

# Regional Adoption

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# Covering

- Background
- Yorkshire and Humber Region
- Medical Adviser Role
- Considerations for Commissioning

# Origins 2012

- **Adoption process will be made fairer and faster, says David Cameron**
- Prime minister announces shakeup of rules, including moves to make it easier for white parents to adopt black children

*Guardian 9 March 2012*



- Number of children 'languishing in care'
  - High proportion of 'babies' (< 1 year)
- Number of adopters:
  - being 'declined for health reasons'
  - 'waiting ages'
- Outcome:  
**Targets 26 week (6 month) timescales and league tables!**

# Regionalisation

- [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/437128/Regionalising\\_adoption.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/437128/Regionalising_adoption.pdf)



# Challenges

- Fragmented & Inefficient National system
  - 180 agencies recruiting adopters and matching for ~5000 children per year
- Agencies regarded as ‘small scale’ operations
- 2014-15 - Quarters 1-3
  - 20 Local Authorities recruited < 10 adopters
  - 58 Local Authorities recruited < 20 adopters
  - 6 Voluntary Agencies recruited < 10 adopters
  - 10 Voluntary Agencies recruited < 20 adopters

# Matching

- Although some positives
  - ‘Activity Days’ – 26% children matched
  - 141 Local Authorities (LAs) involved with Activity Days
  
- BUT - still delays (Sept 2014)
  - 8 months average between placement order – match
  - 3,470 children with Placement Order awaiting match
  - 54% waiting > 18 months

# Goal

- Regional Adoption Agencies – (RAA)  
(models >200 cases / year)
- Voluntary Adoption Agencies (VAA)
- Legislation in Education and Adoption Bill
- Increase number of adopters and allow wider access for matching.
- Children still approved as before by individual LA
- Work together by 2020 –  
19 RAAs not 180 individual agencies

# National Pilot Sites

- Pilot Areas from 2016 to go live April 2017
- Previous good working relationships
- Bids for money (£4.5 M) for front loading and reorganisation
  - Hertford
  - Manchester
  - Yorkshire & Humber



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase – March 22 2018

- Further £3.4 million to 17 councils
  - Kent: Kent, Bexley & Medway
  - Coast to Coast: Cumbria, Durham & Sunderland
  - Lancashire: Blackpool & Lancashire
  - Ambitious for Adoption: Harrow, Bromley, Redbridge, City of London & Slough
  - Adoption for South East: East Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex, Brighton and Hove.
- Currently 141 councils have joined live or developing RAAs

# Yorkshire and Humber

- LAs Working together for considerable time
- Sharing good practice and collaborative working before 'Activity Days'
- Plan to change 15 Local Authorities (LAs) & 8 Voluntary Agencies (VAs) from independent working
- To develop **ONE** regional service which combines 4 sub-units; 3 groups of LAs function as Regional Adoption Agencies (RAAs) and the VAs join into a regional Voluntary Adoption Agency (VAA).

# One Adoption Yorkshire



**One**  
Adoption

# North and Humber



**One**  
Adoption  
Agency  
NORTH & HUMBER

## North & Humber

- We are five councils in the northern Yorkshire and Humber area - City of York, East Riding of Yorkshire, Hull, North East Lincolnshire and North Yorkshire County Councils - working together to deliver a single regional adoption service at a local level.
- Contact us on [01904 566007](tel:01904566007)
- Want to find out a little bit more about adopting in North and Humber, visit
- [Adopting in North & Humber](#)

# South Yorkshire

## South Yorkshire

- We are One Adoption South Yorkshire; we are currently four individual adoption agencies (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Doncaster Children's Services Trust, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and Sheffield City Council) working together to provide adoption services across South Yorkshire.
- Contact us on [0345 112 0012](tel:03451120012)
- Want to find out a little bit more about adopting in South Yorkshire, visit
- [Adopting in South Yorkshire](#)



# West Yorkshire

## West Yorkshire

- We are One Adoption West Yorkshire; we provide adoption services across West Yorkshire. We are the result of a programme of work which saw local authority adoption services from Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Wakefield join together.
- Contact us on [0113 378 3535](tel:01133783535)
- Want to find out a little bit more about adopting in West Yorkshire, visit
- [Adopting in West Yorkshire](#)



**One**  
Adoption  
Agency  
WEST YORKSHIRE



**One**  
Adoption

- North & Humber live from Oct 2017, SY not yet!
- West Yorkshire has been live since April 2017
  - Impact on Medical Staff , Social Workers & Adoption Teams
  - Medical advisers dealing with cases outside their health employment area
  - Re-distribution of work
  - Reduction of Panels (11 to 7)
  - Developing standard documentation and timescales

# Health Implications and the Role of Medical Advisers

- Adoption Regulations
  - Health Advice given on Adults considering Adoption to be available to the agency and adoption panel
  - All health information of children to be shared with adopters prior to adoption and available for panel and agency decision makers
- Medical Advisers\*
  - Undertake medicals on children being considered for Adoption and write a comprehensive report available to agency, panel and adopters
  - Comment on health information of prospective adopters for agency and panel
  - Share health information on health of children with workers and prospective adopters
  - Panel work



# Currently (no standards)

- Senior doctors\* (Usually Paediatricians)
- Combined into job plans with other aspects of clinical work but requires time to:
  - undertake medicals on children and write detailed reports
  - attend Panels (and read papers!)
  - complete written advice on adult medicals
  - meet prospective adopters

# Discussions for Commissioning

- Standards
- Work Load (known boom and bust service, similar to Looked After)
- Time scales
- Regional working / Commissioning?
  - Cross boundary placements requiring support services
  - Children remain Looked After until the Adoption Order
  - Additional needs of children & families, especially if multiple placement moves whilst in care and / or older when adopted
  - Health or Social Care responsibilities

# Discussions for Commissioning Working together or in conflict?



Thank You  
for listening.

Any Questions??

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<https://www.oneadoption.co.uk/>