New Adoption Register for Wales

Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol | National Adoption Service

Bulletin 3– March 2019

The Wales Adoption Register is improving and is being renamed the Adoption Register for Wales (ARW).

The new Register will be more user friendly and efficient as well as being bi-lingual and providing managed access for approved adopters.

The Welsh Government fully funds the Adoption Register in Wales; since 2015 the Register and the associated functions have been provided through the National Adoption Service for Wales.

A new partner, **Link Maker** has won the contract to provide a modern, on-line linking service. This will start operating in Spring 2019.

What have we done since the last bulletin?

- The new Register operated by Linkmaker has come into use. It can be found at https://www.adoptcymru.com/adoption-register-wales
  During March it is being used alongside the previous register so we can transfer all information to the new system and make all profiles bi-lingual.
- Regions and VAAs have been working hard to ensure all children's and adopter's profiles are ready for this.
- Completed and consulted on a final draft of the national guidelines for the use of ARW and made them available on the website.
- Continued our visits to regions and VAAs to assist them with understanding how ARW will need to be used and to support the development of their internal processes for translation, performance management and quality assurance.
- Worked with our PR company Cowshed to develop new leaflets for adopters and staff. These will be available in April.
- Completed a final version of the user guide for staff and adopters.
- Developed a process for Help Desk calls for people who may want to have their discussion in Welsh.

link maker

Cofrestr Fabwysiadu **Cymru**
Adoption Register **Wales**

What happens next?

- The existing Register will continue to operate until the end of March to facilitate transition to ARW and provide year end activity reports.

- From April 1st ARW will be the new Welsh Register with a transition period to the end of April to complete the translation of profiles. After this profiles can only become visible for matching if they are bi-lingual:
    - Profiles for children will start being written after the 'should be placed' decision is made and sent for translation once the placement order is granted.
    - Profiles for adopters will be written during the assessment, submitted to panel and translated once approved.

- There will be a public launch of ARW in the Spring; we will publish this date as soon as we know.

- We will continue to work with regions and VAA's to support the ongoing implementation of the new Service and assure the quality of the information on ARW.

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The purpose of the Register is to minimise delay in finding adoptive families for children with an adoption plan who are waiting. This new service will be a further step in the Welsh Government strategy to 'Improve Outcomes for Children' across Wales and help deliver the National Adoption Service priority to match and place children effectively.

The new Register has been developed to be more accessible to its users and help us all to secure stable, suitable, matches for Welsh children with an adoption plan.

The Steering Group will continue to meet monthly to oversee the action plan for this project. The group includes representatives from Welsh Government, Voluntary and Statutory Adoption Agencies, Link Maker and will be joined by a representative from Cowshed, a company that has been commissioned to develop a plan for launching ARW.