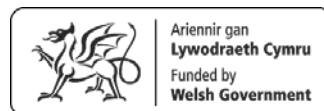# New Adoption Register for Wales

Bulletin 4 – June 2019

The Wales Adoption Register has been renamed as the

Adoption Register for Wales (ARW)

A formal launch will be taking place on June 6th at the Senedd.

This is more than just a name change; the new Register is 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** is contracted to provide a modern, on-line linking service which started 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. The new service will be a further step in the Welsh Government strategy to 'Improve Outcomes for Children' across Wales and will help deliver the National Adoption Service priority to match and place children quickly and effectively.

The new Register will be more accessible to its users and help us to secure stable, suitable, matches for Welsh children with a plan of adoption.

This final bulletin updates you on the outcomes of the work with Regional Adoption Services and Voluntary Adoption Agencies across Wales and what we plan to do next.

What have we done since March?

- Regions and VAAs have been working hard to ensure all children's and adopter's profiles are on Link Maker ready for the transition to the bilingual version
- Worked with Cowshed to develop leaflets for adopters and staff who work in adoption
- Developed a user guide for staff and adopters
- Developed a process for Help Desk calls for people who may want to have the discussion in Welsh
- Managed the transition from the previous Register to ARW including ensuring that all profiles are available in Welsh.

What happens next?

- Profiles for children need to start being written from the time the 'should be placed' decision is made. Once the Placement Order is made the profile should be sent for translation. All Regions and VAAs have an internal process in place to ensure this is managed effectively and without delay
- Profiles for adopters need to start being written during the assessment process and should be submitted to panel alongside the assessment. All regions and VAAs have an internal process in place to ensure this is managed effectively and without delay
- The post launch implementation plan has been drafted and includes support and training for Regions and VAAs. The plan will ensure that we are learning from the implementation phase and continue to assure the quality of the information on ARW.

The Steering Group will continue to meet bi-monthly to oversee the post implementation action plan. The group includes representatives from Welsh Government, Voluntary and Statutory Adoption Agencies and Link Maker.