



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**

**NATIONAL ADOPTION SERVICE WALES ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR  
CHRISTINA LEYSHON**

**AUTHOR: Annabel Lloyd, Service Director Children's Services**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to share with the Cabinet the National Adoption Service Wales Annual Report 2019-20.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The report attached at Appendix 1 is the National Adoption Service for Wales Annual Report.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The National Adoption Service for Wales (NAS) was launched in November 2014 bringing all local authorities in Wales together into a unique collaboration for the delivery of adoption services.
- 4.2 The National Service establishes governance arrangements that provide national direction and co-ordination. Its broad aim is to improve and make consistent the arrangements for timely placements of children, training and assessment of adopters, adoption support and collaborative working.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This is an information report and therefore no Equality and Diversity screening is required.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Consultation was undertaken by the National Adoption Service Wales in the preparation of the Annual Plan with children, young people, families, a variety of partner agencies and staff from the Regional Services.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 7.1 There are no adverse financial implications associated with this report.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 The legal basis underpinning the National Adoption Service is the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) which gave Welsh Ministers the power to direct how local authorities in Wales deliver their adoption functions. This was enforced through a set of regulations, The Adoption and Children Act 2002 (Joint Adoption Arrangements) (Wales) Directions 2015 [generally referred to as the 'Directions Powers'], which require local authorities to collaborate on a set foot print to create Regional Adoption Collaborative. The primary purpose of these Directions is to ensure that effective joint arrangements are in place between local authorities in Wales for the delivery of adoption services.
- 8.2 The Authority is a member of the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaboration and its annual report will be brought to Scrutiny Committee during the early part of 2021.

## **9. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT**

- 9.1 The provision of effective responses to the needs of children and young people is a key priority for the Council and is supported by the contents of this Annual Plan.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 Referrals to adoption agencies dipped during 2019-20 and there has been progress made with recruiting new adoptive parents and providing post adoption support.
- 10.2 The National Adoption Service priorities for improvement include:
- Placing more children for adoption
  - Continuing to improve adoption support

- Improve and influence legal policy and evidence framework that affects adopted children

**Other Information:-**

***Relevant Scrutiny Committee: Children and Young People***

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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CHRISTINA LEYSHON**

**Background Papers**

None

**Officer to contact: Annabel Lloyd, Service Director Children Services.**



Gwasanaeth  
**Mabwysiadu** | National  
Cenedlaethol | **Adoption**  
Service

**Achieving More Together /  
Cyflawni Mwy Gyda'n Gilydd**

# ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL 2019-20





# RHAGAIR

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn canolbwyntio ar gynnydd, gwelliannau a heriau i'r Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol (NAS) yn 2019/20. Mae'n cael ei gyhoeddi wrth i ni ddod allan o'r pandemig Coronafeirws digyffelyb sydd wedi effeithio'n sylweddol ar fywydau a chymdeithas ers diwedd Mawrth 2020.

Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn canolbwyntio ar y flwyddyn hyd at fis Mawrth 2020; roedden ni'n teimlo ei bod yn bwysig parhau â'r cyhoeddiad hwn gan gydnabod y bydd ein hadroddiadau cyhoeddus nesaf, yn ddi-os, yn rhoi sylwadau ar effaith y pandemig. Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn amlygu:

- pwysigrwydd hanfodol cydweithio deinamig rhwng Llywodraeth Leol, Asiantaethau Mabwysiadu Gwirfoddol, a Thîm Canolog NAS i ddiwallu a darparu gwasanaethau mabwysiadu rhagorol yng Nghymru;
- bod gwranddo ac ymgysylltu â mabwysiadwyr, darpar fabwysiadwyr, plant a phobl ifanc yn parhau i ddylanwadu ar y blaenoriaethau ar gyfer gwasanaethau mabwysiadu yng Nghymru a'u llywio;
- y defnydd a'r craffu ar ddata yn ddeallus, tystiolaeth ymchwil, a sgiliau a phrofiad y gweithlu yn parhau i ddylanwadu ar flaenoriaethau'r gwasanaeth mabwysiadu; a
- cyfraniad pwysig yr holl sefydliadau sy'n gweithio ar y cyd o dan NAS, gwasanaethau mabwysiadu statudol a gwirfoddol, yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd yn effeithiol i wneud gwahaniaeth cadarnhaol i ddyfodol hirdymor plant.

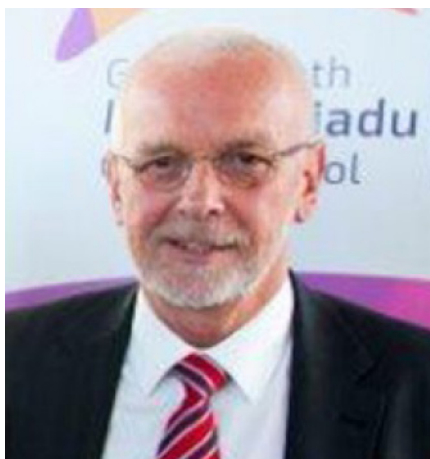
Mae lleoli plant, recriwtio mabwysiadwyr, parhau i wella gwasanaethau cymorth mabwysiadu, i gyd wedi bod yn weithgareddau pwysig yn ystod 2019/20. Amlygodd Baromedr Adoption UK o wasanaethau mabwysiadu ledled y DU gynnydd a bodlonwydd sylweddol gyda datblygiad gwasanaethau mabwysiadu yng Nghymru.

Mae'r cymorth a'r buddsoddiad ariannol gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn ystod 2019/20 wedi cael ei groesawu gan fabwysiadwyr a'r gweithlu ac mae'n gwneud gwahaniaeth cadarnhaol.

Rydym yn diolch i fabwysiadwyr, plant a phobl ifanc am ddylanwadu ar y ffordd mae gwasanaethau'n cael eu gwella a'u darparu yng Nghymru. Yn yr un modd, rydym yn diolch i holl staff y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol ledled Cymru am eu gwaith caled a'u hymroddiad.



**Councillor Alan Lockyer**  
Cyd-gadeirydd y Bwrdd Llywodraethu



**Phil Hodgson**  
Cadeirydd Annibynnol y Grŵp Cyngori



**Suzanne Griffiths**  
Cyfarwyddwr

# CYFLWYNIAD

Mae Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol Cymru yn gydwethrediad sy'n darparu gwasanaethau mabwysiadu ledled Cymru.

Ers mis Tachwedd 2014, mae wedi dwyn ynghyd holl wasanaethau mabwysiadu awdurdodau lleol i greu pum menter gydwethredol ranbarthol, gyda Chyfarwyddwr a thîm canolog bach yn cydlynw ac yn arwain. Mae asiantaethau mabwysiadu gwirfoddol sy'n gweithredu yng Nghymru yn bartneriaid allweddol yn y maes cydwethredu, yn yr un modd ag y mae asiantaethau eraill fel iechyd ac addysg.

## TÎM CANOLOG



Gwasanaeth  
**Mabwysiadu**  
Cenedlaethol | National  
**Adoption**  
Service

### Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol – Tîm Canolog

c/o Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd,  
Ystafell 409, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd,  
Caerdydd, CF10 4UW  
029 2087 3927  
contact@adoptcymru.com  
www.adoptcymru.com/cy/home

## GOGLEDD CYMRU

Ynys Môn, Gwynedd, Conwy,  
Sir Ddinbych, Sir y Fflint, Wrecsam



Gwasanaeth  
**Mabwysiadu**  
Gogledd Cymru | North Wales  
**Adoption**  
Service

### Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Gogledd Cymru

3ydd Llawr, Stryd Lambpit,  
Wrecsam, LL11 1AR  
01978 295311  
adoption@wrexham.gov.uk  
www.northwalesadoption.gov.uk/cy

## CANOLBARTH A GORLLEWIN CYMRU

Ceredigion, Powys, Sir Gaerfyrddin,  
Sir Benfro



**Mabwysiadu**  
Canolbarth a Gogledd Cymru  
**Adoption**  
Mid & West Wales

### Mabwysiadu Canolbarth a Gogledd Cymru

Adeilad 1, Parc Dewi Sant, Tre Ioan,  
Sir Gaerfyrddin, SA31 3HB  
01267 246970  
adoptionenquires@carmarthenshire.gov.uk  
www.mabwysiaducymru.org.uk  
  
Neuadd Brycheiniog, Ffordd Cambrian,  
Aberhonddu, Powys, LD3 7HR  
01597 827666  
adoptionenquiries@carmarthenshire.gov.uk  
www.mabwysiaducymru.org.uk

## BAE'R GORLLEWIN

Abertawe, Castell-nedd Port Talbot,  
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr



Western Bay  
ADOPTION SERVICE  
GWASANAETH MABWYSIADU  
Bae'r Gorllewin

### Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Bae'r Gorllewin

Canolfan Ddinesig Port Talbot,  
Port Talbot CF131PJ  
0300 365 2222  
enquires@westernbayadoption.org  
www.westernbayadoption.org

## Y FRO, Y CYMOEDD A CHAERDYDD

Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf,  
Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan



Vale, Valleys  
and Cardiff  
Adoption | **Mabwysiadu**  
yn y Fro, y Cymoedd  
a Chaerdydd

### Mabwysiadu yn y Fro, y Cymoedd a Chaerdydd

Llawr 1af, Swyddfa'r Doc,  
Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri CF63 4RT  
0800 0234 064  
adoption@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk  
www.adopt4vvc.org

## DE DDWYRAIN CYMRU

Sir Fynwy, Blaenau Gwent,  
Torfaen, Caerffili, Casnewydd



South East Wales Adoption Service  
Achieving More Together  
Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Deddwyrain Cymru  
Cyflawni Mwy Gyda'n Gilydd!

### Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Deddwyrain Cymru

Adain y Gogledd, 2il Lawr Bloc B,  
Tŷ Mamhilad, Stad Parc Mamhilad,  
Pont-y-pŵl, Torfaen, NP40HZ  
01495 355766  
adoption@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk  
www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/3122.asp



**POB GWIRFODDOL CYMRU  
WASANAETHAU ASIANTAETHAU  
MABWYSIADU**

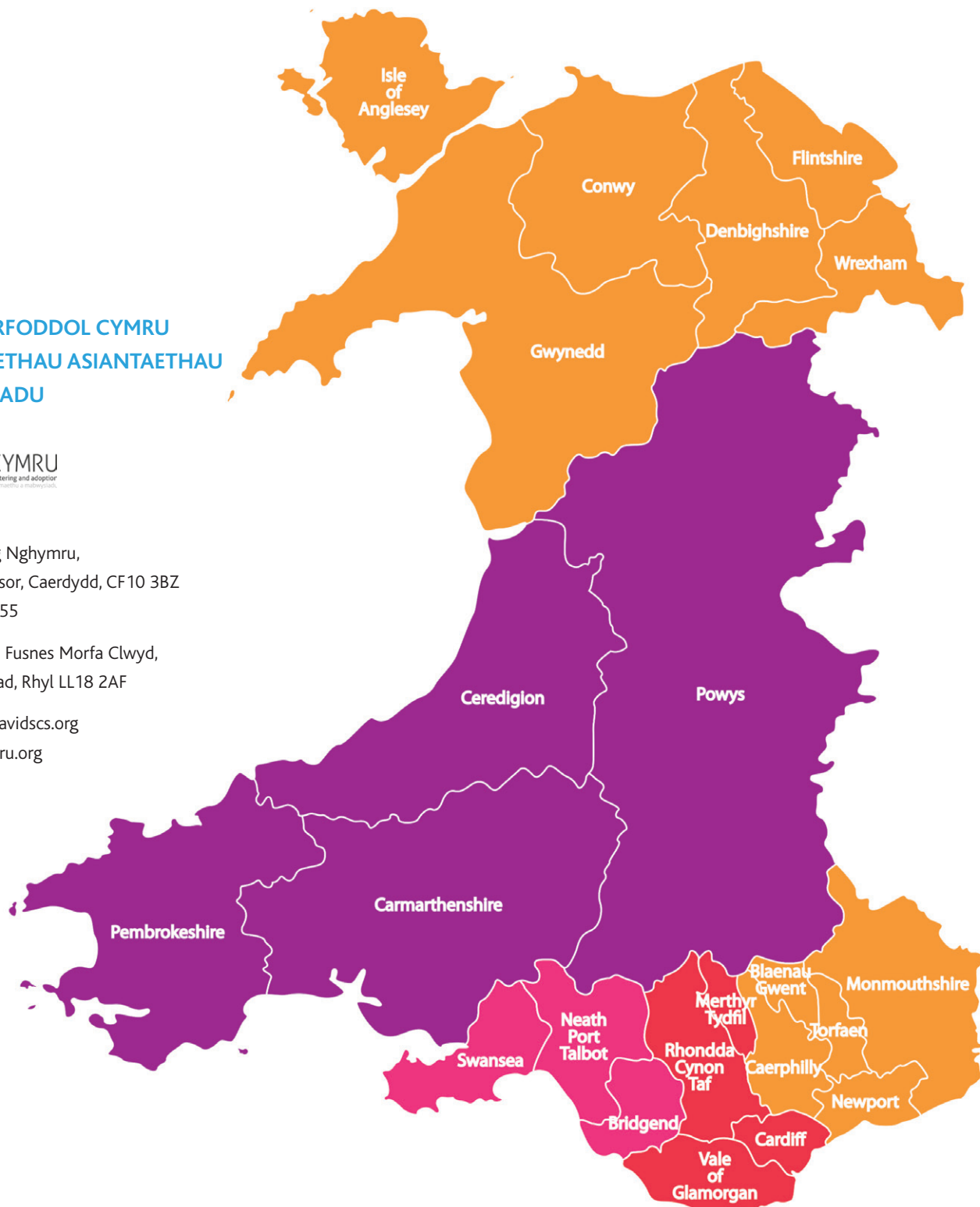


**AFA Cymru**

c/o Plant yng Nghymru,  
25 Plas Windsor, Caerdydd, CF10 3BZ  
029 2076 1155

W2 Canolfan Fusnes Morfa Clwyd,  
84 Marsh Road, Rhyl LL18 2AF

Info-afa@stdavidscs.org  
www.afacymru.org



**Adoption UK**

Stiwdios Penhaved, Penhaved Street,  
Grangetown, Caerdydd, CF117LU  
029 2023 0319  
www.adoptionuk.org



**Barnardo's Cymru**

Cwrt Trident, East Moors Road,  
Caerdydd, CF245TD  
0800 0546 788  
cymruadoptionandfostering@  
barnardos.org.uk  
www.barnardos.org.uk/adoption



**Cymdeithas Plant Dewi Sant**

28 Plas-y-parc, Caerdydd, CF10 3BA  
029 2066 7007  
info@stdavidscs.org  
www.adoptionwales.org



# BLAENORIAETHAU AR GYFER 2019/20

Disgrifir blaenoriaethau gwella'r NAS ar gyfer 2019/20 isod. Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn dangos faint sydd wedi'i gyflawni.

