



Gwasanaeth
Mabwysiadu
Cenedlaethol

National
Adoption
Service

Achieving More Together /
Cyflawni Mwy Gyda'n Gilydd

National Adoption Service



The short version

A summary for children, young people and adults

There is also a full report. Just ask for a copy, or download it from...

www.adoptcymru.com

Welcome

It is still early days for the National Adoption Service. We have done well again this year.

It's important we know what's going well and what we need to work on.

We have listened and learned from children, young people and adopters, and from research. Everyone is telling us the same thing: good support is essential. Next year's challenge is to get the money, systems and services in place so people get the support they need.

Thank you to children, young people and adopters for telling us so clearly what we need to do.

Thank you to staff for working hard to make adoption a better experience.

Phil Hodgson *Independent Chair, National Adoption Service Advisory Group*

Suzanne Griffiths *Director of Operations*

What is the National Adoption Service?



The National Adoption Service was launched in November 2014. So this is the third annual report.

Over 230
adopters approved

Adoption
planning work for
900 children

Adoption Services are Improving

43 adoptions
made using the Wales
Adoption Register

300 children
joined their adoptive
families

500 children and
families getting
adoption support

Over 3,100
letterbox contact
arrangements

390 birth
parents had
counselling

989 birth parents
offered counselling

2016–17 report

Last year we told you what we planned to do.
We had 2 priorities and 3 challenges.

Better adoption support

Develop a new Wales Adoption Register

New families for children

Getting the right adopters

Running the National Adoption Service well



The next few pages tell you
how we got on.

Better support for everybody

Success

- ★ We listened and took on board what children, young people and adopters think and want.
- ★ We made sure their voices were heard by Welsh Government.
- ★ We put more advice and info on our website
- ★ We worked to make education more 'adoption aware'.
- ★ We are improving life story work.
- ★ We worked with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- ★ We gave practical or financial support to over 500 adopted children and young people.
- ★ Voluntary organisations supported adopters across Wales.
- ★ Adoption UK/After Adoption ran 'TalkAdoption' groups for children and young people.
- ★ We made a plan for improving adoption support in 2017-18.

Not quite there yet



Making adoption support even better for those who need it.



Keep learning from children, young people and adopters.



Use information from the Wales Adoption Study to plan better post-adoption support for everyone.

Develop a new adoption register

Success



Worked with WG on this.

Not quite there yet



Develop a database so we can:

- keep in touch with adopters.
- improve the new Wales Adoption Register.

New families for children

Success

- ★ Workshops so everyone knows good ways to find new families for children.
- ★ Adoption Activity days to match children and adopters.
- ★ Projects to help children and young people move on to new families.
- ★ Children are finding new families faster – but it's still too slow for some children.

Not quite there yet

- ✦ Recruit adopters for children who need an adoptive family.
- ✦ Cut delays.
- ✦ Start using the new Wales Adoption Register.

Getting the right adopters

Success

- ★ Used the #SeeTheWholeChild campaign to get the right people to apply to adopt. 1,278 people enquired about adopting.
- ★ Put anyone wanting to adopt siblings, older children, or children with additional needs at the front of the queue.

Not quite there yet

- ✨ Keep working to get adopters who can meet the needs of children waiting to be adopted.

Make sure the National Adoption Service is well run

Success

- ★ Found better ways to listen to children, young people and adopters.
- ★ Kept track of what's happening across Wales.
- ★ Sorted what training to offer professionals.
- ★ Ran conferences and fun days.
- ★ Been given an extra £90,000 from Welsh Government for projects like a young person's app and improving life journey work.

Not quite there yet

- ✦ 'Go live' with young people's webpages and an app for young people.
- ✦ Keep an eye on whether the Regions have enough money to do a good job.

Compliments and complaints

77 compliments,
mostly about

- support
- adoption panel
- work with courts

10 complaints,
mostly about

- decisions that were made
- delays
- support



Our plans for 2017-18



Hear and take on board
what children, young people and adopters say.
Everyone (professionals, adoptive families, government)
works together to improve adoption in Wales.

Keep improving
support:

- more money
- better life journey work
- more work with health and education

Making
this happen:

- work to change laws and policies
- make sure National Adoption Service is well run
- make sure all professionals are 'adoption aware'

New families for
children:

- recruit the right adopters
- speed things up
- use the new Wales Adoption Register