

One Adoption North and Humber



One
Adoption
Agency
NORTH & HUMBER

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
2025 - 2026**



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1. INTRODUCTION

This document is the Statement of Purpose for One Adoption North and Humber, a shared adoption service between the five local authorities: North East Lincolnshire Council, City of York Council, North Yorkshire Council, Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The Regional Adoption Agency is hosted by City of York Council.

It is a requirement of the National Minimum Standards for Adoption Services, that an adoption service produces a statement of purpose, including its aims and objectives and a description of the service and facilities that it provides. It can be used by children and young people and families as a guide to what they should expect a service to provide and to do.

The Statement of Purpose has been produced in accordance with:

- Adoption National Minimum Standards 2011.
- Care Planning Regulations 2010.
- Adoption Agency Regulations 2005 (amended 2011).
- Adoption Agencies (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013. Local Authority Regulations 2005.
- Adoption Agencies & Independent Review of Determinations (Amendment) Regulations 2011.
- Adoption Agencies (Panel & Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012.
- Care Planning, placement and Case and fostering services (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2013.
- Adoption and Children Act 2002.
- Care Standards Act 2000.

Adoption Agencies are inspected against these standards by Ofsted.

One Adoption North and Humber is hosted by City of York Council and overseen by a Management Board with representatives from each partner local authority. The Head of Agency is responsible for operational delivery and quality assurance.



2. VALUES AND COMMITMENT

- **Child-Centred Approach:** Prioritising the well-being, identity, and long-term stability for children.
- **Inclusivity and Diversity:** Ensuring services meet the diverse needs of children and adopters across the region.
- **Collaboration:** Partnering with adopters, birth families, local authorities, and other agencies to co-produce services and shape best practices.
- **Innovation and Continuous Improvement:** Adopting evidence-based practices and learning from feedback to enhance adoption services.
- **Empathy and Support:** Offering tailored, therapeutic, and practical support to families throughout the adoption journey.

Commitment to Practice

Meeting Children's Needs:

Recruiting adopters for our children, with a specific focus on sibling groups, children with complex needs, children aged 3+ and children who require early permanence placements (EPP).

Supporting Adopters:

Comprehensive training on trauma, attachment, and maintaining meaningful relationships for children (contact)

Tailored support during transitions and early placements to build confidence and stability.

Listening to Lived Experience:

Embedding feedback from adopters, adopted people, and birth families into service development.

Co-producing training and support with those directly impacted by adoption.

Strengthening Relationships:

Promoting secure attachments for children and their adoptive families through thoughtful preparation and consistent support.

Ensuring clear communication pathways between adopters, foster carers, and social workers.

Fostering Long-Term Stability:

Early therapeutic support to reduce placement disruptions.

Equipping adopters to manage challenges in adoptive parenting effectively, for lasting and successful placements.



2. VALUES AND COMMITMENT

What we stand for:

- Every child deserves a loving, caring, safe and secure family life.
- Every Adopter deserves to feel empowered and supported.
- We Collaborate for Success: Working together with communities and professionals to improve outcomes for children and families.
- We Champion Excellence: Setting high standards for adoption services across One Adoption North and Humber, through dedication, care, and innovation.



3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SERVICE

- The needs, wishes, welfare and safety of children are at the centre of the adoption process.
- Each child who needs an adoptive family is matched as soon as possible with a family that will meet that child's needs for stability, security, safety and sense of belonging into adulthood and beyond. This includes children with a plan of early permanency.
- Every attempt will be made to find an adoptive family to meet a child's emotional and developmental needs taking into account their ethnicity, religion, language, culture, gender and needs, without undue delay and within the timescales laid down by Statutory Guidance.
- Children are encouraged and supported to enjoy, thrive and reach their full potential in their education. This will be done by maintaining effective working relationships with education colleagues to increase their understanding of the needs of adopted children, and by preparing prospective adopters to work closely with schools and education support services and to advocate on behalf of their children.
- To provide information on the process to applicants interested in becoming adopters and on the children requiring adoption
- Prospective adopters are involved in a comprehensive assessment, preparation and approval process to help them understand the likely needs of children placed for adoption to enable them to offer the best possible standards of parenting, safety and stability within family life for children or young people in their care.
- To ensure that any decisions are transparent and fair
- To provide a range of adoption support services to birth relatives, adopted adults, adopters and their children in partnership with other agencies
- Information is provided on the services available to all those affected by adoption recognising that as adoption has lifelong implications for all those involved, their needs will change over time.



