



PRESENTATION FOR CHILDREN'S 7 CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 2017

**National and Regional
Developments in Adoption**

**Implications for service and
local outcomes**

**Bolton
Council**



The national and local adoption picture.

What the papers say....



National Reform Agenda 2011-2017

- New Legislation, Regulation, Guidance and NMS
- Promotion of timely decision making in children's cases
- Adoption Scorecards
- Adoption Gateway- First 4 Adoption
- 2 Stage adopter process (6 months)
- Adopter led Matching – Adoption Link
- Adoption Leadership Board -2014
- New adoption leave and pay rights from April 2015
- Adoption Support Fund-£28m 2017-18
- Regionalising Adoption Service – RAA's



RAA's - The background

- May 2015 - government announced changes to the delivery of adoption services by proposing that all adoption services should be delivered on a regional basis by 2020.

The aims for the new agencies are to:

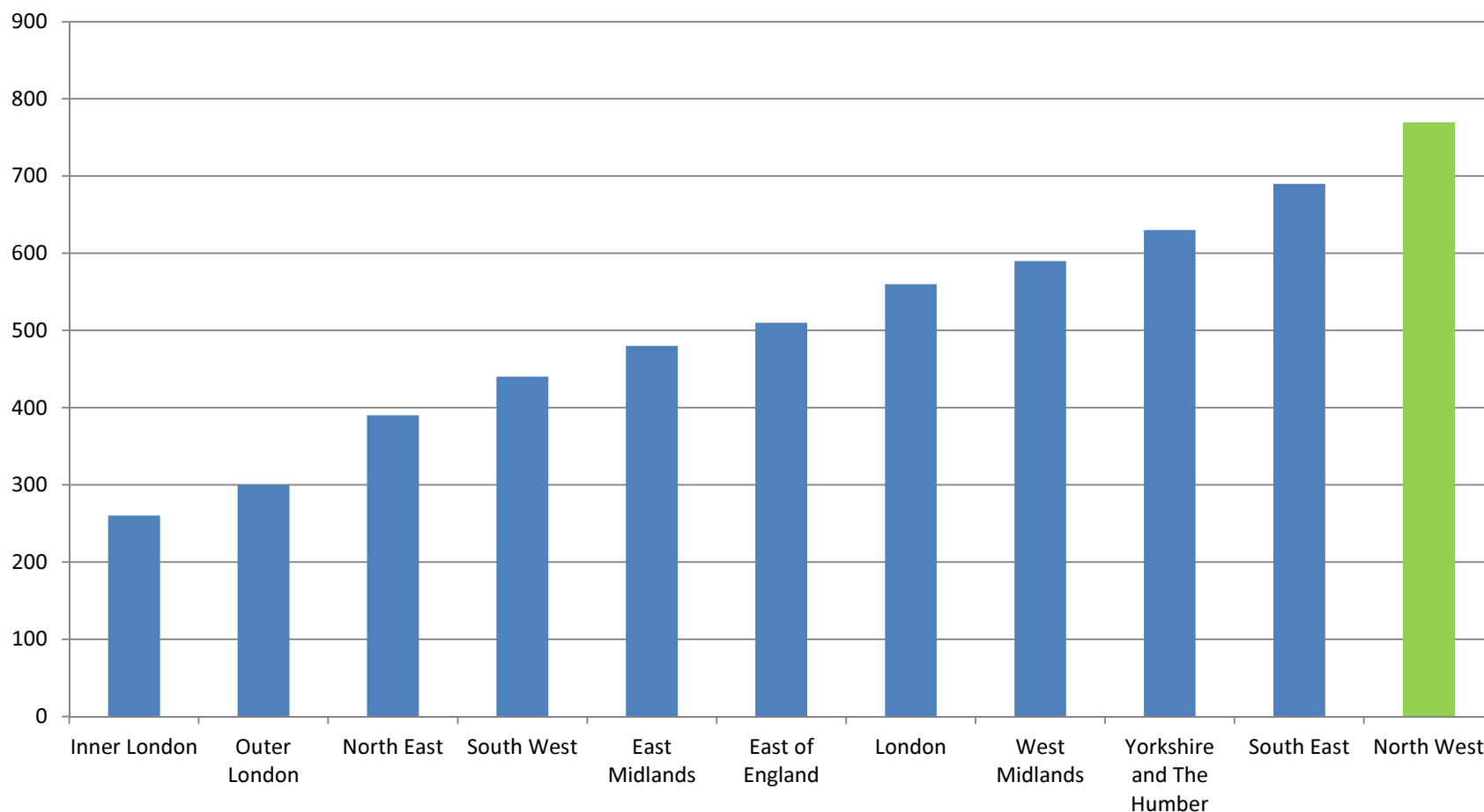
- Increase the number of children adopted
- Reduce the length of time children wait to be adopted
- Improve post adoption support services to families who have adopted
- Reduce the number of adoption agencies to improve efficiency and effectiveness



