

**ADOPTION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2002-2003****Report By: Children's Service Manager (Resources)****Wards Affected**

Countywide

**Purpose**

1. To present to the Committee Herefordshire's Adoption Service Report.

**Financial Implications**

2. No financial implications.

**Background**

3. Adoption is one of the ways that children who have been cared for by the Authority receive permanent decisions on where they live.
4. The attached report (Appendix 1) outlines the activity last year in this important area. The pressure on placements and the new adoption legislation coming into force again highlights the importance of these services for making permanent decisions for children.
5. There have been staffing pressures over the last year but this has not reduced the striving for the highest standards in the whole process of preparing children for adoption as well as matching children with potential adopters who may live many miles from Herefordshire.

**RECOMMENDATION****THAT the annual report for 2002/03 be received and noted.****BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None identified