3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SERVICE

- The service to birth parents recognises the lifelong implications of adoption and that they have the opportunity to contribute to the maintenance of their child's heritage.
- The service provides opportunities for children to retain meaningful connections with their birth family members, beyond Adoption Order, based on an assessment of their short and long term needs, and that Adoptive families are supported accordingly to promote ongoing connections between the adopted child and their birth family.
- The service works positively and respectfully with all service users and partner agencies regardless of race, colour, religion, language, culture, disability, gender, sexual orientation or age.
- Services are regularly reviewed and developed in light of consultation with, and comments, compliments and complaints by, service users.



4. THE WORK OF THE ADOPTION SERVICE



One Adoption teams are located in children's services of the five local authorities: City of York, North Yorkshire, North East Lincolnshire, Hull and East Riding.

The service undertakes the following tasks:

- Recruitment of prospective adoptive families.
- Assessment and preparation of adoptive families, including visits to the home, a home study, taking up references and statutory checks and running preparation training.
- Family finding for children who need a permanent home through adoption; Support for families waiting for a child to be placed with them.
- Advice, guidance and support to adoptive families during the matching process and after placement. This includes workshops and training and support groups.
- Those wishing to adopt from abroad are referred to another agency (Yorkshire Adoption Agency) that provide a service under contract for One Adoption.
- Non agency adoption work for: North Yorkshire and City of York.
- Children's social workers and adoption social workers undertake the task of planning for permanence and preparing children for adoption. The responsibility for matching and supporting adoptive families is a shared task until the adoption order.
- To provide a range of adoption support services to birth relatives, adopted adults, adopters and their children in partnership with other agencies
- One Adoption North and Humber covers a large geographical area and aims to recruit suitable prospective adoptive families able to offer homes to children across the region needing adoption, and also, via national matching tools, to children further afield.
- The service works positively and respectfully with all service users and partner agencies regardless of race, colour, religion, language, culture, disability, gender, sexual orientation or age.

5. THE ADOPTION PROCESS

Enquirers can access information on adopting with One Adoption North and Humber via the website (<https://www.oneadoption.co.uk>) or calling 0345 305 2576.

One Adoption North and Humber will progress all expressions of interest in adoption promptly. Information sessions are run at frequent intervals across the region both in-person and virtually for all those interested in finding out more about adoption.

Registrations of interest can only be considered from people who are not already pursuing an application with another agency. Registrations of interest are welcome from those who reside within the geographical area covered by One Adoption North and Humber, or within reasonable travelling distance.

If enquirers have attended an Information Event or indicate their interest in starting their adoption journey with One Adoption North and Humber, the Agency will arrange an Initial Visit. This is not an assessment. The purpose of an Initial Visit is for the Agency to provide more detailed information to potential applicant adopters and answer any questions about the adoption process that the applicants may have. The potential applicants will be offered the opportunity to share information about their circumstances with the Social Worker undertaking the Initial Visit in relation to factors that could be significant to consideration by the Agency about their suitability should they decide to apply to adopt. Potential applicants will be encouraged to be honest and realistic about their circumstances and to highlight any issues they consider might be relevant.

Based upon the information shared, the potential applicants will be given advice by the Social Worker about their suitability. This is not a decision by the Agency. It is advice given by the Agency to support potential applicants in their decision making. The Social Worker will provide advice to the potential applicants about their strengths and any vulnerabilities, including whether the current time is the best time for them to apply and/or whether there are any areas that they may wish to address with a view to strengthening their application.

As well as advice about the strengths and vulnerabilities of potential applicants, the Agency will make it clear that the potential applicants have a right to submit a Registration of Interest to the Agency in order that a formal decision can be made by a Team Manager about their suitability to progress to Stage 1 of the adoption process (usually within five working days of receipt).



In the case of married/civil partnership and unmarried couples, there is a requirement that the relationship is for longer than 12 months and the agency has to be confident of the permanence and stability of the relationship. In assessing the quality and stability of a relationship, the views of two personal referees who have known the applicants as a couple will be taken into account.

There is a statutory prohibition to adoption if the prospective adopters or any member of their household, aged 18 or over, have been cautioned or convicted of specified offences, including sexual offences and offences against children. Details of statutory prohibition criteria will be made available on request.

