

## Adopt North East Consultation

This report was generated on 26/07/18. Overall 53 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

### Do you agree or disagree with the rationale for regionalising local authority adoption services and creating the new service – Adopt North East?



Please give your reasons here:

Should offer local children a greater chance of been adopted

It should make adoption quicker and easier to match, taking children out of local authorities therefore giving a new start without threat of birth families being in locality.

Would be better for the children that need to be placed outside their local Authority

I broadly agree but need to hold in mind that this should not be seen as a cost cutting exercise and bigger is not always better - better is better

The new service gives a positive message for all involved with adoption.

Wider pool to match adopters/children, economies of scale, easier to share learning/collaborate

Everyone receives the same, high quality service, no matter where they live.

All adoptive children and families should receive support for as long as is necessary. regionalisation will mean that everyone should receive a good quality of service throughout the regions. what would be important is the services on offer must match the need not be a one size fits all.

Regionalising services can produce economies of scale and theoretically greater choice of families for children when it comes to matching. However, my concern is that larger organisations may become impersonal for adopters who in the past have benefited from a sense of belonging. I also fear that Voluntary Adoption Agencies, who have specialised over the years in finding families for harder to place children, will not be there in the future to do so if they do not have guaranteed income at a level that makes them sustainable. Spot purchased commissioning arrangements could lead to this whereas contractual service level agreements could provide a positive basis for partnership working

Regionalisation removes an element of customer choice, however it may result in the spreading of best practice.

Pooling resources has to be better than relying on one service. More resources the better the service and the better outcomes for children and families

I think it will be more effective in recruiting adopters and will reduce delay in finding placements for children

Delay for children placed for adoption will hopefully be kept to a minimum.

I can see how it would be beneficial having a larger pool of adopters to choose from and a more consistent service across the area, I just fear that standards will drop to the lowest rather than be pulled up to the highest.

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Please give your reasons here:

Agree with this vision of a new Regional Adoption Agency, think there will be some challenges but do feel positive and enthusiastic about this new development.

I think there are a number of strengths in that families will have access to a greater range of services and services will potentially be more accessible.

Hopefully more cohesive, extending options for prospective adopters and providing more opportunities for permanence for children.

I understand the need for reducing overlap and therefore money and the need to provide an outstanding service across the north east. I worry that some of the good will be lost along the way and the personal element that makes North Tyneside so good will go

I can see the rationale behind the model but I am unsure of the ability to implement a fair and consistent service across all the areas.

Better co-ordination of services rather than agencies competing for families.

Support being available throughout the children's lives is vital and so important.

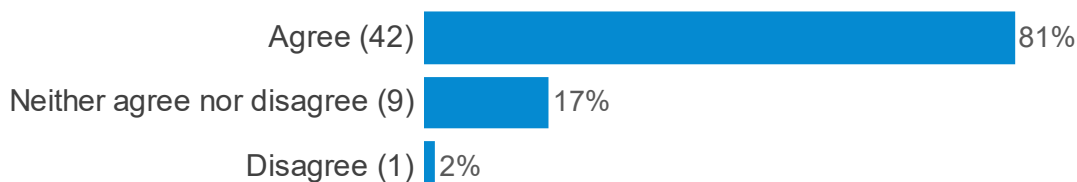
Best practice will be better disseminated and support should be easier to obtain across council boundaries

It is a highly specialist area, where pooling skills, knowledge and motivated people can really benefit children and families. The safety themes mean that having a wider pool of families to consider should reduce the waiting time considerably.

better contact and control for communication

The bigger the better!

**Do you agree or disagree that creating Adopt North East will improve marketing to adopters and create better coordinated messaging across the North East?**



Please give your reasons here:

Having one regional agency will improve marketing and will give clarity to adopters and sure a more consistent service to adopters and children

I agree that it should as long as it is run effectively

Yes pooling resources and staff experience\skills together

I think this has been the benefit of other RAA initiatives but would be interested how this includes the VAA partners

This is a new way forward and will inspire and improve services

Reasons adequately covered above

Pooled resources, knowledge and skills will help to improve marketing

Im not convinced that marketing for adoption will improve the uptake. people either want to adopt or not and if they do most would have the knowlege to appraoch the LA. perhaps time, resoeuces money could be better used imo

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Please give your reasons here:

Pooled resources and a joined up strategic approach will hopefully produce a dividend

Greater budget capacity should result in better marketing techniques.

