

## Appendix C

### ADOPTION REFORM GRANT: PART B - GRANT DETERMINATION (2014 - 2015): No 31/2117

#### ANNEX C

Progress Report for Q1, Q2 and Q3 2014-2015

<b>Organisation Name:</b>	Central Bedfordshire Council	<b>Grant Ref no:</b>	31/2117
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Please provide details of the ways in which the money was spent on adoption in Q1, Q2 and Q3 2014 - 2015:		
Item	Amount spent	Budget
Case progression officer based in Court and Permanency Teams, Corporate Parenting Services. However, the officer works across the entire children's social care teams. She assists with the early identification and tracking of children where adoption is the plan. This is to avoid drift or delay and to assist with early matching.	£48750	£65,000
Marketing officer in Adoption This has enhanced the quality of advertising, both generic and specific; further activity planned for remainder of the year.	£15000	£20,000
Recruitment assistant, who has improved the rate of recruitment and monitors the Stage 1 process. In addition, to drive the new adopter recruitment process, including increased information events and new publicity materials. These steps contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased number of adopters</li> <li>• Speedier approval process</li> </ul>	£18750	£25,000
Remarketing of Adoption materials. Including use of web-based materials such as e-learning for adopters at stage 1.	£6000	£8,000
Increase assessing social worker capacity for adopter assessments via the use of independent adoption assessors. To enable sufficient approvals to meet the needs of the growing number of children for whom adoption is the plan	£22500	£30,000
Specific adoption support projects such as the provision of support for children's life-story work,	£11250	£15,000

to ensure that children have a good understanding of their life story which assists with positive attachment and placement stability. Achieved through the use of suitably skilled individuals from existing staff.		
Interagency fees. Continuation of specialist Family Finding projects, to find families for difficult to place children and reduce delays in matching children. Achieved through contact with VAA's and local authorities	£50183	£66,911
<b>Total</b>	<b>£172,433</b>	<b>£229,911</b>

Please provide a summary of the approach taken by the local authority in spending this money, highlighting the innovative elements of this approach:

Central Bedfordshire Adoption Service has been able make some significant progress to the service provided to the children and families of Bedfordshire, especially within adopter recruitment and assessment. We have considered the many factors which impact on the success of adoptive placements and aim to continue to develop and review our service to ensure this positive progress continues.

Our goal it to ensure we provide a child centred, robust recruitment and assessment process. The use of specialist workers and the ongoing development of staff and panel member all assist in this process.

Please provide a summary of the impact this expenditure has had on the local authority's provision of adoption services to date:

- Numbers of children adopted continues to increase.
- Specialists workers are involved in the tracking and early identification of children in need of adoption which has improved early planning
- Recruitment targets for adopters and numbers of children being placed continues to be met