By law, the applicant (or at least one of them) must have their domicile in the British Isles and the applicant (or at least one of them) must have their habitual residence in the British Isles for not less than one year before the date of the adoption application. Domicile and Habitual Residence are complex legal terms and any applicants where it is unclear whether or not they can meet these requirements will need to obtain their own legal advice regarding this. It would be expected that where applicable, applicants have Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK.

Applicants are required to have a full medical with their GP and to undergo any further tests/checks that may be required by the adoption panel's medical adviser. The medical adviser will advise on the applicant's ability, from a general and mental health point of view, to meet the needs of a child throughout their life.

Applicants who have been smokers would be expected to have given up at least six months before making their application.

Where applicable, enquirers should have completed any fertility tests and treatments and had time to process any loss associated with this being unsuccessful. We recognise that this is a very individual experience so encourage enquirers to discuss their circumstances with us so that we can provide accurate advice and guidance in an empathic, respectful and sensitive manner.

Applicants may own their own home or live in rented accommodation. They will have to demonstrate that they have a secure home environment in which to bring up a child and will need accommodation appropriate to the number and ages of the children they are seeking to adopt. However, it is usual for sibling groups to share a bedroom.



A 'fast track' process is provided for approved foster carers who want to be assessed as adoptive parents and previously approved adopters. The necessary checks usually completed in Stage One of the approval process are undertaken concurrently with the assessment process, so these applicants bypass the Stage One process and start at the beginning of Stage Two.

Stage 1 – The Pre-Assessment Process

Stage One begins on the day that One Adoption North and Humber accepts the registration of interest from the prospective adopter(s) and should normally take 2 months to complete.

At the start of Stage One, the allocated adoption social worker and prospective adopter(s) will produce a written agreement (Stage One plan) which will set out the responsibilities of all involved.

The stage one process will include the following:

- All the statutory references/checks will be completed including the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.
- The prospective adopter(s) will complete an adoption medical as soon as possible. This will be considered by the adoption agency medical advisor, who will provide advice about any concerning medical issues.
- The prospective adopter(s) will be expected to attend training /preparation sessions. This will give prospective adopter(s) more detailed information and will allow them to meet experienced adopters who can help answer questions that they have.
- The prospective adopter will need to provide the names of four personal referees, two of whom are not related to them. The adoption social worker will interview each referee and make a written report of these interviews. If the prospective adopter has children at school, the school will be approached for a reference. If they work or volunteer (or have done so in the past) with children or vulnerable adults, the employer or organisation will be approached for a reference. If a prospective adopter has parented children with a previous partner, the previous partner and any adult children will need to be contacted; in some other instances it may be necessary to seek references from other ex-partners also.
- At the end of Stage One the prospective adopters will be informed of the decision regarding their suitability to proceed to the next stage, based on the information gathered in Stage One. If the decision is not to progress, a written explanation will be given explaining the reasons they will not be able to proceed to Stage Two.



Stage 2 – Assessment Process

The stage two assessment process cannot begin until stage one has successfully been completed (apart from second time and foster carer adoptions, as these are fast-tracked).

Stage two begins when prospective adopters notify the agency of their wish to continue with the process. The prospective adopter(s) have 6 months from the completion of stage one to provide this notification. From the date of receipt of this notification, the stage two process is a 4-month long period during which a home study assessment is undertaken. This leads to a panel recommendation and an Agency Decision about suitability to adopt. The Head of the Agency for One Adoption North and Humber makes the Agency Decision for Adopter approval.

The prospective adopter(s) will be allocated an adoption social worker to complete their assessment. A Stage Two plan will be drawn up between the social worker and the prospective adopter(s) agreeing arrangements for the assessment process and a provisional panel date.

The assessment will involve a series of home assessment visits utilising a variety of assessment tools and will include any relevant additional checks not carried out in stage one.

During the assessment process, a Family and Friends Network Meeting will usually be held. This is to inform a Social Work judgment that an applicant has sufficient immediate support, for a child or children to be placed, and demonstrates a capacity to continue developing the support available to them. Prospective adopters should make efforts to strengthen their network from the point of registering their interest in adoption.

The assessment (and the process) will comply with the legal requirements for the matters to be considered by the Agency in determining suitability to adopt.

The assessing adoption social worker completes the prospective adopter's report and recommends whether or not the prospective adopter is suitable to adopt a child. The prospective adopter will be provided with a copy of this report (minus references) and invited to send observations on the report within five working days. The Team Manager review the prospective adopters report prior to it being submitted to the panel.