Brilliant idea and way forward

I think it will be clearer to the public about who they need to contact and I believe that recruitment will be improved as there will be less competition and more resources available

A consistent message across the region would be good

Amalgamating five adoption services with very different ways of working will present its challenges however it will be good to have well co-ordinated messages and marketing across the North East.

This will happen in the future, however in the short term the new system may be confusing, so marketing will have many purposes.

Having the same criteria across the region will be good as will having just one point of contact

Larger workforce giving greater publicity potential.

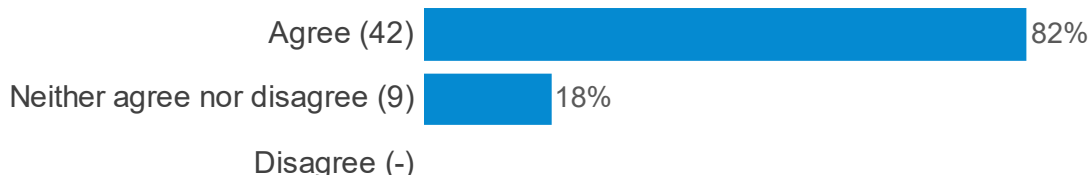
Lots of fine words about principles but nothing about nitty, gritty practicalities

Yes I think there will be economies of scale for the agencies. However as a single adopter I chose to go to a voluntary agency and was disappointed by the unwelcoming approach of some LAs. I think having some specialist services/ skills for adopters outside the heterosexual couple mode is useful

easier to locate, access, communicate

They should be more people to help do this job

**Do you agree or disagree that creating Adopt North East will improve the recruitment and assessment process for adopters and their journey with Adopt North East will be timely?**



Please give your reasons here:

Again is true in theory but depends on how efficient the system is and how quickly all involved can make decisions

Better training and understanding of attachment will benefit both potential adopters and children from a very early stage and throughout. More desperately needs to be done in schools though.

Yes pooling staff skills and experiences together as well as resources. Having one RAA to approach will minimise confusion for adopters and encourage positive networks with prospective adopters

I think there is a great potential for this to be improved and streamlined but not to assume this would be an automatic result - will require some work

Everyone within the RAA has the opportunity to work together to improve the adopters journey

Very pleased to hear that therapeutic parenting will be included in training

Adopters won't have to wait for training

no prospective adopters or child should be left in an untimely process

### Please give your reasons here:

I hope this is the case but there will still be the problem of having adoption medicals undertaken in time and of receiving a return on statutory checks and references in a timely fashion.

This depends on how much preparation has been done before the 'go live' date to ensure systems and processes are in place and that there is not a 'downturn' in recruitment during any transition phase.

Process seems sound and will enhance everyones journey

Agree that therapeutic parenting training and attachment is a good idea - what about working with the child's trauma?

More regular panels is a great idea for adopters and children.

It will reduce the confusion about where to go but I do not feel that it would improve the journey or assessment process.

Timeliness is very important for prospective adopters who make that most important initial contact with some trepidation and anxiety. Fortnightly panels are a good idea for approval and matching.

Would need to see how this works in practice. Will training programmes run locally, will service be personalised.

I agree that it will help with courses being held more frequently but feel that potetial adopters may be put off if thy have to travel too far. Also you would need to ensure that the relationship between adopters and the person assessing is not lost. It is hard enough to open up to an unknown person, if a different person shows up to each interview it will be impossible.

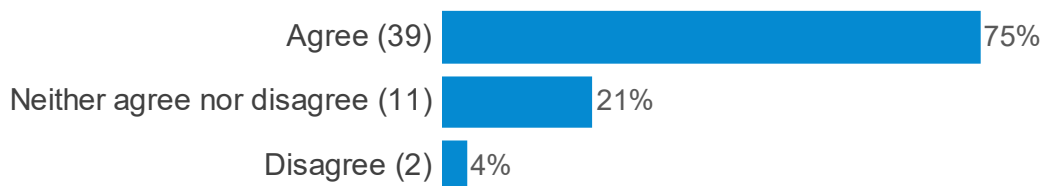
Should be a much quicker process and more efficient.

