



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

Adoption Register Wales

Mid-Year Report

2025-26

QUARTERS 1 & 2: April – September 2025

Introduction

We are pleased to share this performance report for the Adoption Register Wales for the period **1st April - 30th September 2025**.

Adoption Register Activity

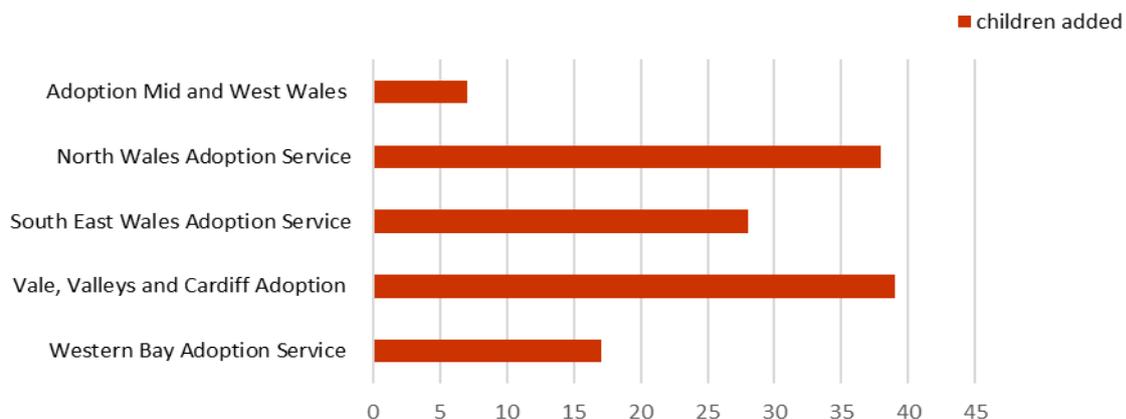
Children

As of 30th September 2025, there were **298** children on the register and **194** children waiting with no links. This compares to the same time last year when there were **241** children on the register and **144** children waiting on the register. There has been an increase in the number of children waiting due to an increase in Placement Orders being granted, and less prospective adopters available than there were at the same time last year.

Practitioners from the regions and VAA's take responsibility for updating and maintaining the profiles of children and adopters on the register. The register team continues to monitor and support practitioners to ensure that the register is kept up to date and proactively plan to enhance effective linking and matching through other events and activities.

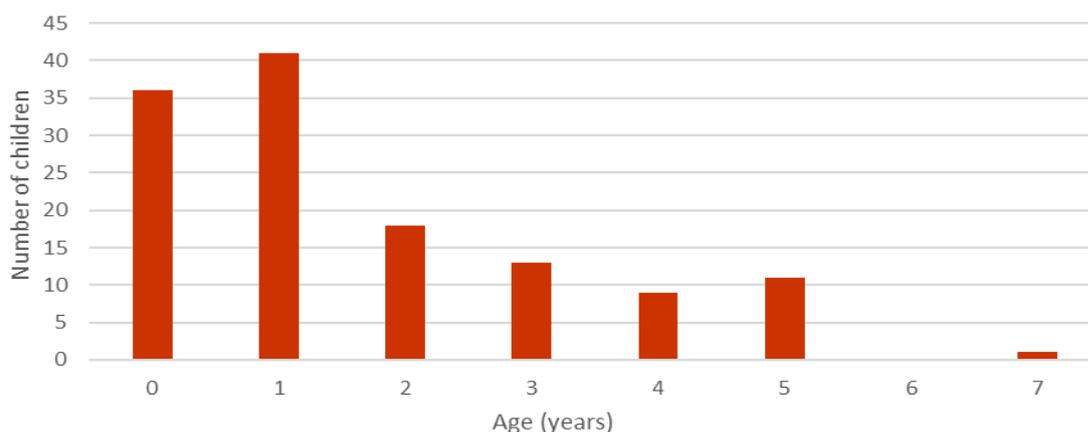
There have been **129** child profiles added to the register during the first two quarters of this year, compared with **142** children during the same period last year.