## LLEOLI MWY O BLANT

- Recriwtio mwy o fabwysiadwyr i ddiwallu nifer ac anghenion y plant sy'n aros gan gynnwys defnyddio 'Mabwysiadu Gyda'n Gilydd' ar gyfer plant sy'n aros hwyaf
- Sefydlu Cofrestr Fabwysiadu newydd i Gymru er mwyn cyflymu'r broses o baru plant drwy hysbysu plant a mabwysiadwyr yn gyflymach yn unol â rheoliadau diwygiedig

## PARHAU I WELLA CYMORTH MABWYSIADU

- Rhoi'r Fframwaith Cymorth Mabwysiadu a'r cynlluniau buddsoddi ar waith
- Parhau i godi ymwybyddiaeth ymhlith gweithwyr proffesiynol a'r cyhoedd

## MEDDWL YMLAEN

- Parhau i gyd-gynhyrchu a defnyddio gwybodaeth o ymgysylltu
- Defnyddio data o'r system mesur perfformiad ddiwygiedig
- Gweithio i wella'r fframwaith cyfreithiol, polisi a thystiolaeth sy'n effeithio ar fabwysiadu
- Annog datblygu dealltwriaeth o'r gweithlu a sgiliau i fodloni blaenoriaethau'r NAS

## BUDDSODDIAD LLYWODRAETH CYMRU

Yn ystod 2019/20 fe wnaeth Llywodraeth Cymru fuddsoddi £2.3m mewn gwasanaethau mabwysiadu a £100k yn ychwanegol, mewn grant 'untro', i ariannu ail 'bwl' ein hymgyrch recriwtio mabwysiadwyr.

Dyrannwyd cyfran o'r £2.3m i'r Tîm Canolog a'r pum Rhanbarth. Defnyddiwyd y rhan fwyaf o'r buddsoddiad i greu capasiti mewn gwasanaethau newydd ac ychwanegol mewn llywodraeth leol ac yn y sector gwirfoddol.

Roedd y £100k ychwanegol yn caniatáu i'r NAS ymestyn y cyfnod hysbysebu ar y teledu, y radio a'r tu allan i'r cartref mewn archfarchnadoedd a bysiau.

# LLEOLI MWY O BLANT

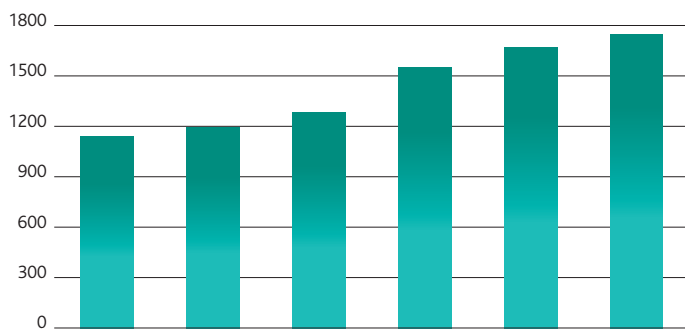
## Recriwtio mwy o fabwysiadwyr i ddiwallu nifer ac anghenion y plant sy'n aros gan gynnwys defnyddio'r gwasanaeth 'Mabwysiadu Gyda'n Gilydd' newydd ar gyfer plant sy'n aros hwyaf

### MABWYSIADWYR – TUEDDIADAU O RAN CYMERADWYO, YMHOLIADAU AC ASESIAU NEWYDD

Ein nod yw recriwtio mwy o fabwysiadwyr, i leoli mwy o blant mewn ffordd amserol ac i gael dewis i ddiwallu anghenion plant y mae mabwysiadu yn gynllun ar eu cyfer.

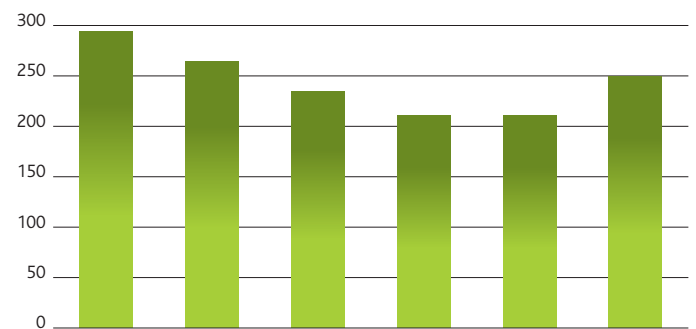
- Cynyddodd cymeradwyaethau mabwysiadu 18% yn gyffredinol, ymholiadau newydd o 5% pellach a bu cynnydd bychan hefyd o 3% mewn asesiadau mabwysiadwyr a ddechreuwyd.
- Cymeradwywyd bron i hanner y mabwysiadwyr o fewn 6 mis i'w cais; ar gyfartaledd mae'n cymryd 6.5 mis i fabwysiadwr gael eu cymeradwyo sy'n gadarnhaol ac yn unol â chanllawiau.
- Cynyddodd nifer y mabwysiadwyr cymeradwy a oedd yn aros am baru ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn.
- Gostyngodd y bwlch rhwng y teuluoedd sydd eu hangen a'r mabwysiadwyr a oedd ar gael yn ystod 2019/20 o 26% i tua 170 o deuluoedd.

Nifer yr Ymholiadau



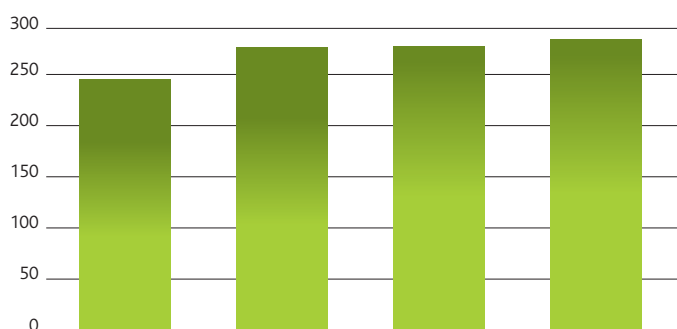
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1,161	1,197	1,280	1,550	1,687	1,764

Nifer y Mabwysiadwyr



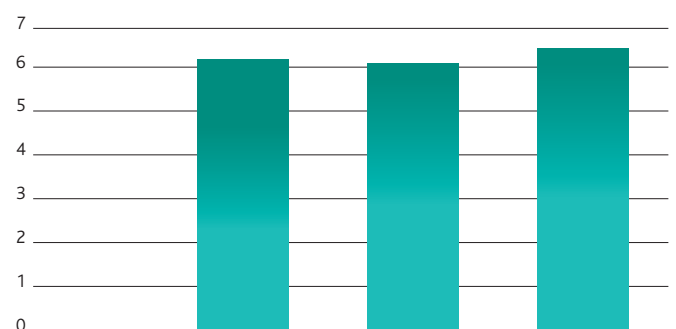
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
294	266	236	212	212	250

Nifer yr Aseidiadau Mabwysiadwyr a Ddechreuwyd



2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
246	277	278	286

Amser cyfartalog (mewn misoedd) o'r cais i gymeradwyo mabwysiadwr



	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Months	6.2	6.1	6.5

Meincnod: 6 mis neu lai



Ymgyrch recriwtio yn Pride



Arddangos yn Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru

## SUT YR YDYM YN GWELLA RECRIWTIO?

- Rydym wedi creu a darparu ymgyrch recriwtio newydd **#become the parent only you could be** oedd yn dangos mabwysiadwyr go iawn o'n hyrwyddwyr mabwysiadu ar y teledu, ar fysiau ac mewn archfarchnadoedd yn ogystal ag ar y cyfryngau cymdeithasol, gan ddechrau yn ystod yr Wythnos Mabwysiadu Genedlaethol ym mis Hydref 2019.
- Buddsoddodd Llywodraeth Cymru £100,000 ychwanegol i alluogi ail ;bwl' yr ymgyrch o Ionawr 2020 ymlaen.
- Hwyluswyd yr uchod gan Cowshed PR and Communications y mae gennym gontract â hwy bellach i gefnogi marchnata cenedlaethol a rhanbarthol/asiantaeth.
- Helpodd Cowshed i gydlynu staff o wasanaethau ledled Cymru i weithio gyda'i gilydd ar 'stondinau' recriwtio mewn nifer o ddigwyddiadau proffil uchel megis Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru a Pride.
- Mae gan bob Rhanbarth Swyddog Marchnata a Recriwtio yn ei swydd erbyn hyn i gefnogi'r ymgyrchoedd recriwtio yn ogystal ag ymateb i ymholiadau cychwynnol.
- Gwybodaeth ddiwygiedig i fabwysiadwyr ynglŷn â gwneud ymholiad.
- Taflen newydd i gyd-fynd â'r ymgyrch recriwtio;
- Canllawiau newydd i staff ar ddelio ag ymholiadau. A
- Cafodd yr adran Cwestiynau Cyffredin ar y wefan ei diweddarau i 'chwalu'r mythau' ynghylch pwy sy'n gallu mabwysiadu ar sail arolwg a gynhaliwyd yn ystod digwyddiadau'r haf.



## GWASANAETH MABWYSIADU GYDA'N GILYDD

2019/20 oedd blwyddyn lawn gyntaf y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Gyda'n Gilydd (ATS) a ddatblygwyd gan Wasanaethau Mabwysiadu Gwirfoddol Cymru ar gyfer yr NAS er mwyn canfod a chefnogi teuluoedd i blant oedd yn aros hwyaf am gartrefi mabwysiadol yng Nghymru.

Mae'n darparu gwasanaeth recriwtio arbenigol ar gyfer mabwysiadwyr, hyfforddiant gwell i fabwysiadwyr, cyfeillio cymheiriad, a chymorth therapiwtig a seicolegol wedi'i deilwra i fabwysiadwyr drwy'r gwasanaethau hyn.

Mae'r gwasanaeth wedi lleoli 14 o blant i'w mabwysiadu ers iddo gael ei lansio ym mis Mehefin 2018: 8 yn ystod 2019/20. Ar adeg ysgrifennu'r llythyr hwn roedd y gwasanaeth yn ystyried 46 o atgyfeiriadau gweithredol ac yn cynnal 2 ymgyrch recriwtio ar gyfer plant penodol.

Mabwysiadodd Ben grŵp o frodyr a chwirydd gyda'i bartner a siaradodd am eu profiad o Fabwysiadu Gyda'n Gilydd:

*"Roedd Mabwysiadu Gyda'n Gilydd yn ein galluogi i fod â mwy o feddwl agored am yr hyn yr oeddem yn meddwl ein bod yn chwilio amdano, a fe wnaethon ni sylweddoli'n gyflym nad oedd unrhyw ddiben anwybyddu plant oherwydd nad oeddent yn cyd-fynd â'n canfyddiadau cychwynnol o'r oedran 'delfrydol'. Gyda phlant hŷn, mae gennych ddarlun llawer cliriach o'r modd maen nhw'n datblygu nag y gallech ei gael gyda babi."*

# Sefydlu Cofrestr Fabwysiadu i Gymru er mwyn cyflymu'r broses o baru plant drwy hysbysu plant a mabwysiadwyr yn gyflymach yn unol â rheoliadau diwygiedig.



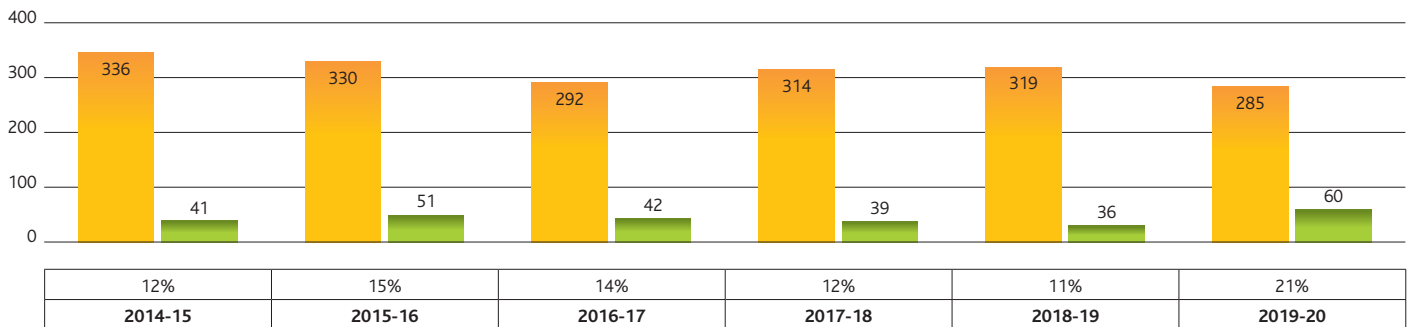
Cofrestr Fabwysiadu **Cymru**  
Adoption Register **Wales**

## COFRESTR FABWYSIADU CYMRU

Lansiwyd y Gofrestr Fabwysiadu newydd i Gymru (ARW) ym mis Mehefin 2019. Mae'n wasanaeth canfod teulu cwbl ddwyieithog, ar-lein, gyda mynediad i fabwysiadwyr wedi'i reoli. Gan ddefnyddio Link Maker, system ddiogel gyflym a hawdd i'w defnyddio, mae'r Gofrestr yn cefnogi gwasanaethau yng Nghymru i baru plant â mabwysiadwyr a lleihau eu hamser aros.