Hopefully, but travelling long distances to get to training can be a disincentive and the region covered is large.

more on your doorstep, give people a more comfrotable feeling

I would like to think so as again the more people involved should make it more organised and quicker

### Do you agree or disagree that creating a regionalised adoption agency - Adopt North East - efficient, high quality adoption support services can be provided for all families in the scope of the new service?



### Please give your reasons here:

Has already come to light that each region has own policies etc and is hard for all to make agreements

Better working together with schools, parents and other agencies will really benefit children and parents who feel isolated.

No more post code lottery for services hopefully!

One of my biggest hopes for RAA's is that they remove the postcode lottery of adoption support services and that adoptive and birth families have a range of quality support made available to them across the whole region.

This area of support requires high levels of resources from all involved and everyone affected by adoption should be given the same opportunity to be helped through the process.

### Please give your reasons here:

Glad to see attention being paid to high-quality, post-adoption support. Some concern about service potentially becoming too monolithic and not being responsive to different needs in different areas.

Pooling resources, skills and experience, means a quality level of adoption support can be offered. It also means that the referral process should be more streamlined, and families will not have to wait so long to receive support. There will be more options of support available to families, so this will better meet their needs.

Yes as long as serious consideration is given to what "type" of support is needed and ultimately offered. One size, or variation of does not fit all. An example would be story stem or play therapy .... not ideal for highly traumatised children, specialist services within the region should be sought

We currently offer high quality Adoption Support Services across the North East but within your proposed collaborative we have only supported Tyneside therefore the proposal would allow all LAs to access services such as ours.

Discussions need to take place with the Voluntary Sector, who already have many of these services at their disposal. rather than re-inventing the wheel.

The RAA planning for self sufficiency may mean that other services currently available from VAA's will no longer be available in the market.

Scope of services means that adoptive families and birth families will have greater chance of meeting their needs and support

Pooled resources will create a greater service mass more able to cope/manage staffing issues and surges in demand

At present I am under North tyneside, I know everyone i am comfortable talking to them and going to them with my problems and asking for assistance. I do not feel this would be the case with a much larger organisation.

It will be good to have a single commissioning service and to be able to bring different therapeutic providers so that parents can be given choice of the different therapeutic services. It may be a challenge though taking into account the geographical spread of Adopt North East in terms of parents accessing such services dependant on where they live.

This will depend on resources, having consistency and fair access to services, and ensure VAA's are included in the overall service.

I have had a good experience and would like everyone to have the same as long as that standard remains high

I would need to review the finished model and the providers understanding of on going support.

Current adoption support in Newcastle is poor, in our experience with social workers being very reluctant to apply to the ASF. Any improvement on this would be very welcome.

Support services are vital and need to be seen as standard and not upon need as that usually means it us on Kate and makes parents feel inadequate which should be eradicated as offered to everyone.

It can be but will it? PAS needs to be for the entire period of an adoption and this assumption needs to be in place from the very beginning. Will sufficient resources be available?

It should do, but sometimes adopters need to feel they are accessing independent advocacy and something that stands outside the system in order to be able to challenge. This can be tricky to establish if the network is too closely entwined.

Again I would like to think this as long as there is plenty people in the system to cope with each job

## Adopt North East Consultation

**We are keen to ensure that this consultation reaches people from across the region; please would you help us to confirm this by providing the first five digits of your postcode in the space below?**

NE35R	Ts15 9
ne81h	NE8 3JH
Ne259	DH33J
NE65 0	ne28 7
Ne28 7	NE96B
ne11	
NE26 2N	
NE29 9LE	
dh8 9qt	
NE17R	
Ne30 3	
NE34 9	
DH2 1A	
NE10 0	
NE26 2	
SR5 2T	
ts17 5	
TS10 1	
SR5 2T	
NE34 7	
ne11 9	
TS159	
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DH4 4YA	
TS17 6	
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