The completed assessment is then presented to the adoption panel. The adoption panel consists of independent members, some with personal experience of adoption, alongside social workers and other professional workers. The adoption panel considers all recommendations about adoption. Prospective adopters are encouraged to attend panel



Adoption by existing foster carers

Foster carers should notify the service in writing of their wish to be considered as adopters for a child or children in their care. If the child/ children's plan is for adoption, this will be acknowledged and a meeting held between workers from the adoption and fostering teams and the child's social worker to consider how this should be progressed and will be discussed with the foster carers, who will also be informed of their legal rights.

A fast-track process will be provided for approved foster carers who want to be assessed as adoptive parents. Stage one and two of the adoption processes will take place concurrently to avoid delay.

Second time or subsequent adopters

Families who have already been assessed as adopters can apply to adopt again as long as there is a year's gap following their child's adoption order being made and a 2-year age gap between their child and a potential new child. In this case, they would express an interest in adopting again and be offered a home visit to discuss their circumstances. If it is appropriate to proceed they would then complete the registration of interest form and start the process. Depending on the circumstances of the family stage one and two of the process may run sequentially or concurrently; training will be provided.

If their interest is in respect of a subsequent sibling or half sibling of a child they have already adopted, the timescales and age gap would not necessarily apply. This assessment would be given high priority and the home visit would involve the child's social worker too. In these cases stage one and two would run concurrently.



Adoption panel

There are two joint adoption panels in One Adoption North and Humber; one covering York and North Yorkshire and the other Hull, East Riding and North East Lincolnshire. They each have an Independent Chair and vice chair, each with significant experience of family placement work.

Membership of the panels meets the statutory regulations and takes its members from a central list. Members include those who have personal experience of adoption and others with relevant skills and experience.

The main purpose of the Adoption Panel is to consider and make recommendations to the adoption agency on the following:

- People to be approved as adoptive parents.
- Whether an assessment to approve adopters should continue following a brief report to panel.
- Approval of the match between children and adopters and The placement of children for adoption where their birth parents desire adoption to be the plan.

The panel recommends whether applicants would make suitable adopters and this recommendation is then considered by the Agency Decision Maker. The panel also offers advice to the agency on such things as the characteristics of children that it believes the prospective adopters would be best suited to parent. The Agency Decision Maker decides whether applicants are approved as adopters. This marks the end of Stage Two of the approval process. The Decision Maker will decide within 7 working days of receipt of the Minutes and Recommendation of the Panel.

The prospective adopters are informed of the outcome in writing. If they disagree with the decision, they have the right to request an independent review. The agency will provide a letter detailing the reasons for the decision. The prospective adopters have 40 days to make representation to the agency or ask for the matter to be referred to the Independent Review Mechanism (IRM). The IRM does not however have the authority to overturn the decision originally made.



Annual reviews of prospective adopters

In the event that it is not possible to move to a match within 12 months from approval, the adoption social worker and their manager will conduct a review of the approval, to consider things such as additional training, any updates to the prospective adopter report that may be required, any additional support needs that may be required, and checks and references may need to be updated.

Services to Approved Adopters

An adoption social worker is assigned to an adoptive family (usually the worker who completed their assessment) and guides them through the process of considering and being matched with a child, including attendance at the adoption panel of the local authority placing the child (matching panel).

The Agency prioritises matching of One Adoption North and Humber approved adopters with children referred to it from its five partner Local Authorities. Should a match not be identified within six months of approval, adopters are permitted to seek a match with an external child or children needing adoption (there are specific circumstances where this is not applicable, ie with regards to a cultural match for a child and adopters, with a specific heritage).

Each child where adoption is a likely plan will have an allocated worker from the family finding team. The family finder works closely with the child's social worker to consider matches for that child. When a match is being considered, prospective adopters are given the Child Permanence Report and all appropriate written information about the child, their background and assessed needs. This report will include details of any proposal for contact, or exchange of information through the contact service with the birth family that will operate once the child is adopted.

Adoption social workers work alongside child care social workers to identify suitable prospective adoptive families for children needing adoption. Matches for these children are considered by an adoption panel. Prospective adopters are invited to attend part of the panel meeting considering the match. Prospective adopters meet with the child's social worker and other professionals relevant for that child; medical advisors; foster carers; teachers, etc to enable them to make an informed decision. A life appreciation day will usually be arranged, depending on the child's age and circumstances, to help build as full a picture as possible of the child's experiences.



