chair	Mrs A Brown
Legal Adviser	Mr A Stobie, Senior Solicitor, Legal Services
Medical Advisor	Dr H Green, NHS Grampian, Dr Gray's Hospital
Lay Members	Mrs J Smyton Mrs I Davidson Mr J Rodwell
Professional Members	Mr D Cameron, Team Manager, Fostering & Adoption Team, Community Services Dr C Hart, Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, Rowan Centre Ms D Jones, Nurse Practitioner, Rowan Centre Ms K MacLennan, Social Worker, Moray Central Childcare Team, Community Services

**Summary of Key Outcomes of the  
Moray Fostering and Adoption Panels 2005-2009**

**Table 1 – Adoption Panel**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Five year totals</b>
Prospective adopters (adoptive households) recommended for approval	5	1	8	1	6	21
Children recommended for adoption	7	5	8	4	0	24
Matching of children into adoption placements	10	4	6	9	1	30
Overseas adopters recommended	2	0	0	0	0	2

**Table 2 – Fostering Panel**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Five year totals</b>
Prospective foster carers (fostering households) recommended for approval	9	6	9	5	9	38
Children recommended for permanent foster care	1	4	1	2	1	9
Matching of children with placements	1	3	0	2	1	7