These profiles were added in the following regions:



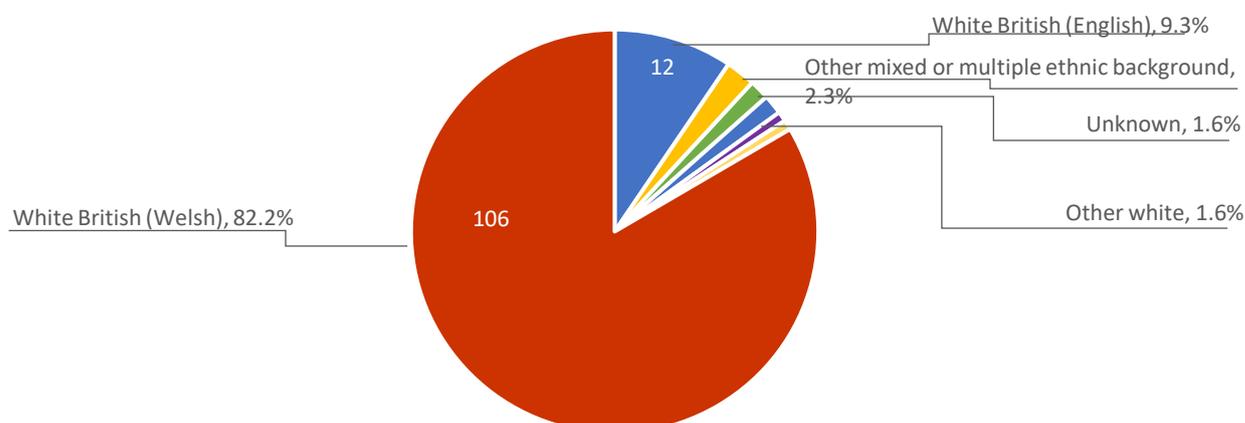
Characteristics of the children

Of the **129** children added by the Regions, **68** (53%) were male, and **61** (47%) were female. The majority of the children added to the Register in this period were children 1 year old and under (**77 in total = to 60%**).

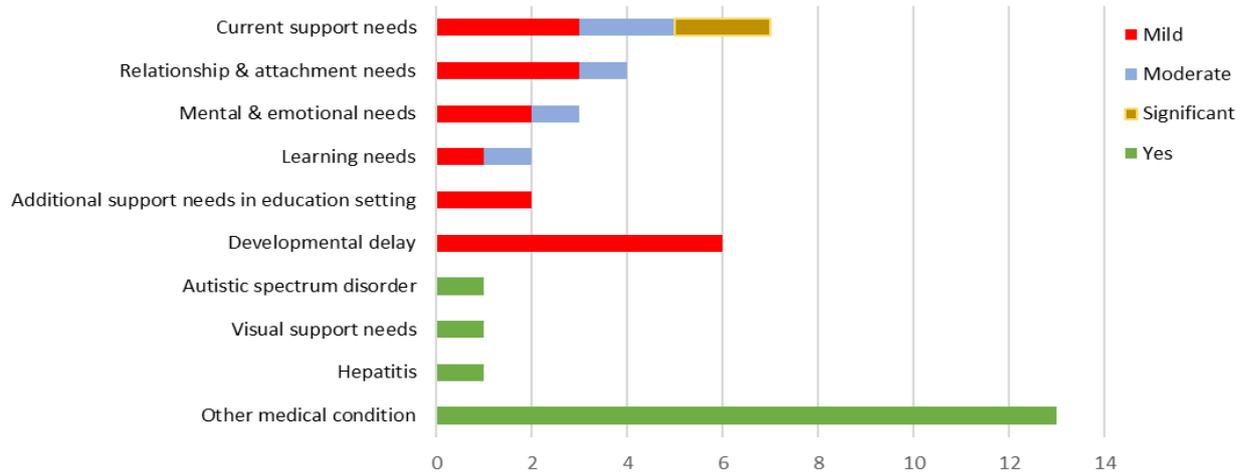


Of the **129** children added, **35** (27%) were in sibling groups. This is slightly less than the same period last year.