If there is agreement to proceed to a match, details of the level of parental responsibility that will be delegated to the prospective adopters and any adoption support arrangements, will be discussed. The proposals for the placement will then be set out in the Adoption Placement Report, which will be seen by the prospective adopters before panel, and comments and observations will be included in the panel documentation.

When a child is placed, the adoption social worker offers support and advice in adapting to the realities of life as an adoptive family. This support will continue up to the point that a child is legally adopted and beyond this if required.

After placement

Visits will be made by both the child's Local Authority Social Worker and the adopters' Social Worker. These are based on both statutory requirements and the individual needs of the child and adopters. The child remains a 'looked after' child until an Adoption Order is made. The law requires that the child has to be visited in the first week of placement, followed by weekly visits up to the child's first statutory review at 4 weeks post placement, when the pattern of visiting will be discussed and agreed.

There are some variations to this process if prospective adoptive parent/s are taking the Early Permanency Route to adoption, are second time adopters or foster carers adopting the child they have been fostering. These differences will be carefully explained to prospective adoptive parents from the beginning of their adoption process.

Applying for and Obtaining an Adoption Order

An application for an Adoption Order is made by the adopters. The Court require a report known as an Annex A – this is prepared by both the child's Local Authority Social Worker and the adopters' Social Worker.

The child's Local Authority Social Worker is responsible for ensuring that a Later Life Letter and a Life Story Book are completed and provided to the adopters in a timely manner following the granting of an Adoption Order. This work gives the adopters for the child the story of their circumstances of the child's life and the reasons for adoption. It is given to the adopters for safe keeping for the child in the future.

Contact in Adoption

Contact between adopted children and their birth families is a vital aspect of adoption planning and support. One Adoption North and Humber recognises that contact – whether direct or indirect – can play a significant role in supporting a child's identity, emotional wellbeing, and understanding of their life story.



Types of Contact

Contact arrangements are highly individualised and may include:

- Indirect contact (e.g. letterbox exchanges, cards, photos, updates)
- Direct contact (e.g. face-to-face meetings, video calls)
- Sibling contact, which may be direct or indirect, and is often crucial to maintaining lifelong connections
- Digital contact, which is increasingly relevant and must be carefully managed to ensure safety and appropriateness

Contact in adoption is governed by the Adoption and Children Act 2002, which places the child's welfare as the paramount consideration. The Act allows for contact arrangements to be made before or after an Adoption Order, either by agreement or through a Contact Order under Section 26 of the Act.

The Children and Families Act 2014 and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) further reinforce the importance of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in all decisions, including those related to contact.

Best Practice and the Public Law Working Group (PLWG)

Recommendations

The 2024 report by the Public Law Working Group (PLWG) calls for a shift in how contact is approached in adoption. It recommends:

- Greater consideration of face-to-face contact where safe and appropriate
- Training and support for adoptive parents and birth families to manage contact well
- Recognition that contact is fluid and should evolve with the child's needs and wishes over time
- One Adoption North and Humber fully supports these recommendations and is committed to embedding them into practice.

Principles of Contact Planning

Child-centred: Decisions are based on the individual needs, wishes, and best interests of the child

Flexible: Contact arrangements are reviewed regularly and adapted as the child grows and circumstances change

Supportive: Adopters, children, and birth relatives are offered guidance and support to manage contact safely and meaningfully

Inclusive: Sibling relationships and wider birth family connections are considered and valued.



6. ADOPTION SUPPORT

Adoption social workers and Adoption support workers, offer advice to adoptive families across the region and details of how to access support are available on the One Adoption website.

All adopters are invited to take part in support groups, attend training courses and annual social events. The support groups are informal and welcoming and are available for all adoptive families living in the area.

Adopted children are invited to social events where they can meet other adopted young people. There are groups for adopted young people held across One Adoption North and Humber.

For families needing more intensive support, an adoption support needs assessment is undertaken. Information on how to request an assessment is on the One Adoption website. Adopters can access more specific support by telephone or using the online enquiry form to select their local office and then select 'adoption support' to request this.

7. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The regional agency is operated under the terms of a Partnership Agreement, which confirms legal and governance arrangements; the budget; staffing and funding contributions for the five local authorities.

