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

2015-16 was a busy year. Adoption services are improving, but we've got a long way to go. We had 6 priorities. We've reported back on how we got on.

Local councils, voluntary organisations and the National Adoption Service are committed to improving services even more. We've written a plan for 2016-17 saying how we will do this.

We want to say a big thank you to the children, young people and adopters who have talked to us. We are in your debt. What you said has helped us improve what we do.

Councillor Mel Nott, *Chair, Governance Board*

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

S**uzanne Griffiths,** *Director of Operations*

What is the National Adoption Service?

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

Adoption services are improving

326 children placed for adoption

Fewer delays for children who need adopting

More adopters approved

Almost all (97%) birth parents were offered support

Almost half the children have materials that tell their life story

Adopters are approved faster

2015-16 report

Last year we told you what we planned to do.
We had 6 priorities.

- Getting the right adopters
- Fewer delays in being adopted
- Better support for everybody
- Listening to you
- Doing better overall
- Running the National Adoption Service well

This is how we got on.

Getting the right adopters

The system is working better.

We have more adopters being approved quicker, who want to adopt the children and young people who need adopting.

Our strategy for recruiting the right adopters is #SeeTheWholeChild. This raises public awareness of adoption, and gives an idea of the children who need adopters.

Fewer delays

We cut the time from coming into care to being adopted.

Fewer children wait over 6 months to be placed for adoption once it is agreed they need to be adopted.

If it's hard to find the right adopters, we can use the National Adoption Register. 51 children found adopters this way in 2015-16, which is more than in 2014-15.

Better support for everybody

All children had a check to see what support they and their adopters might need.

More children have materials that tell their life story. But we did not improve on this as much as we had hoped. We have made this a priority again for 2016-17.

We did better at supporting birth parents.

We have almost agreed an all-Wales policy for paying adoption allowances.

We are still working to help schools and health services support adopted children and young people better.

Listening to you

We listened to over 170 adopters and 140 children and young people.

Adopters told us:

- We are glad we are adopters
- There's not enough support, especially for mental health
- We can feel we are left on our own
- Schools aren't always supportive

Adopted young people told us:

- Pupils and teachers don't understand adoption
- CAMHS (the mental health service) doesn't understand adoption
- We want to be involved in training people in life story work
- We want support groups and camps

We used what they said to write our 2016-17 work plan.

Doing better overall

We are getting there!

National Adoption Service is well run

Nationally, we are getting there because we listened to what you told us.

The regions and local councils are doing better too.

The voluntary organisations are working hard to provide support and find adopters for older children, siblings, and disabled children.

What we plan to do in 2016/17

What	How
Improve adoption support	Listen and write a plan. Make it easier to get information and advice. Make sure schools, CAMHS and other services are 'adoption aware'. Sort out paying adoption allowances. Plan how to sort life story work across Wales.
Place children effectively and quickly	Sort out a database. Use 'foster to adopt' so more children in care can be adopted by their foster carers. Get better at finding the right families.
Recruit the right adopters	Roll out #SeeTheWholeChild across Wales. Support adopters who haven't been matched with a child yet.
Make sure the National Adoption Service is well run	Keep setting targets and checking we are meeting them. Plan how to employ the right staff with the right skills. Make sure everyone remembers to 'think adoption' if a child cannot live with their birth family. Make sure we have enough money to do a good job.