



This is a write up of the verbal report given to the Corporate Parenting Board for the City of York on the 22nd November 2018 by Suzie Grove Head of Agency One Adoption North and Humber.

The region was formed on a mandate from the Government which states that all Local Authorities have to be part of a regional adoption agency (RAA) by 2020. One Adoption North and Humber (OANH) went live in February 2018. 12 RAA's are now formed with many more in the planning stages.

OANH has a hub and spoke model with York as the host. However, staff remain employed by their own Local Authorities and the budget is not centralised. The Department of Education are interested in this model and are monitoring progress. We are proud that we have not had a dip in performance since forming or in the planning stage.

The RAA is responsible for recruiting adopters to meet the needs of our children, finding adoptive families for children and Post Adoption Support for adoptive families in our area.

The RAA has a good sufficiency of adopters, this does not discount the need to purchase external placements but it does reduce it. We need more adopters for children in sibling groups and with additional needs.

Performance for placing children is measured through the Adoption Scorecard. York is above the national average and in the middle of Local Authorities in the RAA, 3rd out of 5. We have high aspirations in regards to our children and know that this can be improved. Performance has improved over the last 18 months. We are aided in measuring our performance by really good data collection.

Post adoption support is high in York, the second highest in the RAA after North Yorkshire. This is because we have a lot of people living in the City who want to be adopters and have a lot of adoptive families moving into the area. York is a desirable place to live. We are reliant on the Adoption Support Fund for much of Adoption Support, we are exploring how to make a more sustainable Post Adoption Support Service.

There have been no disruptions for City of York children since 2012, this shows good matching and good placement support.

We are family finding for 13 children for City of York in various stages of planning. We have 45 families approved in the RAA who are not matched.