One Adoption North and Humber's model retains adoption staff within each partner local authority. It delivers a single service through the Head of Agency and two Service Managers managing the entirety of the adoption service across the North and Humber area. Service Managers each manage a single team across grouped local authorities. Adoption social workers remain employed by their local authority, reporting to a team manager, who in turn reports to one of the two Service Managers, accountable to the Head of Agency and their respective Heads of Service within their Local Authority.

Alongside the Head of Agency and two Service Managers, there are seven team managers who line manage the adoption social workers and support workers from across the 5 Local Authorities. All social workers are registered with Social Work England and have an enhanced DBS check and our staff have extensive experience of social work with children and families.

As part of the core staff within the agency, we have a project development co-ordinator and a marketing and communications manager, who work alongside, and report to the Head of Agency. They are employed by City of York Council.

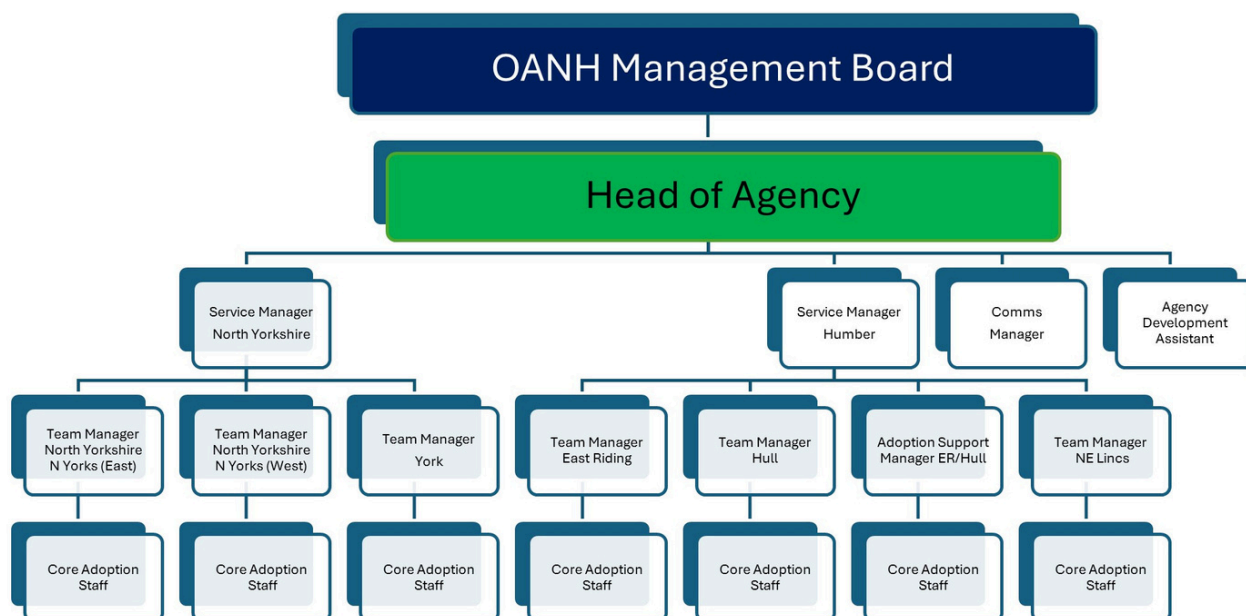
Information is available about all aspects of the adoption service online:

Phone: 0345 305 2576

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/oneadoption>





8. HEAD OF AGENCY, RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS AND REGISTERED MANAGERS

Tom Maxwell is our Head of Agency, based at West Offices, Station Rise, York YO1 6GA. Tom has over 20 years' experience working within children and families' services and has worked in adoption as a social worker, team manager, and service manager within Adoption, since 2015.

Each of the local authorities making up One Adoption North and Humber has a Responsible Officer, often known as the Registered Manager, responsible for the delivery of the adoption service within that local authority area.

City of York Council's Registered Manager is Sara Sherwood, based at West Offices, Station Rise, York YO1 6GA.

North Yorkshire Council's Responsible Officer is Claire Dimmey, based at County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD.

Hull City Council's Responsible Officer is Michele Priest, Kenworthy House, 98-104 George Street, Hull, HU1 3DT.

North East Lincolnshire Council's Responsible Officer is Paul Cowling, Cleethorpes Civic Offices, Knoll Street, Cleethorpes, DN35 8LN.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Responsible Officer is Ian Wilson, County Hall, Cross Street, Beverley, HU17 9BA.