### Cyfateb Cofrestr

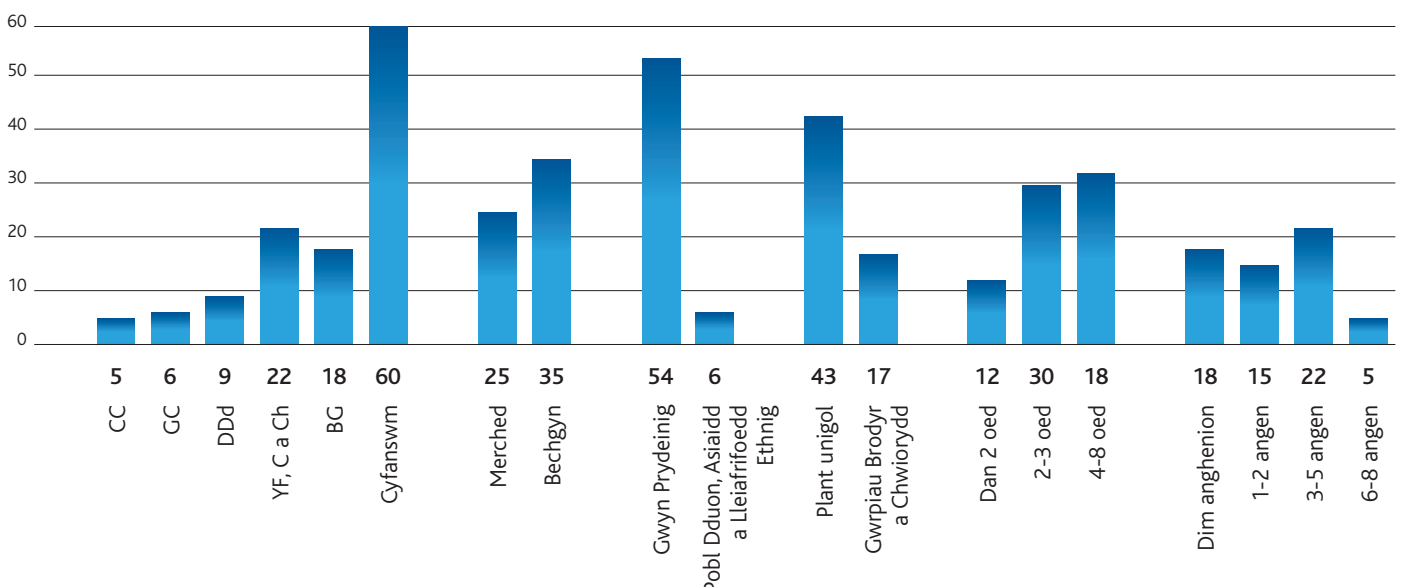
■ Pawb a Barwyd ■ Cyfateb Cofrestr



### Paru

Mae'r graff isod yn dangos bod 70% (n42) o'r 60 o blant a leolwyd drwy'r gofrestr yn blant a allai aros yn hirach am leoliad oherwydd eu hanghenion ychwanegol a nodwyd neu eu bod yn fwy tebygol o fod ag anghenion ychwanegol. Mae hefyd yn dangos bod 80% (n48) dros 2 flywydd oed, roedd gan 70% (n41) anawsterau ymlyniad a dosbarthwyd 36% (n22) fel rhai ag anawsterau ymddygiadol a/neu anawsterau emosiynol.

### Parau a gafwyd trwy ARW 2019-20



## GWEITHGAREDD Y GOFRESTR MABWYSIADU

Atgyfeiriwyd 308 o blant ynghyd â 193 o ddarpar fabwysiadwyr a oedd naill ai wedi hunan-gofrestru neu wedi cael eu hatgyfeirio gan eu hasiantaethau. Mae'r nifer hon o blant yn debyg i'r flwyddyn flaenorol, ond 62% yn fwy o fabwysiadwyr, a all fod yn gysylltiedig â mabwysiadwyr sy'n gallu cyrchu'r gwasanaeth yn uniongyrchol a'r newid yn y rheoliadau lle y dylid cyfeirio plant a mabwysiadwyr yn gynharach.

Cafwyd cyfanswm o 285 o barau yng Nghymru eleni, y nodwyd 60 ohonynt drwy'r gofrestr, cymhariaeth â 36 a 39 o flynyddoedd blaenorol. Mae hyn yn gynydd sylweddol ar y blynyddoedd blaenorol i 21%, o ystyried bod y gwaith paru drwy'r gofrestr wedi amrywio rhwng 11% a 15%. Wrth i'r gofrestr newydd gael ei hymgorffori'n fwy cadarn, byddwn yn parhau i ddadansoddi'r tueddiadau hyn.



Cynhaliwyd 4ydd Diwrnod Gweithgareddau Mabwysiadu yng Nghymru ym mis Mawrth 2020. Mae'r rhain wedi dod yn ddull sefydledig o baru plant sy'n aros am leoliad mabwysiadu, yn enwedig ar gyfer plant sydd wedi bod yn aros yn hirach i ddod o hyd i deuluoedd mabwysiadol posibl, y gallai fod gan rai ohonynt anghenion ychwanegol. Roedd y digwyddiad eleni yn dilyn amserlen debyg i'r hyn a fu'n llwyddiannus mewn blynyddoedd blaenorol er bod angen rhywfaint o addasiadau yn y sefyllfa Covid-19 a oedd yn datblygu.

O ganlyniad, cafwyd 17 o ddatganiadau o ddiddordeb (o'u cymharu â 14 yn 2018/19) gan deuluoedd ac mae'r rhain yn y broses o gael eu dilyn i fyny.

Cynhaliwyd dau Ddiwrnod Cyfnewid hefyd yn ystod y flwyddyn yng Nghaerdydd a Bae Colwyn yn y drefn honno. Roedd cyfanswm o 27 o deuluoedd yn bresennol gyda 136 o blant yn cael eu proffilio, y mwyafrif yn rhan o grwpiau o frodyr a chwiorydd ac anghenion cymhleth. O ganlyniad i'r digwyddiadau hyn cafwyd 4 achos o baru llwyddiannus (o gymharu â 3 yn 2018/19).

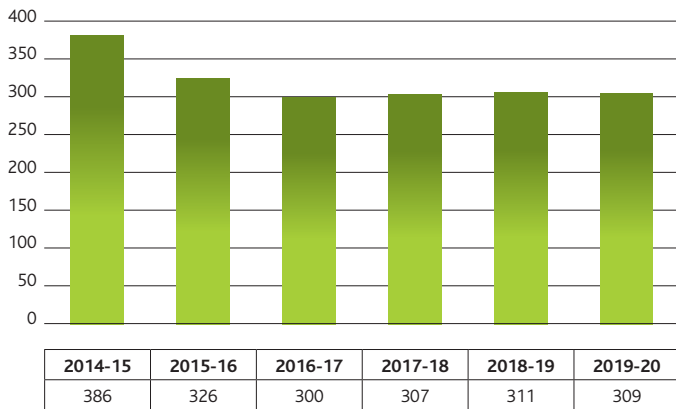


"Dyma oedd digwyddiad a gafodd ei gynllunio'n dda. Darparwyd amgylchedd difyr, diddorol ac ymarferol i'r plant."

"..... fe wnaeth fwynhau ei hun yn fawr iawn ac nid oedd am adael am 4pm!"

# Beth oedd yr effaith gyffredinol ar leoli plant yn 19/20?

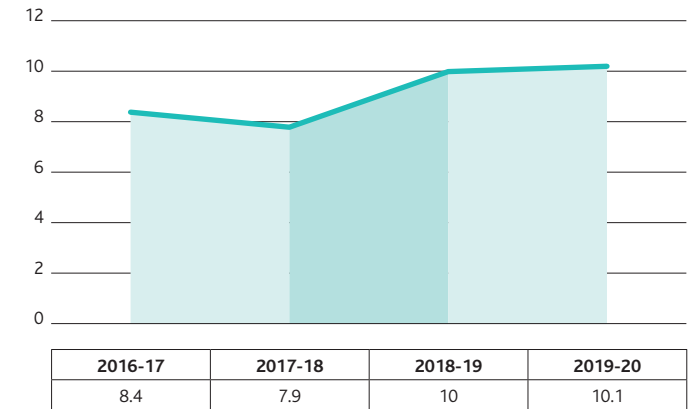
Nifer y plant a leolwyd i'w mabwysiadu



Gostyngodd nifer y plant a oedd yn aros am leoliad mabwysiadu yn ystod 2019/20.

- Ar y cyfan lleolwyd 309 o blant, nifer debyg i'r tair blynedd diwethaf.
- Rhoddwyd tua 270 o orchmynion mabwysiadu i blant oedd wedi'u lleoli eisoes.
- Gostyngodd nifer y plant a oedd yn aros ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn (31.03.20) i 270. Roedd hyn yn cynnwys 68 o blant â 'chyswllt cadarn' a oedd yn debygol o gael eu cadarnhau ynghyd â 22 o blant a oedd yn debygol y byddai newid yn eu statws yn ôl i 'derbyn gofal' yn y tymor hir.
- O'r herwydd roedd gwaith dod o hyd i deuluoedd yn weithredol ar gyfer 179 o blant ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn.

Cyfartaledd (mewn misoedd) o PO i PFA



Mae ymchwil ac arfer gorau yn pwysleisio pa mor bwysig yw hi i blant gael eu lleoli cyn gynted â phosibl ar ôl i'w gorchymyn lleoli gael ei wneud.

- Arhosodd yr amserlenni cyfartalog ar gyfer lleoli plant yn weddol sefydlog ar 10.1 mis, er ychydig yn uwch na'r meincnod o 8 mis fel yr amlinellwyd yn y canllawiau.

Fe wnaeth 2019/20 weld rhai newidiadau yn y galw am fabwysiadu gyda gostyngiad yn nifer y plant a atgyfeiriwyd, er nad oeddent mor fawr â'r hyn a welwyd yn 2015/16 ar ôl dau ddyfarniad arwyddocaol yn yr Uchel Lys.

- Gostyngodd atgyfeiriadau o 21% o 2018/19 – profodd pob rhanbarth leihad.
- Gostyngodd y gorchmynion lleoli o 19% (N63) - cafwyd gostyngiad yn yr holl ranbarthau heblaw am Ganolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru.

Mae'r rhesymau dros hyn yn debygol o fod yn amrywiol a byddant yn adlewyrchu'r gwaith sy'n cael ei wneud gan awdurdodau lleol, gyda Llywodraeth Cymru, i leihau lefelau plant 'sy'n derbyn gofal; yng Nghymru, gan gynnwys effaith gadarnhaol gwasanaethau 'Edge of Care' a 'Reflect'.

Ar gyfer gwasanaethau mabwysiadu, mae hyn yn rhoi cyfle i ganolbwyntio ar leihau lefel y plant sy'n aros ymhellach. Mae'n wir o hyd fod tua un rhan o bump o'r holl blant sy'n gadael y system derbyn gofal yn gwneud hyn yn barhaol drwy fabwysiadu.



# PARHAU I WELLA CYMORTH MABWYSIADU



## Rhoi'r Fframwaith Cymorth Mabwysiadu a'r cynlluniau buddsoddi ar waith

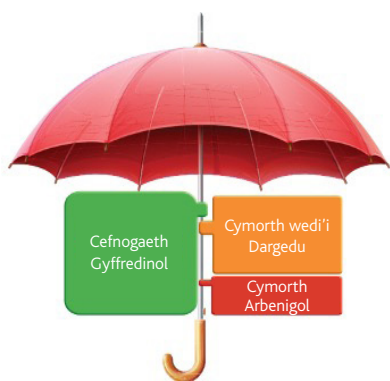
Ym 2016, datblygodd NAS ei chynllun strategol ar gyfer datblygu gwasanaethau cymorth mabwysiadu yng Nghymru.

Gyda'i symbol ymbarél nodedig, y weledigaeth dros amser oedd gwarantu 'Cynnig Craidd' o gefnogaeth i holl blant a phobl ifanc mabwysiedig Cymru a'u rhieni, yn ogystal ag i eraill sy'n cael eu heffeithio gan fabwysiadu.

Y bwriad yw y bydd y 'Cynnig Craidd' hwn yn:

- galluogi teuluoedd sy'n mabwysiadu ar y dechrau a chefnogi eu dyddiau cynnar i annog teuluoedd iach a hyderus;
- darparu gwybodaeth, cyngor neu gymorth effeithiol pan a phryd y mae ar deuluoedd eu hangen ac mewn ffordd amserol fel bod unrhyw faterion sy'n codi yn llai tebygol o waethygu i faterion mwy difrifol; a
- Darparu cymorth parhaus neu ail-fynediad hawdd i wasanaethau lle mae eu hangen.

Rhoddyd hwb enfawr i wireddu'r weledigaeth hon pan gyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru becyn buddsoddi gwerth £2.3m o fis Ebrill 2019. Roedd y buddsoddiad yn cwmpasu 14 o amcanion.



