

New Adoption Register for Wales



Bulletin 2 – January 2019

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

This is more than just a name change; the new Register will be more user friendly and efficient as well as 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.

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 first bulletin was published and circulated in November 2018.

<https://www.adoptcymru.com/news/adoption-register-wales-communication-bulletin>

This 2nd bulletin updates you on the outcomes of the work that has been going on since then with Regional Adoption Services and Voluntary Adoption Agencies across Wales and what we plan to do next.

What have we done since November?

- Liaison with and visits to Adoption Services and Agencies in Wales have continued with Register staff supporting implementation and ensuring staff in regions and agencies are trained to use ARW
- Register staff, Link Maker staff and steering group members have developed a set of national guidelines setting out expectations as to how the Register is to be used in Wales. These will be finalised by the end of January 2019
- Practical user guides for adopters and professionals are also being developed, in partnership with Link Maker, also to be completed at the end of January 2019

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- We have agreed the process and timescale for existing children's and adopter's profiles are translated into Welsh and uploaded to ARW
- By attending the Family Justice Network for Wales meeting briefed the Welsh judiciary in relation to the plan for the new Register
- Briefed Heads of Children's Services and other partners through various meetings.

What's next?

What are our priorities in January 2019?

- Finalising and distributing the National Guidelines for ARW
- Finalising and making the User Guides for Adopters and Professionals available
- Beginning to put existing children and adopter profiles into ARW
- Continuing to support regional adoption services and Adoption Agencies to implement and prepare for ARW including processes for performance management and quality assurance
- Planning the launch of the new Register
- Continuing to brief stakeholders in a variety of forums.

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.