- Since then, Bolton , Bury, BwD, Rochdale , Tameside and Oldham local authorities have been working together with Adoption Matters and Caritas Care (Voluntary Adoption Agencies) to develop plans for a Regional Adoption Agency.
- Transition Plans have been periodically submitted to the Department for Education to detail how our local authorities will move from current arrangements to a single Regional Agency covering the existing local authority areas.



Regional breakdown Adoptions 2014-16



Last year in England 4,690 children were adopted from care into new families (year end 31.3.16) 2015 saw highest number since data collection began in 2009- 5,360



Bolton Outcomes 2014-2016

2013/14

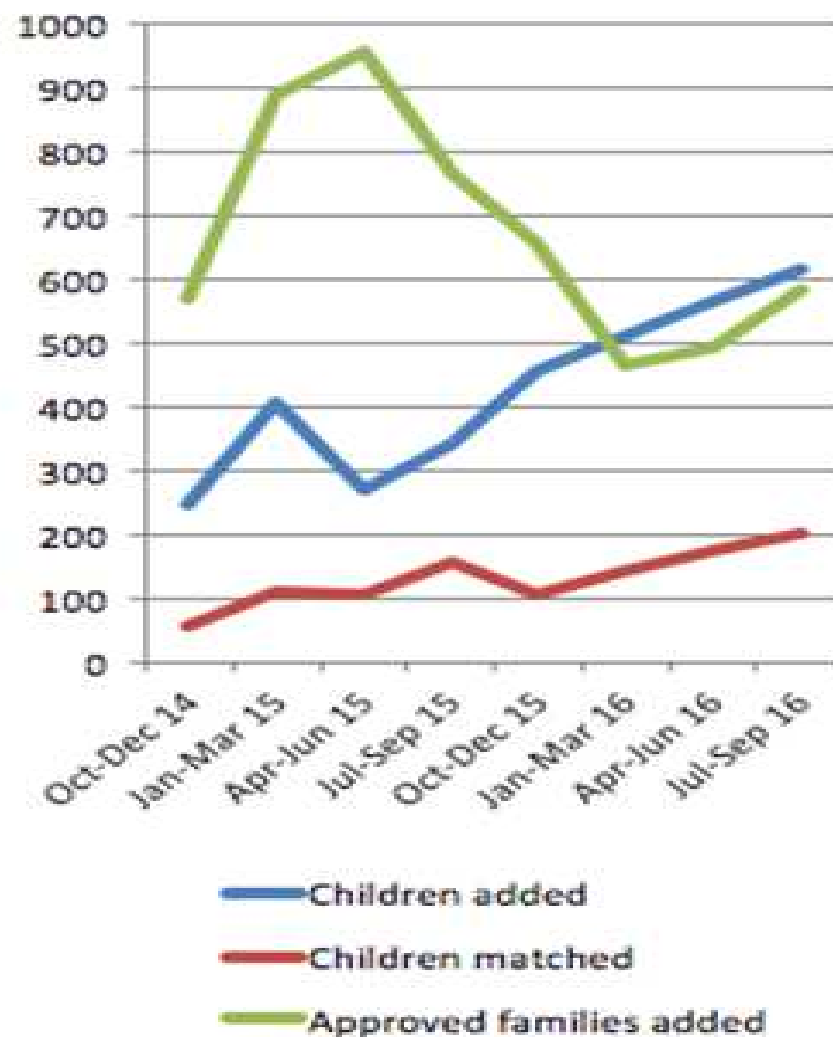
- 61 matched for Adoption (5x2)
- 59 children adopted
- 27 Adoptive families approved
- 1 placement disrupted (1 child age 7)