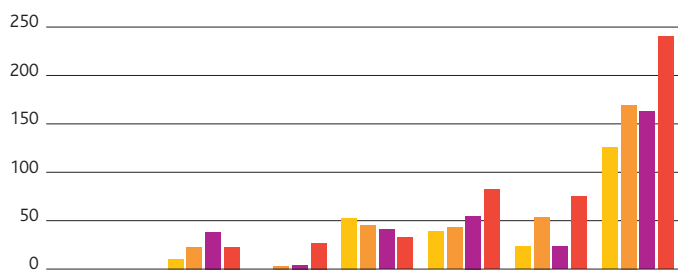


## TROSOLWG O'R DDARPARIAETH CYMORTH MABWYSIADU YN YSTOD 2019/20

Arhosodd nifer y plant yr oedd eu cynllun yn cynnwys cymorth o'r adeg lleoli yn gymharol sefydlog yn ystod 2019/20, sef tua 35% o'r plant a leolwyd. Er bod hyn yn parhau i fod yn ganran weddol isel, mae'n gynydd o'r amcangyfrifon o tua 25% yn yr ymchwil a oedd yn rhagflaenu NAS, yn ogystal â'r hyn a gynhaliwyd gennym ni yn 2015/16.

Yn yr un modd, roedd cynnydd hefyd yn nifer yr asesiadau newydd ar gyfer cymorth mabwysiadu a gynhaliwyd. Mae'r rhain ar gyfer teuluoedd/plant nad ydynt yn derbyn cymorth parhaus sy'n datblygu anghenion cymorth. Cynyddodd hyn i 237 o 170 y flwyddyn flaenorol gyda chynnydd wedi'i ganoli mewn tri rhanbarth.

**Nifer yr asesiadau newydd a gwblhawyd mewn perthynas â phlant nad ydynt yn derbyn gwasanaeth cymorth mabwysiadu ar hyn o bryd**



	CC	GC	DDd	VVC	BG	Cyf
2016/17	11	–	52	38	23	124
2017/18	23	4	45	42	53	167
2018/19	38	5	40	54	23	160
2019/20	23	27	32	81	74	237

Mae mwy na dwy ran o dair o'r asesiadau newydd yn arwain at ddarparu cymorth therapiwtig neu ymarferol, ac mae nifer y teuluoedd sy'n cael taliadau ariannol untro a lwfansau mabwysiadu yn parhau i ostwng ychydig. O'u hystyried gyda'i gilydd mae'r uchod yn dangos bod mwy o gymorth mabwysiadu'n cael ei gynnig a'i gymryd cyn lleoli ac ar ôl mabwysiadu.

O ran gwasanaethau cymorth mabwysiadu eraill:

- Cyrhaeddodd nifer y trefniadau blwch llythyrau gweithredol 3,819, sy'n fwy na'r llynedd. Mae'r rhain yn gysylltiadau pwysig ar gyfer plant wedi'u mabwysiadu gan eu helpu i gael gwybodaeth am eu teuluoedd biolegol a'u helpu i ddeall eu hanes;
- Cododd lefel gyffredinol y ceisiadau gan frodyr a chwiorydd biolegol am asesiad yn sylweddol, ond roedd hyn i raddau helaeth wedi'i ganoli mewn un rhanbarth o ganlyniad i waith a oedd yn canolbwyntio ar hyn, gyda'r duedd ar draws y rhanbarthau eraill yn ostyngiad mewn ceisiadau;
- Gostyngodd ceisiadau am fynediad at gofnodion geni hefyd o swm bach yn gyffredinol, gyda rhai rhanbarthau'n cynyddu ac eraill yn lleihau; a
- Gostyngodd ceisiadau am wasanaethau cyfryngol ar y cyfan hefyd gyda phob rhanbarth ond un yn profi gostyngiad.

## RHAGLEN DATBLYGU CYMORTH MABWYSIADU'R NAS

Gwelodd 2019/20 y flwyddyn gyntaf o gyllid gan Lywodraeth Cymru i weithredu elfennau penodol o'r Fframwaith Cymorth Mabwysiadu ar lefel genedlaethol a rhanbarthol, gan gynnwys rhai gwasanaethau a gomisiynwyd gan bartneriaid yn y sector gwirfoddol.

Cafodd y pecyn buddsoddi £2.3m hwn groeso cynnes gan y NAS a'i bartneriaid gan alluogi'r camau cyntaf tuag at y newid sylweddol mewn gwasanaethau yr ydym am eu gwneud.



### Rhoi'r rhaglen TESSA ar waith

Mae'r rhaglen Gwasanaethau Therapiwtig, Addysg a Chymorth mewn Mabwysiadu (TESSA) yn fenter ar gyfer Cymru gyfan sydd â'r nod o rymuso rhieni mabwysiadol, sy'n magu plant sydd wedi dioddef trawma, drwy roi mynediad cynnar iddynt i seicolegydd clinigol yn ogystal â chefnogaeth gan gymheiriaid. Mae ymchwil yn dangos bod angen cymorth proffesiynol ar hyd at ddwy ran o dair o rieni mabwysiadol yng Nghymru ar ryw adeg.

Adoption UK yw ein partner strategol ar gyfer y fenter hon. Mae cyllid buddsoddi yn darparu 5 o swyddi rhanbarthol ac mae'n rhannol yn ariannu'r seilwaith cenedlaethol ar gyfer y gwasanaeth hwn, sydd hefyd yn derbyn cyfran o gyllid y Loteri Fawr a Chyllid Cymunedau ledled y DU. Dechreuodd y gwasanaeth ym mis Tachwedd 2019, ar ôl treulio'r misoedd nesaf yn recriwtio a hyfforddi rhieni-bartneriaid profiadol i ddarparu cefnogaeth cymheiriaid ledled Cymru a sefydlu'r gwasanaeth seicoleg sy'n cynnal asesiadau ac yn darparu grwpiau cymorth.

Erbyn diwedd mis Mawrth roedd y gwasanaeth wedi derbyn 42 o atgyfeiriadau. Roedd y teuluoedd hyn i gyd yn cael eu cefnogi gan rhiant-bartner ac un ai wedi cael, neu wedi cynllunio yn eu sesiynau asesu a/neu gefnogi, er i'r model gwasanaeth gael ei newid i ar-lein oherwydd Coronafeirws yn ystod mis Mawrth. Cynhaliwyd 16 o ymgynghoriadau, cafodd 1 grŵp yn cynnwys 5 teulu ei gyflwyno ac 1 ddarpariaeth well ynglŷn â thrais plant tuag at rieni.

Mae Mary yn un o'r rhieni mabwysiadol sydd ar hyn o bryd yn derbyn cefnogaeth cymheiriaid gan Julie un o'r rhiant-bartneriaid. Mabwysiodd Mary a'i phartner eu mab pan oedd yn naw mis oed. Erbyn iddo fod yn bedair oed roedd eisoes wedi mynd drwy bum lleoliad meithrin ac ysgol, a phob un wedi chwalu. Dywedodd Mary: *"Daeth y pwynt isaf yn dilyn terfynu un lleoliad pan ddywedwyd wrthym ei fod yn "blentyn drwg a cas a oedd yn ddrwg i fusnes". Cofiodd Mary: "Dywedodd rhywun wrthym am TESSA gan Adoption UK ac o fewn wythnosau roeddem wedi treulio rhywfaint o amser gyda seicolegydd a'n helpodd i lunio jig-so bywyd ein mab a gyda'n gilydd fe wnaethon ni ddechrau archwilio sut gallen ni fynd ati i fynd i'r afael â phethau drwy ei lygaid ef. Doedd y gefnogaeth ddim yn stopio yno – cawsom ein rhoi mewn partner gyda chyfoedion a ddaeth hefyd i'n tŷ i wrando a rhannu profiad. Llai na dau fis yn ddiweddarach mae gennym olwg fanwl o*

*anghenion ein mab; strategaethau i helpu i sicrhau ei fod yn teimlo'n hapus a sicrwydd ein bod yn gwneud y pethau iawn."* Ychwanegodd Mary: "Rydyn ni'n edrych ymlaen yn awr at weithio tuag at ddod o hyd i'r lleoliad iawn i'n mab gyflawni ei botensial ym mis Medi pan fydd yn dechrau yn yr ysgol."

Cynhaliwyd symposiwm Seicoleg Llwyddiannus iawn ddechrau mis Mawrth, gyda mwy na 97 o gyfranogwyr yn mynychu, lle ymunodd seicolegwyr a gweithwyr proffesiynol eraill â rhieni mabwysiadol i drafod dull TESSA a'r broses o'i gyflwyno ledled Cymru.

*"Roedd y diwrnod cyfan yn dda iawn, roedd wedi'i drefnu'n dda ac roedd wynebaw cyfeillgar wrth gyrraedd. Roedd y bwyd a'r canu yn ardderchog. Roeddwn i wir yn hoffi'r neges mai'r teulu a'r amgylchedd sy'n gwneud y gwahaniaeth ar gyfer datblygiad plant ac nad yw'n ymwneud ag 'atgyweirio'r plentyn'."*

Agorwyd y gynhadledd gan y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Julie Morgan MS, ac yna cafwyd anerchiad gan Lyne Neagle MS, a oedd, fel Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru, yn gyfrifol am yr adroddiad dylanwadol 'Mind over Matter'.



## GWASANAETH CYMORTH A GWYBODAETH CENEDLAETHOL NEWYDD I BLANT A PHOBL IFANC

Yn ystod 2019/20 gweithiodd y gwasanaeth 'Connected' newydd gyda 84 o blant a phobl ifanc, ynghyd â chynllunio i ehangu i bob rhan o Gymru mewn partneriaeth ag ardaloedd NAS. Adoption UK yw ein partner strategol ar gyfer y fenter hon. Mae cyllid buddsoddi wedi darparu 5.6 o swyddi, un swydd cydlynedd cenedlaethol ac un ym mhob un o'r rhanbarthau.

Mae pedair elfen allweddol i'r gwasanaeth hwn yn genedlaethol:

1. Grwpiau Connected a fydd ar gael ledled Cymru;
2. Gwybodaeth a chyngor -ynghylch mabwysiadu sydd ar gael i bobl ifanc drwy'r un sianeli â lle maen nhw'n cael gafael ar wybodaeth arall;
3. Cael eu clywed a'u parchu - Casglu safbwyntiau a blaenoriaethau plant a phobl ifanc sydd wedi'u mabwysiadu a'u bwydo i gynlluniau rhanbarthol a chenedlaethol mewn ffordd systematig a chwbl gyfranogol. Mae'n cynnwys cynllun llysgennad i oedolion mabwysiedig ifanc, ac mae dau oedolyn ifanc eisoes wedi cofrestru; a
4. Ymwybyddiaeth ac uwchsgilio - Codi ymwybyddiaeth ac uwchsgilio gwasanaethau ieuencid/chwarae prif ffrwd er mwyn sicrhau eu bod yn deall ac yn ymateb yn well i anghenion plant a phobl ifanc sydd wedi'u mabwysiadu.

Mae'r grwpiau Connected presennol wedi darparu llawer o adborth cadarnhaol ar fanteision treulio amser gyda'u cyfoedion yn y sesiynau:

*"Mae'n dda oherwydd does dim rhaid i mi esbonio pethau iddyn nhw a dydyn nhw ddim yn dweud pethau twp fel 'beth ddigwyddodd i dy fam go iawn ta?"*

*"Dydy fy ffrindiau yn yr ysgol ddim yn deall sut beth yw cael eich mabwysiadu ac alla i ddim siarad â nhw am y peth. Pan rydw i wedi trio o'r blaen, doedden nhw ddim yn deall beth oeddwn i'n siarad amdano. Rwy'n hoffi bod gyda phlant eraill sydd wedi'u mabwysiadu oherwydd dydw i ddim yn teimlo mai fi yw'r unig un."*

*"Ie i mi, mae'n 'normal' cael dy fabwysiadu, felly mae cwrrd â phobl eraill sy'n normal fel fi yn grêt."*



## Mae Charlotte yn Llysgennad Ifanc

"Efallai y bydd rhai pobl yn fy ngalw yn fabwysiadai, rwy'n galw fy hun yn berson wedi fy mabwysiadu, ond o ddydd i ddydd gallwch fy ngalw i'n Charlotte oherwydd dyna fy enw i ac mae'n well gen i fy labeli ar ddiplid nid pobl. Mae cymaint o bethau cadarnhaol yn gysylltiedig â mabwysiadu, fodd bynnag, mae rhai pethau negyddol hefyd yn cael eu profi. Mae pawb yn wahanol ac yn profi ac yn teimlo bod mabwysiadu yn wahanol. I mi, mae cael fy mabwysiadu yn golygu cael ail gyfle mewn bywyd. Cefais fy magu gyda set anhygoel o rieni caredig a chefnogol a roddodd wybodaeth briodol i fy oed i mi drwy gydol fy mywyd ac felly roeddwn i'n gwybod erioed fy mod wedi cael fy mabwysiadu, doeddwn i heb ddeall yn llawn beth oedd yn ei olygu a'r effaith y byddai'n ei chael arnaf i a fy mywyd ac nid oedd hyd nes i mi ddeall yn llawn yr hyn a oedd cael eich mabwysiadu yn ei olygu, y bu i mi ddechrau teimlo synnwyr o golled.