The children added were categorised within 9 different ethnicities as shown below, with the majority **106** (82%) being from a White Welsh background:



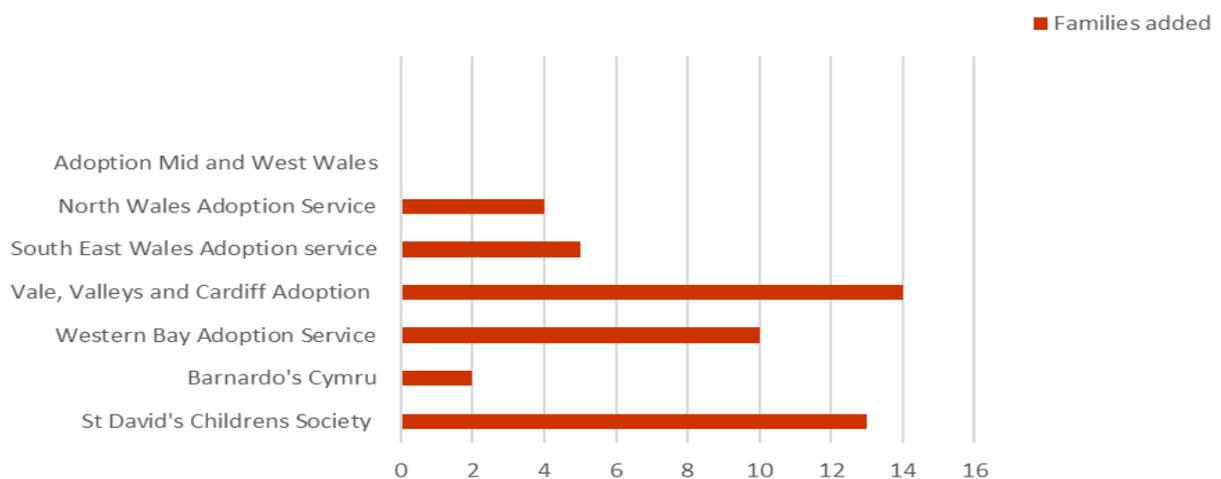
Of the total children added during this period, 26 had at least one significant need recorded. The most common need was an unspecified medical condition.



Families

As of 30th September 2025, there were **96** sets of adopters on the register of which **46** adopters were waiting with no active link. This compares to the same time last year when there were **113** sets of adopters on the register and **64** adopters waiting with no active link. The reduction in the numbers of adopters waiting is in line with less adopters being assessed this year and regions reporting that many of their children are being placed with their own adopters and therefore waiting less time to achieve a match.

48 families were added to the Register during the first two quarters of 2025 in comparison with **54** in the same period last year. These were registered with the following agencies:



Characteristics of adopters

Of the **48** adoptive families added during this period, the majority **29** (60%) were in a mixed gender couple and **39** (81%) of the families added during this quarter had no existing children. The majority 59% identify as being from a White Welsh background and 30% identify as being from a White English background. The remaining 11% identified as being from other/mixed ethnicities.

