

13 August 2012

**Re: Adoption Summit 17<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Kennington Oval**

Dear Colleague

I am writing to invite you to an exciting and innovative event next month to address an urgent issue regarding the adoption of boys from Black and Mixed Parentage backgrounds in Lambeth.

As you are aware, Lambeth has a proud record of engaging with our own communities to generate solutions to issues that concern us all. The Adoption Summit aims to involve local people in helping to find permanent families for children who are in urgent need.

The Government has rightly encouraged all local authorities to increase the number of children who are placed for adoption and to do this as speedily as possible. Lambeth fully supports this initiative.

Lambeth's Adoption Service was inspected by Ofsted earlier this year and was rated as an Outstanding service, one of the few in England and Wales to achieve this rating. Despite this, we still know that we struggle to find families that will adopt some of our children. In particular, we have difficulties in finding families for boys from Black or Mixed Parentage. For some children, we receive no families willing to consider them.

I am sure you will agree that this is a situation that we as a community need to address.

Council members and the Chief Executive of the Council, Derrick Anderson have also recognised this as a priority for the Council and decided to hold this Summit to share with you our concerns and gain your ideas about what else could be done.

The Summit will look at three main issues:

- **What stops Families Coming Forward?**
- **What Can We Do to Overcome This?**
- **What Support Could we Offer to Families?**

The Summit is aimed at groups within the community but we will also be inviting a number of Voluntary Adoption Agencies and support services.

If you have any questions regarding the Summit or want to have more information, please contact either:

**Ian Lewis**

Assistant Director, Multi-Agency Children Looked After and Corporate Parenting

Tel: 020 7926 5310

Email: [ILewis@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:ILewis@lambeth.gov.uk)

or

**Andrew Carter**

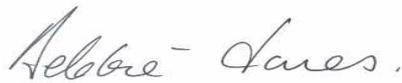
Head of Service, Children Looked After and Adoption

Tel: 020 7926 1725

Email: [ACarter@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:ACarter@lambeth.gov.uk)

Please do make the time to attend this important meeting. I look forward to meeting you there.

Yours Sincerely



**Debbie Jones**

Executive Director Children & Young People's Service

