



Gwasanaeth
Mabwysiadu
Cenedlaethol

National
Adoption
Service



The Welsh adoption support commitment

Our vision is for all adopters in Wales to be supported at every step of their journey, whether at the start, when a child is placed, or later should issues or queries arise. We want you to feel confident that information or support will be available to you when you need it and from professionals with specialist knowledge of adoption and children's care needs.

The [National Adoption Service for Wales](#) (NAS) is committed to every adoptive family having the following:

A point of contact

You will have a person to contact in your [Regional Adoption Service or Voluntary Adoption Agency](#) both before and after the Adoption Order is granted.

Ongoing support from your Regional Adoption Team or Voluntary Adoption Service

Your child's needs will be different at different stages of their life. You can expect to get help and advice from professionals with specialist knowledge and experience in adoption at any point during their childhood.

Your adoption agency will be there to offer help if you need and want it. The adoption support needs of your child / ren will be reviewed by your agency as theirs, or your own circumstances change. They will either provide support directly or arrange for this to be provided by others where needed. They will share relevant information, let you know about events of interest and tell you about any training that you, or those who support you, can access at different stages of your son or daughter's childhood and beyond.

Each adopted child is unique

Adopting a child is a life-changing decision. We will provide you with as much information as possible about the child/ren, their past and what the future may hold, so you can make an informed decision and be as prepared as possible.

You will have an individual appointment with the agency [Medical Adviser](#) will help you understand what your child's health is like now, how it may be in the future and how best to support them.

Every adopted child comes with their own history: to help your child to make sense of their [Life Journey](#), you will receive various materials including their [Life Journey Book](#) and a [Later Life Letter](#) within given timescales. There is guidance and support available to help you to help your child to make sense of their story as they grow and develop.

You will be helped to manage any planned contact with members of the birth family when that will benefit your child.

Support you can access directly

You can access a wide range of information online from the start of your journey, through the [NAS](#) website. This includes the NAS

- [Adoption podcast](#)
- [Life Journey resources](#)
- [Adopter training modules](#)

Additional support is available for all adoptive families from [Adoption UK](#) which has an office in Wales

The AUK [The First Thousand Days scheme](#) and the free [Helpline](#) are available to you whether or not you are a member of Adoption UK. If you choose to become a member of Adoption UK, yet more resources will be available to you.

[AFA Cymru](#) also offer [advice and information](#) including an [advice line](#).

When you need help from others

The NAS Regional Adoption Services

All local authorities in Wales provide their adoption services through the [five regions](#) of the National Adoption Service for Wales

Each region has a dedicated adoption support team that will provide you with advice and information, carry out assessments of adoption support needs and provide a range of support services themselves or in partnership with others. If required, they will refer to other specialist services.

The Voluntary Adoption Agencies

Voluntary adoption agencies also provide advice and information as well as providing support services to adoptive families. If required, they will support you to access services via regional services.

Support services provided by Regional Adoption Services in partnership with Voluntary Adoption Agencies

Therapeutic, Education and Support Services in Adoption (TESSA)

Should you need it, you will have access to the [TESSA](#) service – an early intervention support service offering peer support from experienced adopters and specialist professionals.

CONNECT

Your child will have opportunities to meet with other adopted children and young people aged 7 – 25yrs. to access support on a regular basis via '[Connected](#)' groups, located across Wales.

Adopting together service

If your child is placed through this [specialist service](#) you will receive a bespoke package of services to meet your child's additional needs.

NAS underlying philosophy

A ONE team approach: Regional Adoption Services, Local Authority teams and Voluntary Adoption Agencies working together as a team around the child and family.

The Adoption Community: becoming part of a valued, Wales wide, adoption community with access to peer support as well as specialist professional advice and services.

Targeted or specialist services: prompt and equitable access to specialist services if required.

Communication and involvement: keeping you informed and consulted in developing adoption support services, so that they are responsive to existing and emerging needs.