Y ffordd y byddwn i'n disgrifio'r pontio o wybod i mi gael fy mabwysiadu i ddeall fy mod wedi cael fy mabwysiadu oedd profi teimladau'r broses alaru, a bwm yn delio â phob teimlad ar oedran ac amser gwahanol yn fy mywyd. Gwadu oedd y cam pan roeddwn i'n gwybod fy mod wedi cael fy mabwysiadu ond nad oeddwn i'n deall yn llawn beth roedd hynny'n ei feddwl. Yn fy ardegau fe wnes i brofi dicter, camau bargeinio ac iselder ac euogrwydd y broses lle roeddwn yn deall beth oedd mabwysiadu, ond arweiniodd at y cwestiynau 'pam, beth, sut' a wnaeth i mi deimlo'n ddig wrth feddwl am yr atebion tebygol a'r ffaith nad oedd gen i ffordd o wybod. Byddwn yn aml yn creu ffantasi am fy rhieni biolegol a sut beth fyddai cwrdd â nhw ac yna pan oeddwn i wir yn dechrau deall na fyddai fy ffantasiâu yn realiti, dyna pryd roedd yr iselder a'r euogrwydd yn fy nharo oherwydd nad oedd gen i lyfr stori bywyd, teimlais ymdeimlad o golled oherwydd fy mod wedi cael gwybod pethau gwahanol gan wahanol bobl drwy gydol fy mywyd nes nad oedd yn teimlo fel fy stori i, roedd yn teimlo fel criw o bobl i gyd yn cyfrannu darn i bos fy mywyd. Ac roeddwn i eisieu cael profiad o adeiladu'r pos hwnnw, felly pan ddeallais nad oedd oeddwn i mewn rheolaeth o reidrwydd, fe wnaeth fy mrifo.

Pan gefais wybod gyntaf am talk adoption, mi fyddai'n onest, roedd yn frawychus gan nad oeddwn i erioed wedi siarad â neb arall am fy mabwysiadu ac roeddwn i wedi cadw fy mhrofiad yn dawel felly roedd yn teimlo fel fy mod yn rhwygo plastr oddi ar friw nad oedd wedi gwella'n llwyr eto, ac yn ei ddangos i'r byd. Roeddwn yn 14 mlwydd oed pan gefais fy nghyflwyno i talk adoption a'r gwych Ruth Letten, sydd yn ddiarwybod wedi bod yn hyfforddwr bywyd i mi drwy gydol y broses, rhoddodd le diogel i mi archwilio a phrosesu fy holl emosiynau a theimladau mewn ffordd ddilys, drwy gelf, cyfathrebu, drama, ac ymgysylltu â phobl ifanc eraill wedi'u mabwysiadu, gan hefyd annog a chaniatáu i mi fod 100% yn fi fy hun heb ymddiheuro. Roeddwn i'n nerfus ac yn gyffrous i weld sut beth oedd talk adoption a wnes i ddim am eiliad ragweld faint o effaith y byddai yn ei gael arnaf fi a chynifer o bobl ifanc eraill wedi'u mabwysiadu.

Mae Talk adoption ['Connected' bellach] wedi bod yn un o'r pethau gorau i gael ei greu yn y degawd diwethaf oherwydd mae wedi helpu i fy siapia fel person ac wedi rhoi cyfleoedd mor fawr i mi gael dweud fy nweud a chlywed lleisiau pobl eraill wedi'u mabwysiadu. Heb anogaeth a chefnogaeth barhaus gan fy rhieni a Ruth, fyddwn i ddim wedi gallu cyrraedd cam olaf y broses alaru, derbyn ac am hynny byddaf yn ddiolchgar ac yn ddyledus am byth. Ers cyrraedd y cam derbyn rwyf wedi gallu newid fy meddwl o 'pam wnaeth hyn ddigwydd' i 'sut alla i helpu eraill drwy eu brwydrau a dyna pam rydw i wedi rhoi mwy o amser i wirfoddoli yn y grwpiau talk adoption yn hytrach na defnyddio'r gwasanaeth, gan fy mod wedi sylweddoli nad oedd angen help arnaf mwyach ond rwy'n dal i fod eisieu helpu eraill a gobeithio y gall eraill elwa o'm profiad."



## SEFYDLU'R FFRAMWAITH DEUNYDDIAU TAITH BYWYD NEWYDD

Mae'r NAS yn parhau i weithio ar wella cynnwys, ansawdd ac argaeledd Deunyddiau Taith Bywyd i blant a phobl ifanc wedi'u mabwysiadu a'u teuluoedd. Rydym wedi parhau i weithio ar y Fframwaith newydd a'r Canllaw Arfer Da ar gyfer Gwaith Taith Bywyd yng Nghymru a lansiwyd yn 2016, a rhoi'r rhain ar waith.

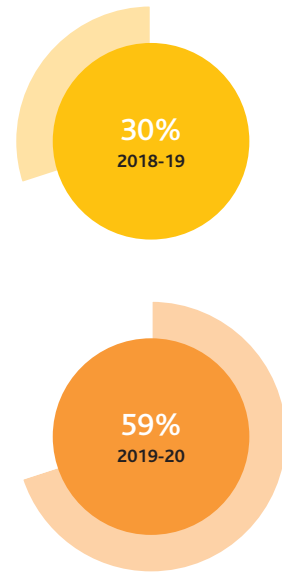
Mae angen i bob plentyn nad yw'n gallu derbyn gofal gan ei deulu genedigol, feddu ar ddealltwriaeth o hanes eu teulu a'u taith unigryw drwy ddeunyddiau taith bywyd sy'n cefnogi hunaniaeth plentyn, hybu hunan-barch a helpu i roi ymdeimlad o berthyn a lles i'r plentyn.

Gan weithio gyda staff ledled Cymru a gyda chefnogaeth AFA Cymru, mae'r adnoddau ar-lein wedi cael eu cynyddu gyda chanllawiau ac offer ychwanegol ar gyfer rhieni biolegol a gofalwyr maeth wedi'u hychwanegu eleni. Mae gwaith yn mynd rhagddo i sicrhau bod ystod gynyddol o adnoddau ar-lein ar gyfer y gwaith hwn yn hygyrch ac y gellir eu defnyddio gan rieni a staff mabwysiadol.

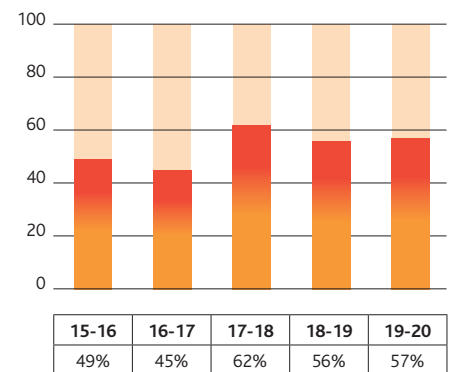
Mae'r arian buddsoddi wedi galluogi creu swydd 'cydlynnydd' hyrwyddo ym mhob un o bum rhanbarth NAS, er mwyn gweithredu'r dull yn well yn gyson. Mae un rhanbarth wedi defnyddio rhywfaint o'i gyllid i greu swyddi yn ei awdurdodau lleol i ddyfnhau'r cysondeb hwn gyda staff sy'n rheoli achosion plant.

- Mae cyfran y plant yr oedd eu gwaith taith bywyd ar gael iddynt pan cawsant eu paru, wedi gwella'n sylweddol i 59%.
- Mae'r effaith ar argaeledd gwaith taith bywyd yn yr ail adolygiad mabwysiadu yn llai eglur ar hyn o bryd ond, ar 57%, mae'r duedd ar i fyny araf yn parhau.
- Erbyn hyn mae hyd at 14 o swyddi ledled Cymru yn canolbwyntio ar y maes gwaith pwysig hwn gyda pheth effaith yn dod yn glir; bu gwelliannau sylweddol yn y rhanbarth sy'n defnyddio buddsoddiad i weithio ar hyn yn ei hawdurdodau lleol.

### Cyfran y plant a oedd â deunyddiau Taith Bywyd yn y panel paru



### Cyfran y plant a oedd â deunyddiau Taith Bywyd yn yr 2il adolygiad mabwysiadu





## DULLIAU NEWYDD O ARFER GORAU

Comisiynwyd AFA Cymru fel ein partner strategol ar gyfer y gwaith hwn. Gan ddefnyddio ymchwil ac arbenigedd perthnasol a gweithio gyda rhanbarthau, asiantaethau mabwysiadu gwirfoddol ledled Cymru a'r tîm canolog, maen nhw'n cefnogi'r NAS i ddatblygu dulliau newydd o arfer gorau o ran:

- Pontio a cymorth lleoliad cynnar (gan gynnwys Mabwysiadu Gyda'n Gilydd);
- Trefniadau cyswllt ar gyfer plant wedi'u mabwysiadu;
- Gweithio gyda rhieni biolegol; a
- Fframwaith arfer da wedi'i ddiweddarau a dull o asesu, cynllunio ac adolygu cymorth mabwysiadu.

Ynghyd â hyn, mae rhanbarthau wedi buddsoddi mewn gallu i ddechrau darparu ffyrdd gwell o weithio yn y meysydd hyn.

### Lleoli plant a darparu cefnogaeth gynnar

Yn ystod y flwyddyn mae Afa Cymru wedi bod yn datblygu'r 'canllawiau arfer da', gan fanteisio ar yr arbenigedd a'r gwasanaethau sy'n datblygu sy'n bodoli mewn rhanbarthau ac asiantaethau mabwysiadu gwirfoddol, yn ogystal â defnyddio ymchwil a modelau sy'n bodoli eisoes. Mae'r drafft terfynol yn cael ei gwblhau gyda chynlluniau i'w lansio yn ystod 2020/21.

Y nod yw sicrhau y bydd pob plentyn a phob teulu sy'n mabwysiadu yng Nghymru yn elwa ar ddull cyson â chefnogaeth o ymddrin â chyflwyniadau, lleoliadau a chymorth cynnar sy'n cael eu llunio i ddiwallu eu hanghenion. Mae cyllid buddsoddi yn darparu 5 swydd gyda phob rhanbarth yn buddsoddi yng ngallu staff i roi'r dulliau hyn ar waith.

Roedd yr arian buddsoddi yn 2019/20 hefyd yn cymorthdal costau'r awdurdod lleol ar gyfer y lleoliadau Mabwysiadu Gyda'n Gilydd a wnaed yn 2019/20.

## FFRAMWAITH ARFER GORAU NEWYDD A DULL O GYSYLLTU

Fel uchod mae AFA Cymru wedi bod yn datblygu'r 'canllawiau arfer da', gan fanteisio ar yr arbenigedd a'r gwasanaethau sy'n datblygu sy'n bodoli mewn rhanbarthau ac asiantaethau mabwysiadu gwirfoddol, ymchwil a modelau sy'n bodoli eisoes a'i gysylltu â gwaith arall sydd wedi bod yn mynd rhagddo yng Nghymru. Mae hwn hefyd mewn cam drafft terfynol gyda chynlluniau i'w lansio yn ystod 2020/21 ac mae swyddi'n cael eu hariannu mewn dau ranbarth.

- Mae'r Tîm Canolog yn parhau i weithio gyda Voices from Care (VfC), Plant yng Nghymru a phartneriaid eraill (AUK, Afa Cymru, Plant yng Nghymru, Prifysgol Caerdydd, y Rhwydwaith Maethu) i ymateb i argymhelliad Comisiynydd Plant Cymru 2016/17 y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru weithio gyda'r Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol (NAS) i sicrhau bod hawliau i gysylltu â brodyr a chwiorydd yn cael eu hystyried yn llawn wrth gynllunio gofal mabwysiadu. Mae hyn wedi dechrau cael ei adnabod fel 'Cynghrair Brodyr a Chwiorydd'.
- O ganlyniad i hyn, fe wnaethom gydweithio â Chanolfan Gyfreithiol Plant Cymru i lunio a chyhoeddi 'Taflen Gyngor' ar gyswllt ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc sy'n cael eu mabwysiadu neu sy'n derbyn gofal.
- Mae'r Cynghrair Brodyr a Chwiorydd wrthi'n datblygu 'adduned' ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc sy'n cael eu gwahanu oddi wrth eu brodyr a'u chwiorydd. Y bwriad yw y bydd hyn yn meithrin cefnogaeth gan yr holl gyrff cyhoeddus a gwirfoddol i wneud gwelliannau. Mae hyn ar y cam ymgynghori ar hyn o bryd ac ar ôl hynny bydd yn cael ei rannu'n eang gyda'r holl randdeiliaid proffesiynol, Gweinidogion a'r Farnwriaeth er mwyn llywio arfer gwell wrth gynllunio ar gyfer cyswllt.

## FFRAMWAITH A DULL NEWYDD O WEITHIO GYDA RHIENI BIOLEGOL

Unwaith eto, mae AFA Cymru wedi bod yn datblygu'r 'canllawiau arfer da', gan fanteisio ar yr arbenigedd a'r gwasanaethau sy'n datblygu sy'n bodoli mewn rhanbarthau ac asiantaethau mabwysiadu gwirfoddol, yn ogystal â defnyddio ymchwil a modelau sy'n bodoli eisoes gan ystyried y cysylltiadau gyda'r rhwydwaith o brosiectau<sup>1</sup> Reflect sydd bellach ar waith ledled Cymru. Bydd hwn hefyd yn cael ei lansio yn 2020/21. Mae tri o'r rhanbarthau wedi creu 4 swydd i gefnogi gwaith gyda rhieni biolegol.

Yn ystod 2019/20 manteisiodd mwy na 330 o rieni biolegol ar wasanaethau o ranbarthau NAS. Cafodd mwy na 650 o rieni biolegol eu hatgyfeirio i'r gwasanaeth, ac roedd canran uchel o'r rheini yn cael cynnig gwasanaeth; mae'r nifer sy'n derbyn yn y flwyddyn gyntaf yn isel ond mae'n gwella'n sylweddol wrth edrych ar rieni o flynyddoedd blaenorol. Eto, mae mwy o bobl yn manteisio ar y gwasanaethau yn y rhanbarthau hynny lle defnyddiwyd y buddsoddiad i wella'r gwasanaeth.