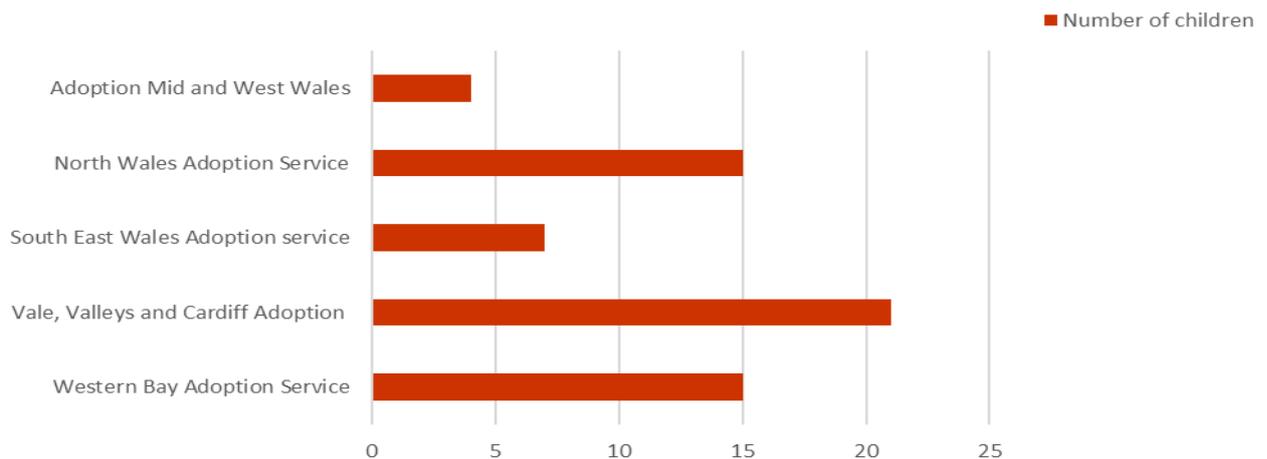
Child Matches

Register data indicates that a total of **62*** children known to the Register have been matched between April – September 2025, compared to **67** matched during the same timeframe last year.

*Some matches are agreed within the region and added later.

Of the **62** recorded matches, **26** (42%) of these were matches that were made as a result of using the Register as a way of family finding. This is an increase on last year when **23** (34%) of the **67** matches were made as a result of using the Register to family find. Of the **62** recorded matches 65% (n40) were matched with Welsh families known to the Register.

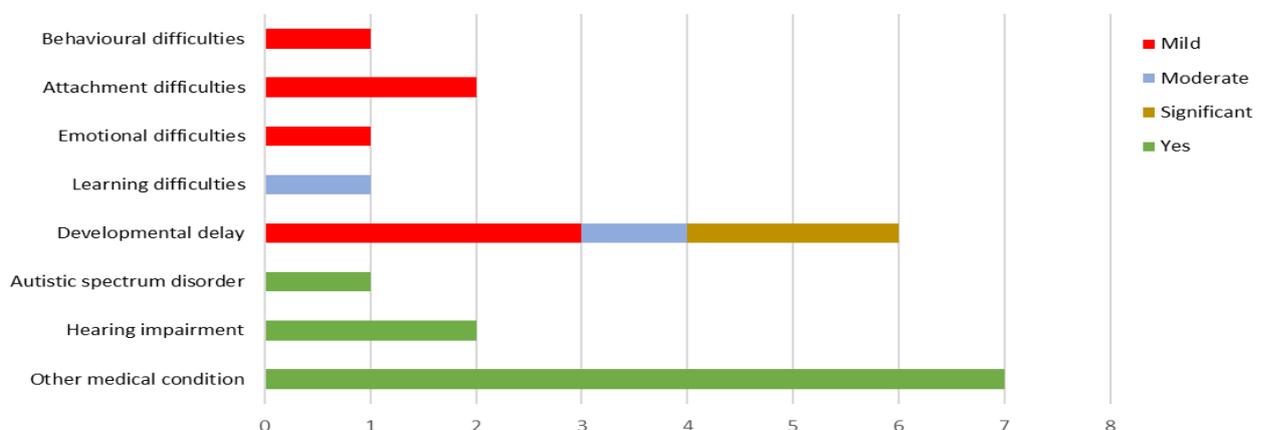
The **62** matches were made in the following regions/agencies:



Of the **62** matches, **33** (53%) were male, and **29** (47%) were female. The majority of the matches made during this period were single children, with **12** (46%) part of a sibling group.

The children matched were categorised within **7** different ethnicities. The majority (82%) were children from White Welsh backgrounds. **39** children matched were aged 0–1, **21** children aged 2-4 and **3** children 5 and over.

Of the **62** children matched, **21** (31) % of them had at least one need that was recorded as either present or significant. This bar chart shows the instances of each type of need and its severity.



Between 1st April and 30th September 2025, a total of **36*** families known to the Register have been matched. In comparison, **51** families were matched during the same period in 2024. Of the **36** matches, **9** (25%) were matches made as a result of using the Register to family find with the remainder matched through other family finding methods. Of these **36** recorded matches, **32** were matched with Welsh children known to the Register and **4** matches were with children outside of ARW.