2015/16

- 38 matched for Adoption
- 44 children adopted
- 30 families approved
- 1 disruption. 2 adopters withdrew.
- 1 relinquished child



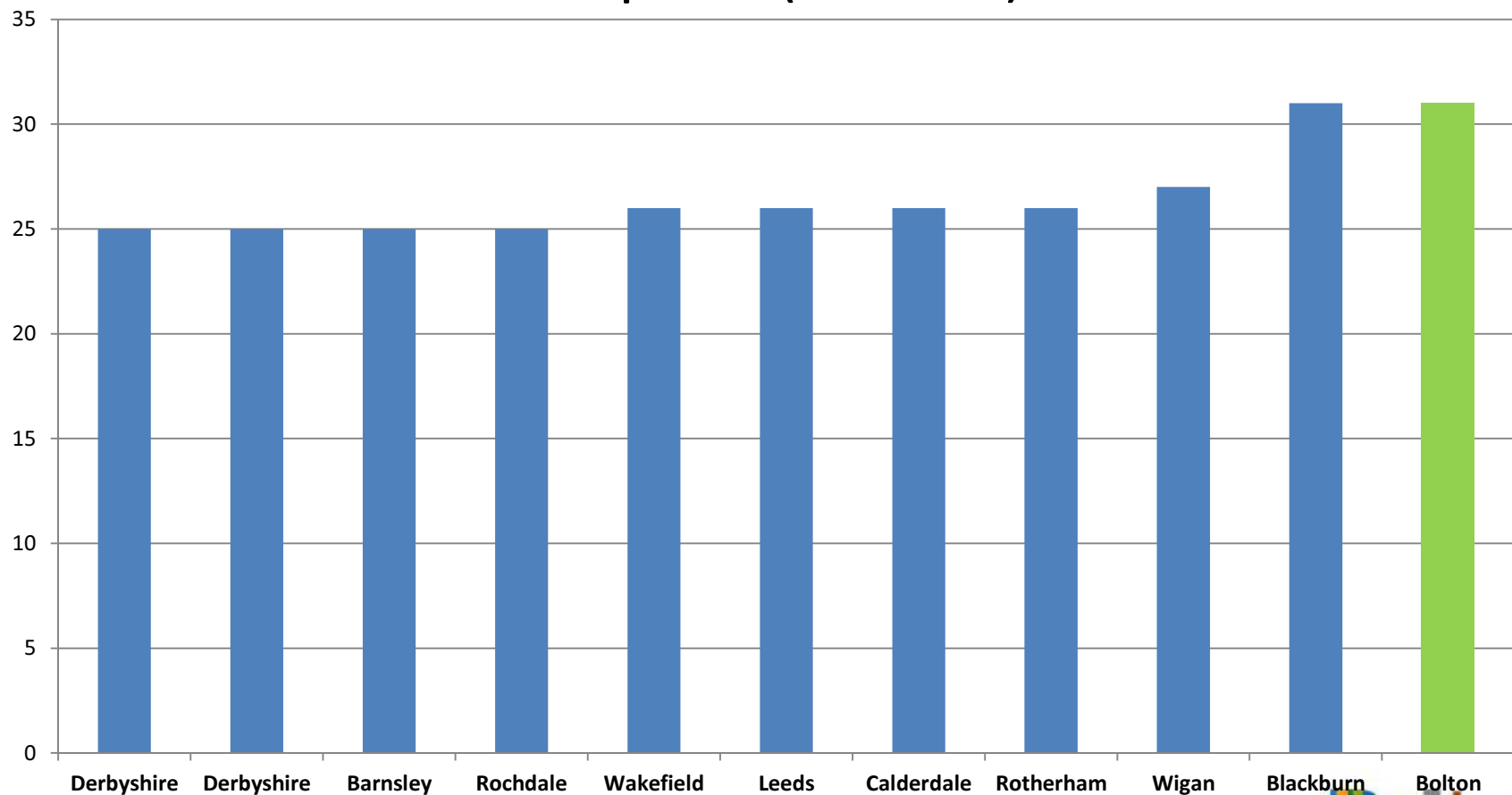
Statistics on Link Maker:



Source Link Maker data base snapshot Sept 2016



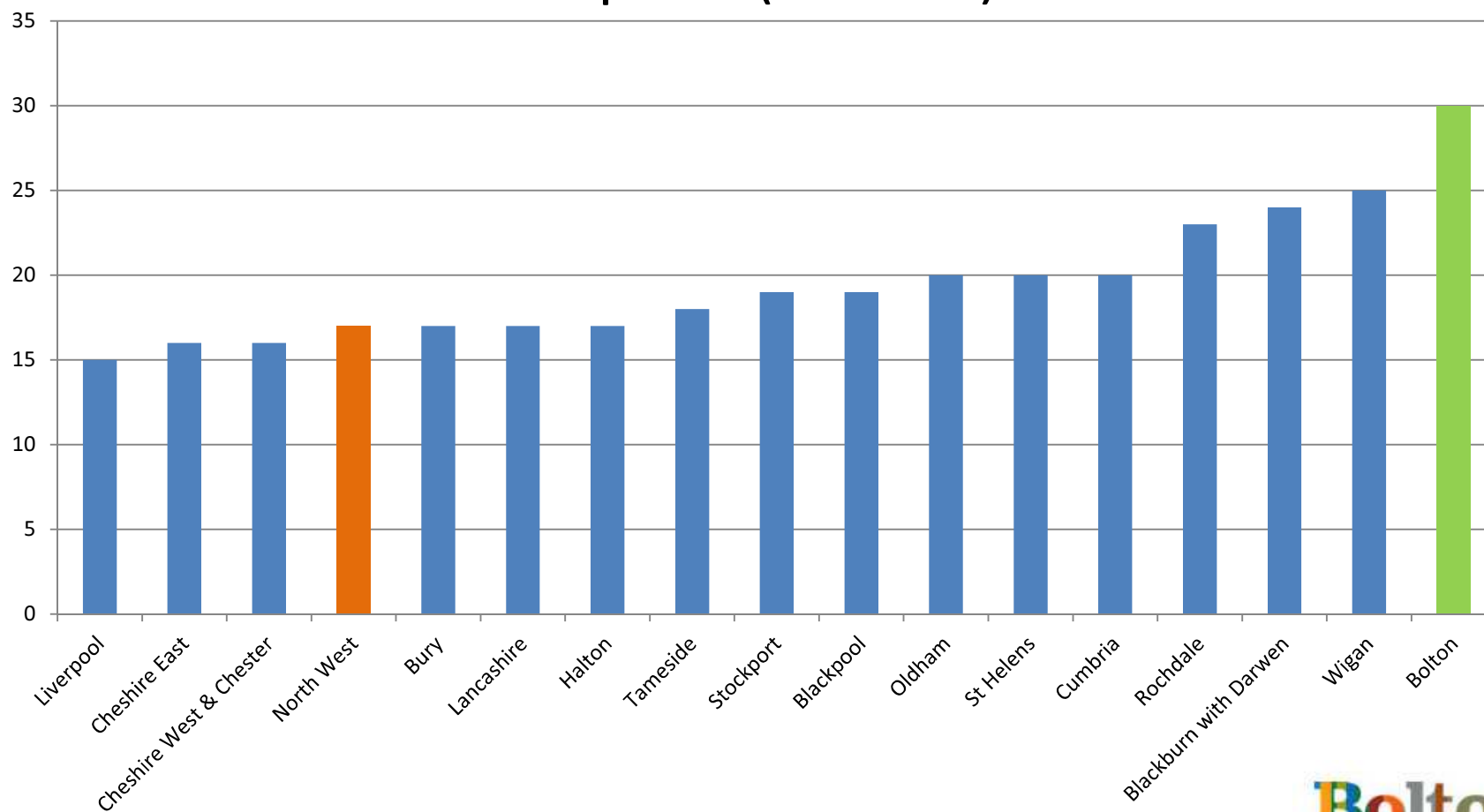
Nationally – Best performing agencies 3 year average for % of children who leave care to adoption (to 2016)





Regional agency Performance

5 year average for % of children who leave care to adoption (to 2016)





Priorities for 2017 -18

- Continue to develop practice to support timely, best interests decision making in line with Bolton's LAC strategy.
- Preserve and promote best practice and outcomes across RAA agencies to ensure-
 - Sufficiency in recruitment
 - Timely adoption outcomes for children
 - High quality Adoption Support for families