Mewn un rhanbarth mae'r berthynas â'r gwasanaeth **Reflect** yn sicrhau bod rhieni biolegol yn cael cymorth gyda rhai elfennau o'r broses fabwysiadu. Yn Ne-ddwyrain Cymru mae'r broses **Reflect**, i gefnogi rhieni biolegol a theuluoedd pan fyddant yn ffarwelio â'u plant, yn seiliedig ar rannu gwybodaeth adeiladol a chadarnhaol a gwneud penderfyniadau. Mae teimladau a dymuniadau rhieni biolegol yn cael eu cynnwys yn y broses a sut mae'r cyswllt terfynol yn digwydd. Mae rhieni biolegol yn cael help i deithio i'r cyswllt, paratoi gweithgareddau, tynnu lluniau – unrhyw beth i fanteisio i'r eithaf ar amser y rhiant gyda'u plentyn. Defnyddir y ffotograffau i gefnogi'r rhieni biolegol i gwblhau gwaith hanes bywyd eu plentyn. Gall y camau syml hyn wneud gwahaniaeth i brofiadau rhieni biolegol o ddiwrnod mor drawmatig a'i wneud yn fwy goddefadwy gan y byddant yn teimlo'n fwy parod ac yn teimlo mwy o reolaeth.

## FFRAMWAITH ARFER GORAU WEDI'I DDIWEDDARU A DULL O ASESU, CYNLLUNIO AC ADOLYGU CYMORTH MABWYSIADU

Mae AFA Cymru hefyd wedi bod yn gweithio ar hyn, er mai dyma'r olaf i ddechrau, gan fod angen casglu'r egwyddorion o'r canllawiau uchod yn ogystal â chanolbwyntio ar yr elfennau cyfreithiol a rheoliadol. Mae un rhanbarth wedi defnyddio ei fuddsoddiad i greu swydd ychwanegol i ganolbwyntio ar wella hyn.

## RHOI CYNLLUNIAU UNIGOL AR WAITH AR GYFER HYFFORDDIANT/DATBLYGIAD AR ÔL CYMERADWYO MABWYSIADWYR

Mae'r 12 o fodiwlau hyfforddiant ôl-fabwysiadu ar gyfer mabwysiadwyr, a ddatblygwyd ar y cyd ag AFA Cymru a Adoption UK ac mewn ymgynghoriad ag ymarferwyr mabwysiadu a mabwysiadwyr, wedi'u lansio ac maen nhw bellach ar wefan y NAS.

Eu bwriad yw helpu a chefnogi mabwysiadwyr i blethu dealltwriaeth o'r hyn mae angen iddyn nhw ei wybod a'r sgiliau sydd eu hangen arnynt i ddatblygu i adeiladu a pharhau i wella eu perthynas â'u plentyn.

Maen nhw ar gael ar y wefan i bobl eu cyrchu'n unigol neu i hyfforddwyr eu lawrlwytho a'u defnyddio mewn hyfforddiant grŵp. Treialwyd y modiwlau yn rhanbarthau NAS gan AUK.

Mynychodd tua 160 o bobl 15 o wahanol ddigwyddiadau hyfforddi a gynhaliwyd gan Adoption UK Cymru (AUK) gan ddefnyddio'r modiwlau hyfforddiant ôl-fabwysiadu hyn yn ystod 2019/20. Cyflwynwyd y rhain ar draws yr holl ranbarthau ac roeddent yn cynnwys y teitlau canlynol: Gwaith Taith Bywyd, Iechyd a Datblygiad, Byw gydag Ymddygiadau Heriol, Gwrthsefyll Di-drais a Chyswllt â Theuluoedd Biolegol. Roedd tua 75% o'r mynychwyr yn rhieni mabwysiadol neu'n ddarpar fabwysiadwyr ac roedd y gweddill yn weithwyr proffesiynol a oedd yn gweithio gyda theuluoedd mabwysiadol.

Mae'r adborth gan staff yn gadarnhaol:

- 'cwrs oedd yn procio'r meddwl gyda llawer o safbwyntiau ar gyswllt' – rhiant wnaeth fynychu cwrs ar Gyswllt.
- 'cwrs defnyddiol iawn, yn fy atgoffa o lawer yr oeddwn wedi'i anghofio, dwi'n teimlo'n llawer mwy cadarnhaol ac fel y gallaf ymdopi â theimlo'n galonogol y byddaf yn gallu ei wneud' – rhiant mabwysiadol ar gwrs ar gyfer mabwysiadwyr oedd yn mabwysiadu am yr ail dro.
- 'roedd y cwrs hwn yn anhygoel, o na fyddwn wedi ei gael flynyddoedd yn ôl, efallai y byddai wedi gwneud gwahaniaeth mawr i'n teulu' – mabwysiadwr wnaeth fynychu cwrs Ymddygiad Heriol.

Mae gan un rhanbarth swydd swyddog hyfforddi cyfredol ac mae ail ranbarth yn defnyddio buddsoddiad i greu swydd newydd. Yn yr ail o'r rhain, Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru, mynychodd bron i 150 o fabwysiadwyr a mwy na 40 o ofalwyr maeth hyfforddiant a ddarparwyd gan y rhanbarth yn ystod 2019/20. Mae'r rhanbarth hefyd wedi treialu rhaglen e-ddysgu a gafodd ei chwblhau gan 21 o fabwysiadwyr a nifer o staff. Mae'r adborth o'r e-ddysgu wedi bod yn gadarnhaol o ran cynnwys a hygyrchedd, gyda chyfradd gwblhau uchel gan fabwysiadwyr yn ogystal â gweithwyr proffesiynol.

<sup>1</sup> Mae 'Reflect' yn wasanaeth sy'n ceisio darparu cymorth ymarferol ac emosiynol i fenywod a'u partneriaid y mae eu plentyn/plant wedi'u tynnu o'u gofalu yn orfodol ac yn barhaus. Mae'r rhieni'n cael eu cefnogi am gyfnod o amser ac yn cael cymorth wedi'i deilwra.

## GWELLA'R DEWIS O GYMORTH THERAPIWTIG ARBENIGOL/ WEDI'I DARGEDU SYDD AR GAEL DRWY IECHYD, GOFAL CYMDEITHASOL AC ADDYSG

Mae cyllid buddsoddi yn darparu 6.9 o swyddi a ddefnyddir yn ôl angen rhanbarthol er enghraifft:

- yn Ne-ddwyrain Cymru mae capasiti ychwanegol yn y gwasanaeth seicoleg presennol yn cael ei ariannu sy'n golygu bod tua 40 o blant a theuluoedd ychwanegol wedi cael cymorth, bu dros 130 o sesiynau therapi uniongyrchol ychwanegol a darparwyd 7 o sesiynau hyfforddiant a chymorth i staff; a
- mewn tri rhanbarth arall mae swyddi wedi'u creu a staff wedi'u hyfforddi i ddarparu gwasanaethau therapiwtig fel therapi chwarae a DDP.

Roedd adborth gan rieni yng Nghanolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru yn cynnwys:

*"Gwych cael y cymorth mabwysiadu hwn gan fod y maes wedi cael ei esgeuluso"*

*"Diolch, mae'r help hwn yn gwneud gwahaniaeth go iawn"*

*"heb y cymorth hwn fe fydden ni wedi dioddef chwalfa deuluol gan nad oeddwn i'n gallu ymdopi"*

*"... rydw i wedi gweld gwelliant amlwg mewn ymddygiad ac mae X yn fwy sefydlog yn gyffredinol".*

## CAFODD CYNLLUN NOD BARCUT 'YMWYBYDDIAETH MABWYSIADU' EI DDATBLYGU A'I GYFLWYNO

Mae un rhanbarth yn datblygu nod barcut ar gyfer ymwybyddiaeth o fabwysiadu a all fod yn rhywbeth i'w ymestyn ar draws Cymru yn y dyfodol.

## LLEIHAU OEDI, GAN SICRHAU'R DEWIS EHangaf O LEOLIADAU NEU WELLA'R PARU AR GYFER PLANT

Roedd rhywfaint o hyblygrwydd yn y cynnig buddsoddi i gefnogi swyddogaethau mabwysiadu eraill. Dewisodd dau ranbarth ddefnyddio hyn i greu Swyddogion Marchnata a Recriwtio llawn amser a rhan-amser yn y drefn honno. Eu rôl yw cynyddu ymholiadau gan ddarparu fabwysiadwyr a darparu cymorth ar gyfer pob cyswllt a wneir.

Mae'r swyddi ychwanegol hyn yn golygu bod gan bob rhanbarth y swyddi hyn bellach sydd o fudd i'n gallu i recriwtio mabwysiadwyr.



## Parhau i godi ymwybyddiaeth ymhlith gweithwyr proffesiynol a'r cyhoedd

Mae mabwysiadu yn nodwedd o fywyd cymunedol lle mae teuluoedd mabwysiadol yn byw, yn gweithio ac yn chwarae gan gynnwys iechyd, addysg. Un o swyddogaethau allweddol y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol yw cadw a chodi ymwybyddiaeth ymhlith gweithwyr proffesiynol a'r cyhoedd.

Yn 2019/20 gwelwyd lansiad taflenni a gwybodaeth ar gyfer gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol. Datblygwyd hyn mewn partneriaeth â chydweithwyr iechyd ac erbyn hyn mae wedi'i ddsbarthu'n eang i leoliadau cymunedol ac ysbytai ledled Cymru lle mae gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol yn gweithio. Y nod yw eu helpu i ddeall 'mabwysiadu' yn well er mwyn llywio'r ffordd orau o weithio gyda'r plant wedi'u mabwysiadu a'r teuluoedd maen nhw'n eu gweld.

Mae NAS yn cyfrannu at ystod eang o ffrydiau gwaith Cymru gyfan Llywodraeth Cymru; mae hyn yn cyfrannu at wella ymwybyddiaeth o fabwysiadu ymhlith gweithwyr proffesiynol yn ogystal â llywio polisi er mwyn sicrhau bod datblygiadau eraill, gan gynnwys gwasanaethau prif ffrwd y mae teuluoedd sy'n mabwysiadu yn eu defnyddio, yn 'ymwybodol o fabwysiadu'. Yn ystod 2019/20 roedd hyn yn cynnwys yr isod:

- Grŵp Cyngori'r Gweinidog ar Wella Canlyniadau i Blant
- 'Grŵp Cyngori ar Rianta' Llywodraeth Cymru; a
- Mae'r NAS yn ceisio cymryd rhan yn y gwaith ar **Gryfhau ac ymestyn Rhianta Corfforaethol yng Nghymru** i sicrhau bod egwyddorion, o ran plant wedi'u mabwysiadu, yr oedd yr NAS wedi'u negodi yn y fersiwn gyfredol yn 2015, yn cael eu cadw mewn canllawiau yn y dyfodol.





# MEDDWL YMLAEN



## Parhau i gyd-gynhyrchu a defnyddio gwybodaeth o ymgysylltu

Mae llais y defnyddiwr gwasanaeth yn hollbwysig yn y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol ac mae'n arwain y broses o ddatblygu polisi a darparu gwasanaethau.

### MABWYSIADWYR

Cyhoeddodd NAS ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad 2018/19 Lleisiau Mabwysiadu gyda mabwysiadwyr yn amlinellu sut mae'n ymateb i'r materion a godwyd.

Gan ddefnyddio dull 'Yr hyn wnaethoch chi ei ddweud' a'r 'Hyn rydyn ni'n yn ei wneud' mae hyn yn rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i fabwysiadwyr am bynciau fel CAMHS a gwasanaeth lles emosiynol, Cyswllt ac asesiad mabwysiadwr.

Comisiynwyd Adoption UK i adolygu rhaglen Lleisiau Mabwysiadu'r NAS yng ngoleuni ei chynlluniau parhaus ar gyfer y Baromedr Mabwysiadu.

Cyflwynodd Alison Woodhead Pennaeth Cyfathrebu AUK ac Ann Bell ganfyddiadau ar gyfer Cymru o'r Baromedr yn y Bwrdd Llywodraethu NAS Cyfun cyntaf ym mis Gorffennaf. Dyma'r prif ganfyddiadau:

- Roedd gan fwy o fabwysiadwyr lythyron bywyd a deunyddiau taith bywyd diweddarach yng Nghymru;
- Ddwywaith yn fwy tebygol o ddewis pendant wedi'i wneud i beidio â chwrdd ag aelodau o'r teulu biolegol (dylanwad gweithiwr cymdeithasol);
- 71% yn gwybod ble i fynd i gael cymorth ôl-fabwysiadu. 77% yn wybodus;
- Lefel uchel iawn o angen ymhlith plant wedi'u mabwysiadu. Roedd gan 26% ddatganiadau o gymharu â 5% o blant yng Nghymru yn gyffredinol; a
- Angen llawer mwy o hyfforddiant ac adnoddau ar gyfer ysgolion.





Cafwyd argymhellion ar gyfer Rhanbarthau ac Asiantaethau Mabwysiadu Gwirfoddol fel y nodir isod; mae AUK wedi dilyn y rhain gyda'r holl fyrrdau rheoli rhanbarthol ac asiantaethau mabwysiadu gwirfoddol:

- Dylai pob plentyn gael cynllun cymorth ysgrifenedig clir y cytunwyd arno cyn ei leoli, yn seiliedig ar asesiad therapiwtig;
- Dylai gwasanaethau adolygu'r cyngor a roddir i fabwysiadwyr newydd i gadw ffrindiau a theulu ar bellter yn ystod eu cyfnod cynnar y lleoliad. Yn lle hynny, dylid darparu gwell canllawiau ar gyfer rhwydweithiau cymorth i deuluoedd sy'n mabwysiadu er mwyn iddynt allu cefnogi lleoli cynnar heb darfu ar ymlyniad ac ymgyrtrefu; a
- Dylai gwasanaethau adolygu a diwygio'r cyngor mae gweithwyr cymdeithasol yn ei roi i fabwysiadwyr ynglŷn â chwrdd â rhieni biolegol cyn eu mabwysiadu.