9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROVISION OF SERVICE

One Adoption North and Humber produces a half yearly, and annual report on the performance of the regional adoption agency's work. These reports are provided to the One Adoption North and Humber management board and the Executive/Cabinet Member in each of the five local authorities making up One Adoption North and Humber.

Adoption panels receive regular updates on the outcomes for children and prospective adopters considered at panel in the previous 12 months. Panel chairs provide bi-annual reports regarding business over the six months and meet twice a year with the Agency Decision Maker and senior managers from the agency.

Feedback is sought from young people, enquirers, adoptive parents and other service users at key points in the adoption process.

Adoption staff receive regular supervision and annual appraisals of their performance. Training needs are identified and met through in-house training and externally commissioned trainers.

A management information system is in place to ensure that the RAA is meeting targets and objectives, and the agency holds an up-to-date DPIA (data protection impact assessment).

Local authorities comprising the RAA are monitored by external inspections undertaken by Ofsted. The work of the RAA is considered as part of these inspections. Reports are available from the Ofsted website and direct from this service upon request.



10. PAN REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COLLABORATION WITH ADOPTION ENGLAND

Regional Adoption Agencies have been established across England since 2017. One Adoption North & Humber work closely with One Adoption West Yorkshire, hosted by Leeds City Council, and One Adoption South Yorkshire, hosted by Doncaster Children’s Trust sharing the ‘One Adoption’ brand and website, and running a joint marketing strategy. The One Adoption North and Humber Board oversees the Regional Adoption Agency, working towards a consistently high quality adoption service across the region. Hosted by the City of York, it delivers a single service which retains many functions at a local level.

One Adoption North and Humber continue to have strong links with Adoption England, with the Head of Agency working closely with other RAA leaders across the country to continually drive forward best practice and achieve positive change and best outcomes for children and families. There are several managers across One Adoption North and Humber who are part of practice working groups, all linked in to the central team within Adoption England. This ensures a consistent approach to the modernisation of adoption services across England, with a regional and pan regional footprint, that is able to advocate for and provide service to, the needs of families and children.

Adoption England is a collaboration of regional adoption agencies working together with a small central team working nationally, aiming to improve adoption practice and develop support and services to better meet the needs of children and families. Further information can be found on their website: <https://adoptionengland.co.uk/>

Adoption England’s 2024 – 27 strategy outcomes:



11. CONCERNS & COMPLAINTS

All adopters (and prospective adopters) engaging with the Agency are provided with written information about Complaints Procedures. All young people, for whom there is an adoption plan and who are of an appropriate age and understanding are likewise informed of the Complaints Procedures and also informed of the role of the Children's Rights Service.

If people are unhappy with the service received they can talk to their social worker or the service manager, who will try to resolve matters. If the matter cannot be resolved satisfactorily, it can be passed to the complaints team of the social worker's employing local authority, who will deal with all complaints relating to the operational delivery of the agency. The details of each local authority's complaints process can be found on that local authority's websites. The links to these websites are as follows:

<https://www.york.gov.uk/>

<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/>

<https://www.hull.gov.uk/>

<https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/>

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/>



12. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AVAILABILITY

This Statement of Purpose is available in a format that is appropriate to physical, sensory and learning impairments, communication difficulties and the language of children, birth parents, adoptive parents and staff, if so requested.

The Statement of Purpose is published on One Adoption North and Humber's website and is revised annually.

One Adoption North and Humber's policies, procedures and any written guidance to staff reflect the Statement of Purpose.



13. REGISTRATION AUTHORITY

Ofsted inspects local authority adoption services and can be contacted at:

Ofsted

Piccadilly Gate Store Street Manchester

M1 2WD

<https://contact.ofsted.gov.uk/contact-form>

Customers can make complaints directly to Ofsted.

Dame Rachel De Souza, Children's Commissioner for England can be contacted directly by young people by emailing info.request@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk.

Freephone 0800 5280731.

Children's Commissioner

Sanctuary Buildings

Great Smith Street

London SW1P 3BT

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/get-advice>

Review process:

The Statement of Purpose will be reviewed at least once every 12 months. This requirement is set out in the National Minimum Standards for Adoption (Standard 18) and supported by the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005 and associated amendments.

The review ensures that:

The Statement remains accurate and up to date.

It reflects any changes in legislation, policy, or practice.

It continues to align with the agency's aims, objectives, and service delivery.

Review Date: June 2026