*Some matches are agreed within the region and added later.

Family Finding Events

ARW held an Adoption Activity Day, supported by Coram BAAF who we commission to run the event, on the 28th June 2025 in Cardiff. It was a jungle themed event with **39** children from across Wales featured at the event and **34** children attending on the day. **19** families attended the event. A total of **35** expressions of interest were made for **19** of the children which resulted in **8** matches. This was the highest number of matches made through an Adoption Activity Day in Wales and highlights the importance of these family finding events.



Due to the success of this event, another Adoption Activity Day is planned to take place in March 2026.

Family Finding Meetings

ARW Practitioner & Manager Forum

The ARW Team continue to meet quarterly with managers and practitioners across the 5 Welsh Adoption Regions and 2 Voluntary Adoption Agencies in order to discuss and plan upcoming family finding events as well as any other family finding matters that arise, including any issues/updates with Link Maker. There is also an opportunity to discuss the profiles of children and adopters who are waiting. The meetings held so far this year have been on the 9th April and 15th July 2025. The next meeting is planned for the 18th November 2025.

UK Register Meeting/Inter-register protocol

ARW have developed a positive working relationship with the Register Teams in Scotland and Northern Ireland as well as the Practice Improvement & Development Manager working across England. Meetings are usually held quarterly, and so far this year have been held on the 13th May and 16th September 2025. Discussions are held around current working practices in each of the areas with an emphasis on sharing of ideas and good practice around family finding. Profiles of children and adopters who have specific needs and matching criteria are shared by the group outside of the meetings. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 9th December 2025.

Adopting Together Service

ARW works closely with the Adopting Together Service (ATS) and currently meets on a monthly basis. Children who have been waiting on the register for 9 months or more are discussed and if they have not been referred to ATS then the ARW team will contact the family finder to encourage a referral to ATS if appropriate.

The ARW team are also supporting ATS to plan and hold their first “play day” scheduled for the 15th November 2025. This family finding event is following a similar model to the Adoption Activity Days but on a smaller scale. Prospective adopters will be invited to come and meet children who are currently waiting and referred to the Adopting Together Service. They will meet in a private space where they will be able to play and interact safely and form connections that they may not get from just reading a written profile alone.

Link Maker Meetings

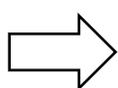
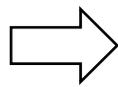
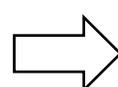
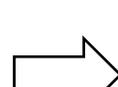
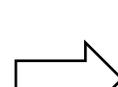
ARW continues to meet with Link Maker regularly approximately every 6-8 weeks in order to discuss service development and resolve any issues or queries. The last meeting took place on the 23rd September 2025. Bi-monthly contract monitoring meetings are also held. The last contract monitoring meeting was held on the 4th June 2025. The next one is planned for the 3rd December 2025.

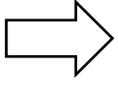
Training

ARW/Link Maker Refresher Training

Refresher training for practitioners and managers on using the Register/Link Maker was held on the 2nd April. Another session was planned for the 16th July but was cancelled due to low numbers. The next session are due to take place on the 22nd October and 4th February 2026.

Priorities for the second half of the year

-  Planning for the next Adoption Activity Day scheduled for the 21st March 2026.
-  A Profile Writing Workshop is due to be held on the 1st October 2025. The aim of this workshop is to improve the quality of written profiles for both children and adopters.
-  Further refresher training for practitioners and managers on using ARW/Link Maker planned for the 22nd October and 4th February 2026.
-  Supporting the Adopting Together Service to hold their first play day on the 15th November 2025.
-  Continue to meet with Link Maker regularly to monitor contract and service delivery.
-  Continued monitoring of children on the register for 9 months or more to ensure regions are prompted in a timely way to consider referring to the Adopting Together Service (where this is necessary and appropriate).



Update to register guidance as part of the work being undertaken by NAS to review and develop the Good Practice Guidance on Family Finding.