Ynghyd â'r uchod, mae'r rhanbarthau wedi:

- Hwyluso digwyddiadau gweithgarwch teuluol i ddatblygu ymgysylltiad rhanddeiliaid a chynaliadwyedd rhwydweithiau cymorth ymhellach;
- Ymgynghori â mabwysiadwyr er mwyn llywio hyfforddiant; a
- Sefydlu prosesau adborth i ddysgu am yr hyn mae gwasanaethau unigol yn ei wneud yn dda a gwella ar feysydd sy'n peri pryder.

**Plant a Phobl Ifanc** – Mae ymgysylltu yn nodwedd allweddol o'r gwasanaethau 'Connect' newydd ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc; y gobaith yw y bydd y gwasanaethau, yn y dyfodol, yn cyrraedd y safonau cyfranogiad. Ar adeg ysgrifennu'r llythyr hwn, mae ymgynghoriad yn mynd rhagddo gyda phlant a phobl ifanc ledled Cymru i lywio datblygiad parhaus y gwasanaeth sydd hefyd yn cynnwys cynllun llysgenhadon fel yr amlinellwyd yn gynharach.

**Comisiynydd Plant Cymru** – Mae NAS, drwy'r Tîm Canolog, yn cyfarfod â Sally Holland yn flynyddol i drafod materion mabwysiadu a monitro NAS mewn perthynas ag argymhellion y mae wedi'u gwneud yn ei hadroddiadau blynyddol.

Mae cyfran fach o waith achos y Comisiynwyr Plant yn amlwg yn gysylltiedig â mabwysiadu, tua 3% yn y flwyddyn cyn cyfarfod 2019/20. Trafodwyd y themâu isod gyda'r rhanbarthau ac maen nhw'n hysbysu datblygu polisi ac ymarfer:

- Cymorth mabwysiadu – peidio â chael yr hyn sydd ei angen, gorfod 'ymhladd' am gyllid a chefnogaeth;
- Gofalwyr maeth – anfodlonrwydd â phenderfyniadau ynglŷn ag asesiadau fel mabwysiadwyr a'u rôl os yw lleoliad yn cael ei amharu;
- Darpar Fabwysiadwyr – ceisiadau ddim yn cael eu derbyn/achosion o oedi wrth asesu; a
- Rhieni biolegol – gofyn am gyngor ar herio penderfyniadau ac ati.

## Defnyddio data

### SYSTEM MESUR PERFFORMIAD DDIWYGIEDIG

Aeth y System Rheoli Perfformiad newydd, sy'n cael ei chefnogi gan Data Cymru, yn fyw ar ddechrau 2019/20. Mae'r gwelliannau'n cynnwys:

- bod gan y rhanbarthau eu data ar lefel awdurdod lleol sy'n helpu i nodi amrywiadau; a
- chefnogi cysondeb rhanbarthol wrth adrodd i'w Byrddau Rheoli Rhanbarthol.



WALES ADOPTION COHORT STUDY  
ASTUDIAETH CARFAN MABWYSIADU CYMRU

### CEFNOGI A BUDDSODDI MEWN YMCHWIL

Mae'r NAS yn parhau i gefnogi Astudiaeth Carfan Mabwysiadu Cymru yn ei hymdrechion i gael cyllid parhaus ac i hyrwyddo cyhoeddi ei phapurau ymchwil.

Mae'r athro Katherine Shelton yn aelod o Fwrdd Llywodraethu Cyfun yr NAS; yn ei gyfarfod ym mis Chwefror rhoddodd drosolwg o'r ymchwil diweddaraf, 'Proffiliau niwrowbyddol y plant sy'n cael eu mabwysiadu o ofal a'u problemau emosiynol ac ymddygiadol yn y cartref a'r ysgol' gan helpu'r bwrdd i ddechrau deall rhai o'r goblygiadau posibl ar gyfer ymarfer.

Hyd yma, mae'r astudiaeth wedi cyhoeddi mwy na 15 o bapurau ymchwil mewn amrywiaeth o gylchgronau a adolygir gan gymheiriaid, gyda rhai yn rhad ac am ddim i'w lawrlwytho o wefan Prifysgol Caerdydd:

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/44107-shelton-katherine>

### GWERTHUSIAD O FFRAMWAITH CYMORTH MABWYSIADU'R NAS

Yn dilyn proses gaffael agored, dewiswyd y sefydliad Gofal Cyhoeddus fel y partner academaidd ar gyfer y darn hwn o waith arfaethedig. Bydd hyn yn gwerthuso effaith y newidiadau y mae'r NAS wedi'u gwneud i'r ffordd yr ydym yn cefnogi teuluoedd sy'n mabwysiadu yng Nghymru, gan ganolbwyntio ar effaith gynnar buddsoddiad diweddar Llywodraeth Cymru. Bydd y gwaith hwn yn dechrau yn 2020/21.

## Gweithio i wella'r fframwaith cyfreithiol, polisi a thystiolaeth sy'n effeithio ar fabwysiadu

Mae NAS yn cyfrannu at ystod eang o ffrydiau gwaith Cymru gyfan Llywodraeth Cymru; mae hyn yn cyfrannu at wella ymwybyddiaeth o fabwysiadu ymhlith gweithwyr proffesiynol yn ogystal â llywio polisi er mwyn sicrhau bod datblygiadau eraill, gan gynnwys gwasanaethau prif ffrwd y mae teuluoedd sy'n mabwysiadu yn eu defnyddio, yn 'ymwybodol o fabwysiadu'.

### GRŴP CYNGHORI'R GWEINIDOG AR WELLA CANLYNIADAU I BLANT

- Mae cynlluniau'r NAS, o ran cynyddu recriwtio a gwella cymorth mabwysiadu, yn rhan o'r ffrwd waith 'Gwella'r Dewis o Leoliadau a Sefydlogrwydd'. Mae diweddariadau'n cael eu darparu i bob cyfarfod.
- Yn dilyn cyfarfod Ionawr 2020, llwyddodd NAS i gyfrannu at y gwaith ar y strategaeth newydd ar gyfer dysgwyr agored i niwedd trwy gysylltiad â Syr Alistair MC Donald, Llywodraeth Cymru.
- Yn yr un cyfarfod, pwysleisiwyd pa mor bwysig ydy hi i NAS barhau i ymwneud â'r gwaith o barhau â'r rhaglen 'Law yn Llaw i Blant a Phobl Ifanc'.

Mae NAS yn cael ei gynrychioli ar 'Grŵp Cyngori ar Rianta' Llywodraeth Cymru Dyma un agwedd ar y gwaith i roi Mesur Plant Cymru ar waith a thynnu'r amddiffyniad o gosb resymol yn ôl. Mae hyn er mwyn sicrhau bod cyngor a gwybodaeth briodol yn cael eu trosglwyddo i rieni sy'n mabwysiadu.

Mae'r NAS yn parhau i weithio ar yr agenda 'Mind over Matter' gyda AWHOCS a CLILC. Mae'r adroddiad hwn gan Bwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol yn canolbwyntio ar wella CAMHS/gwasanaethau i gefnogi lles emosiynol plant. Yn ystod 2019/20, cydweithiodd NAS gyda AWHOCS a CLILC i anfon ymateb ar y cyd i gais i werthuso cynnydd a chymerodd y Cyfarwyddwr ran mewn gweithdy Pwyllgor.

Mae rhai newidiadau polisi yr ydym wedi bod yn gweithio arnynt yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf wedi dwyn ffrwyth eleni hefyd.

- Ym mis Hydref 2019 fe wnaeth Llywodraeth Cymru roi rheoliadau diwygiedig ar waith ar gyfer Cofrestr Mabwysiadu Cymru, sy'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol i asiantaethau ddefnyddio'r Gofrestr yn gynt ar gyfer plant a darpar fabwysiadwyr. Mae hwn yn gam pwysig o ran cefnogi gwasanaethau i baru plant mewn ffordd mor amserol â phosibl.

Ymgynghorwyd ar y rheoliadau i gyflwyno ffordd ddiwygiedig o gynnal yr asesiad o ddarpar fabwysiadwyr a daethant i rym o Ebrill 1af 2020. Mae'r 'Broses 2 Gam' yn fwy tryloyw drwy grwpio'r gwiriadau cychwynnol e.e. meddygol, yr heddlu, geirdaon yn y cam cyntaf i'w cwblhau'n foddhaol, cyn y gall darpar fabwysiadwyr symud ymlaen i'r asesiad 'addasrwydd' manwl yng Ngham 2.

Mae canllawiau diwygiedig ar gyfer staff a mabwysiadwyr a thafleuni ar gael <https://adoptcymru.com/the-adoption-process>

*Nodyn: Ar adeg ysgrifennu, oherwydd C-19, mae'r broses o roi'r 'Broses 2 Gam' hwn ar waith yn llawn wedi cael ei ohirio dros dro gyda chytundeb Llywodraeth Cymru fel y gall asiantaethau barhau i redeg y ddau gam gyda'i gilydd.*

Rydym yn parhau i lobio am welliannau yn yr hawl deddfwriaethol i gymorth mabwysiadu.

## ADOLYGIAD NAS O DREFNIADAU

Mae'r gwaith hwn yn mynd rhagddo, ar ôl cael ei gomisiynu gan CLILC ac ADSS-Cymru fel prif sefydliadau'r NAS; mae'r Sefydliad Gofal Cyhoeddus wedi'i gomisiynu i weithio gyda ni i sicrhau mwy o atebolrwydd yn nhrefniadau'r NAS.

- Rhan gyntaf y gwaith yn y cyfnod presennol hwn oedd cyfuno'r Grŵp Cynghori blaenorol a'r Bwrdd Llywodraethu. Cafodd hyn ei gyflawni gyda chyfarfod y Bwrdd Llywodraethu Cyfunol am y tro cyntaf, ym mis Gorffennaf 2019 gyda Chylch Gorchwyl diwygiedig.

Fe wnaeth y Bwrdd Llywodraethu Cyfunol cyntaf gyfuno gweithdy â chyfarfod busnes lle y cytunodd aelodau ar egwyddorion ar gyfer gweithio yn y cyfarfodydd yn ogystal â'r Cylch Gorchwyl diwygiedig.

- Yr ail elfen o'r gwaith presennol yw datblygu'r model gweithredu newydd ar gyfer NAS, y cytunwyd arno y llynedd. Mae IPC wedi cynnal ymgynghoriad â sampl o randdeiliaid llywodraeth leol gan gynnwys Aelodau, Cyfarwyddwyr Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Penaethiaid Gwasanaethau Plant, Rheolwyr Mabwysiadu Rhanbarthol a rhai staff.

Mae hyn wedi cynhyrchu 'Cytundeb Partneriaeth' diwygiedig ar gyfer yr NAS sy'n disodli'r model swyddogaethol gwreiddiol ac yn nodi elfennau allweddol y ffordd y bydd NAS yn gweithredu yn y dyfodol. Bydd hyn yn cael ei gwblhau a'i roi ar waith yn ystod 2020/21.

## Annog datblygu dealltwriaeth o'r gweithlu a sgiliau i fodloni blaenoriaethau'r NAS

Cyflwynodd AUK 26 o gyrsiau i gyd ac roedd hefyd yn cynnwys Mabwysiadu am yr 2il Dro, Y Ddrysfia Therapi a chwrs Gwrthsefyll Di-drais mwy manwl dros 3 sesiwn.

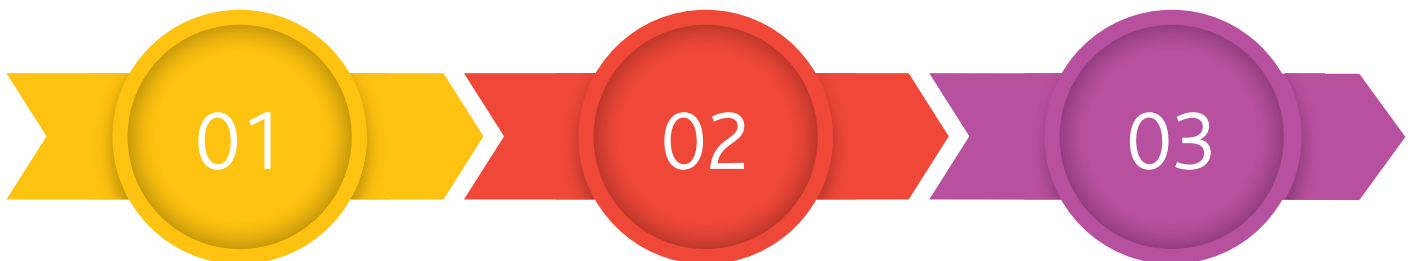
Yn ogystal â hynny cyflwynodd AUK hyfforddiant HMS i 278 o athrawon a staff ysgol eraill yn ystod y flwyddyn i'w helpu i gefnogi'r dysgwyr wedi'u mabwysiadu sydd ganddynt.

Mae'r NAS yn falch o'i hymrwymiad i gefnogi staff. Yr oedd hyfforddiant yn ystod 2019/20 yn cwmpasu mwy na 30 o feysydd pwnc gyda mwy na 300 o staff yn mynychu. Mae enghreifftiau'n cynnwys Ymarfer Datblygu Dyadig (DDP) sy'n seiliedig ar ddamcaniaeth ymlyniad, ar yn dwyn hyn ynghyd. Mae'r therapi yn helpu plant i ddysgu ymddiriedaeth.

# SYMUD YMLAEN



## Blaenoriaethau gwella ar gyfer 2020/21



### Lleoli mwy o blant

Cynyddu recriwtio mabwysiadwyr i ddiwallu nifer ac anghenion plant sy'n aros

Defnyddio 'Mabwysiadu Gyda'n Gilydd' ar gyfer plant sy'n aros hiraf

Parhau i sefydlu Cofrestr Fabwysiadu newydd i Gymru er mwyn cyflymu'r broses o baru plant drwy hysbysu plant a mabwysiadwyr yn gyflymach yn unol â rheoliadau diwygiedig.

### Parhau i wella cymorth mabwysiadu

Rhoi'r Fframwaith Cymorth Mabwysiadu a'r cynlluniau buddsoddi ar waith

Parhau i godi ymwybyddiaeth o fabwysiadu ymhlith gweithwyr proffesiynol a'r cyhoedd.

### Meddwl ymlaen

Gweithio i wella'r fframwaith cyfreithiol, polisi a thystiolaeth sy'n effeithio ar fabwysiadu

Parhau i gyd-gynhyrchu a defnyddio gwybodaeth o ymgysylltu

Annog datblygu dealltwriaeth o'r gweithlu a sgiliau i fodloni blaenoriaethau'r NAS

Symud ymlaen o drefniadau cyfnod clo Covid-19 i'r cyfnod adfer/addasol.

## **Crëwyd y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol i wella gwasanaethau i bawb yng Nghymru y mae mabwysiadu'n effeithio arnynt.**

Mae Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol Cymru, a lansiwyd ym mis Tachwedd 2014 yn fenter arloesol ar y cyd ar gyfer cynnig gwasanaethau mabwysiadu. Daeth â gwasanaethau mabwysiadu awdurdodau lleol Cymru ynghyd i greu strwythur 3 haen sy'n cynnwys partneriaethau ar bob lefel gydag Asiantaethau Mabwysiadu Gwirfoddol Cymru, Gwasanaethau Iechyd ac Addysg ymhlith rhai eraill.

Ar lefel awdurdod lleol, mae'r holl gynghorau Cymreig yn dal i ddarparu gwasanaethau i blant sy'n derbyn gofal gan adnabod a gweithio gyda'r plant y mae cynllun mabwysiadu yn addas iddynt.

Yn rhanbarthol, mae'r holl awdurdodau lleol yn gweithio gyda'i gilydd o fewn pum cydweithrediad rhanbarthol i gynnig ystod o wasanaethau mabwysiadu. Mae gan bob cydweithrediad rhanbarthol gysylltiadau ag asiantaethau mabwysiadu gwirfoddol, iechyd ac addysg. Mae'r gwasanaethau a gynigir yn amrywio mewn pob cydweithrediad, ond maent oll yn cynnig swyddogaethau asiantaeth mabwysiadu i blant, recriwtio ac asesu mabwysiadwyr, cynnig cwnsela i rieni genedigol a chynghor i oedolion a fabwysiadwyd. Ar hyn o bryd, mae rhai ohonynt yn cynnig gwasanaethau cymorth mabwysiadu'n uniongyrchol, ond mae hyn yn gyfrifoldeb ar yr awdurdod lleol mewn mannau eraill.



Tîm Canolog y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol  
c/o Cyngor Dinas Caerdydd  
Ystafell 409 Neuadd y Sir  
Glanfa'r Iwerydd  
Caerdydd CF10 4UW

F: 029 2087 3927

E: [contact@adoptcymru.com](mailto:contact@adoptcymru.com)

[www.adoptcymru.com](http://www.adoptcymru.com)



Gwasanaeth  
**Mabwysiadu** | National  
Cenedlaethol | **Adoption**  
Service

**Achieving More Together /  
Cyflawni Mwy Gyda'n Gilydd**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20







# FOREWORD

This report focuses on progress, improvements, and challenges for the National Adoption Service (NAS) in 2019/20. It is being published as we emerge from the unprecedented Coronavirus pandemic which has significantly affected lives and society since the end of March 2020.

This report focuses on the year up to March 2020; we felt it important to continue with this publication while acknowledging that our next public reports will undoubtedly comment on the impact of the pandemic. This report highlights:

- the crucial importance of dynamic collaboration between Local Government, Voluntary Adoption Agencies, and the NAS Central Team to meet and deliver excellent adoption services in Wales;
- that listening and engagement with adopters, prospective adopters, children and young people continues to influence and shape the priorities for adoption services in Wales;
- the intelligent use and scrutiny of data, research evidence, and the skills and experience of the workforce continues to influence adoption service priorities; and
- the important contribution of all organisations in the NAS collaborative, statutory and voluntary adoption services working together effectively in making a positive difference to the long term futures of children.

Placing children, recruitment of adopters, continued improvement of adoption support services, have all been important activities during 2019/20. The Adoption UK Barometer of adoption services across the UK highlighted significant progress and satisfaction with the development of adoption services in Wales.

The support and financial investment by the Welsh Government during 2019/20 has been welcomed by adopters and the workforce and is making a positive difference.

We thank adopters, children & young people for influencing how services are improved and delivered in Wales. Equally, we thank all staff in the National Adoption Service wales wide for their hard work and dedication.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Lockyer'.

**Councillor Alan Lockyer**  
Co-Chair of Governance Board



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip T. Hodgson'.

**Phil Hodgson**  
Independent Chair of the Advisory Group



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Griffiths'.

**Suzanne Griffiths**  
Director

# INTRODUCTION

The National Adoption Service for Wales is the collaboration for the provision of adoption services across Wales.

Since November 2014, it has brought together all local authority adoption services into five regional collaboratives, with co-ordination and leadership provided by a small central team and Director. Voluntary adoption agencies operating in Wales are key partners in the collaborative, as are other agencies including health and education.

## CENTRAL TEAM



Gwasanaeth  
**Mabwysiadu** | National  
Cenedlaethol | Adoption  
Service

### National Adoption Service – Central Team

c/o City of Cardiff Council,  
Room 409 County Hall, Atlantic Wharf,  
Cardiff, CF10 4UW  
029 2087 3927  
contact@adoptcymru.com  
www.adoptcymru.com

## NORTH WALES

Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy,  
Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham



Gwasnaeth  
**Mabwysiadu** | North Wales  
Gogledd Cymru | Adoption  
Service

### North Wales Adoption Service

3rd Floor, Lambpit Street,  
Wrexham, LL11 1AR  
01978 295311  
adoption@wrexham.gov.uk  
www.northwalesadoption.gov.uk

## MID & WEST WALES

Ceredigion, Powys, Carmarthenshire,  
Pembrokeshire



**Mabwysiadu**  
Canolbarth a Gogledd Cymru  
**Adoption**  
Mid & West Wales

### Mid & West Wales Adoption

Building 1, St David's Park, Johnstown,  
Carmarthenshire, SA31 3HB  
01267 246970  
adoptionenquires@carmarthenshire.gov.uk  
www.adoptionmwwales.org.uk  
  
Neuadd Brycheiniog, Cambrian Way,  
Brecon, Powys, LD3 7HR  
01597 827666  
adoptionenquiries@carmarthenshire.gov.uk  
www.adoptionmwwales.org.uk

## WESTERN BAY

Swansea, Neath Port Talbot,  
Bridgend



Western Bay  
ADOPTION SERVICE  
GWASANAETH MABWYSIADU  
Bae'r Gorllewin

### Western Bay Adoption Service

Port Talbot Civic Centre,  
Port Talbot CF131PJ  
0300 365 2222  
enquires@westernbayadoption.org  
www.westernbayadoption.org

## VALE, VALLEYS & CARDIFF

Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf,  
Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan



Vale, Valleys  
and Cardiff  
Adoption | **Mabwysiadu**  
yn y Fro, y Cymoedd  
a Chaerdydd

### Vale, Valleys & Cardiff Adoption

1st Floor, Dock Office,  
Subway Road, Barry CF63 4RT  
0800 0234 064  
adoption@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk  
www.adopt4vvc.org

## SOUTH EAST WALES

Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent,  
Torfaen, Caerphilly, Newport



South East Wales Adoption Service  
Achieving More Together  
Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Deddfwyrain Cymru  
Cyflawni Mwy Gyda'n Gilydd!

### South East Wales Adoption Service

North Wing, 2nd Floor Block B,  
Mamhilad House, Mamhilad Parke Estate,  
Pontypool, Torfaen, NP40HZ  
01495 355766  
adoption@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk  
www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/3122.asp

## ALL WALES VOLUNTARY ADOPTION AGENCIES SERVICES

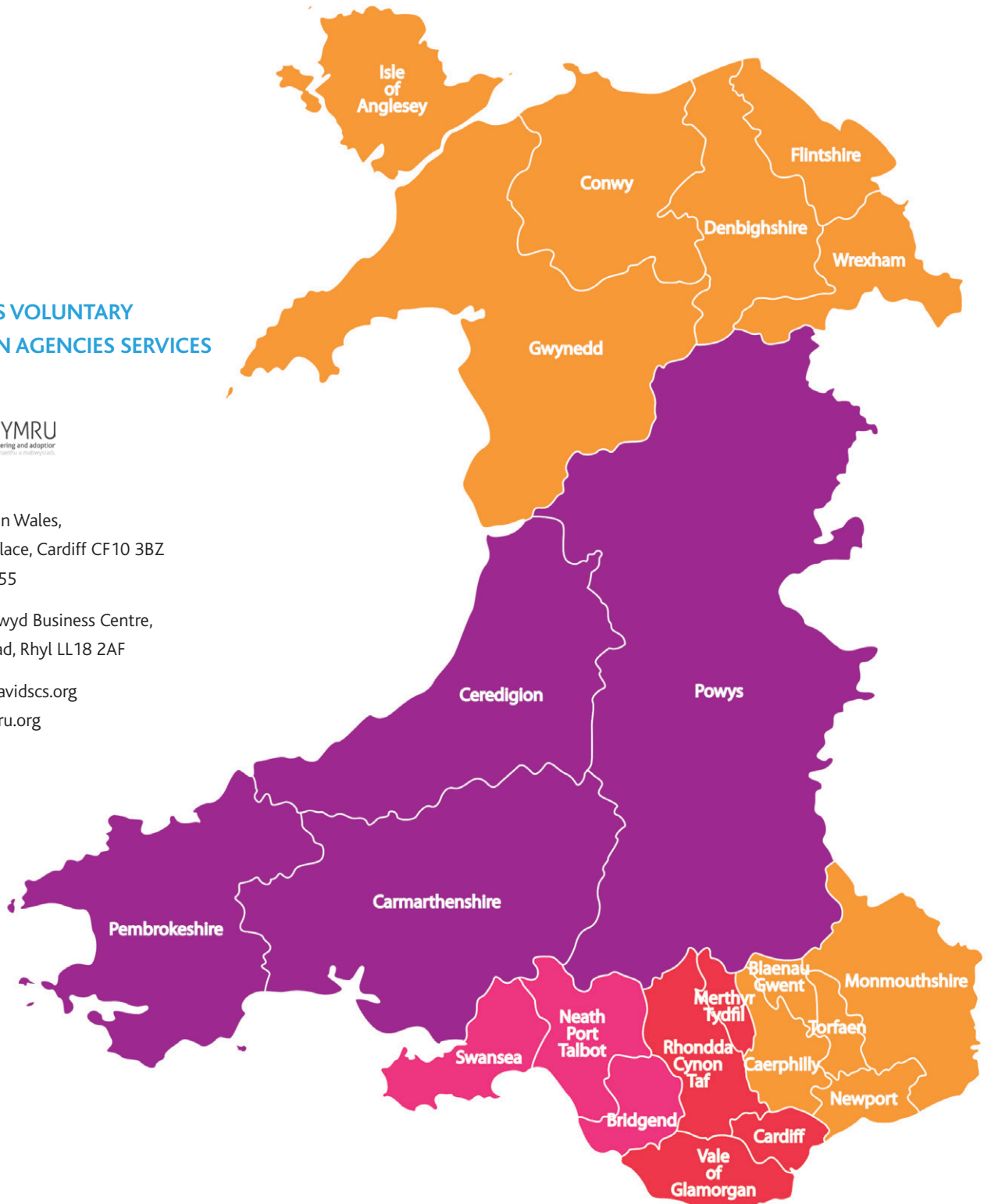


### AFA Cymru

c/o Children in Wales,  
25 Windsor Place, Cardiff CF10 3BZ  
029 2076 1155

W2 Morfa Clwyd Business Centre,  
84 Marsh Road, Rhyl LL18 2AF

Info-afa@stdavidscs.org  
www.afacymru.org



### Adoption UK

Penhaved Studios, Penhaved Street,  
Grangetown, Cardiff, CF117LU  
029 2023 0319  
www.adoptionuk.org



### Barnardo's Cymru

Trident Court, East Moors Road,  
Cardiff, CF245TD  
0800 0546 788  
cymruadoptionandfostering@  
barnardos.org.uk  
www.barnardos.org.uk/adoption



### St David's Children Society

28 Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BA  
029 2066 7007  
info@stdavidscs.org  
www.adoptionwales.org



# PRIORITIES FOR 2019/20

NAS' improvement priorities for 2019/20 are described below. This report demonstrates how much has been achieved.

## PLACING MORE CHILDREN

- Increase recruitment of adopters to meet the number and needs of children waiting including use of 'Adopting Together' for children who wait longest
- Embed the new Adoption Register for Wales to speed up matching of children through quicker notification of children and adopters in line with revised regulations

## CONTINUING TO IMPROVE ADOPTION SUPPORT

- Implementing the Adoption Support Framework and investment plans
- Continuing to raise awareness amongst professionals and the public

## THINKING AHEAD

- Continuing to co-produce and use information from engagement
- Using data from the revised performance measurement system
- Working to improve the legal, policy and evidence framework that affects adoption
- Encouraging the development of workforce understanding and skills to meet NAS priorities

## WELSH GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT

During 2019/20 the Welsh Government investment of £2.3m in adoption services began and an additional £100k, in a 'one off' grant, was made available to fund a second 'burst' of our adopter recruitment campaign.

The Central Team and the five Regions were each allocated a proportion of the £2.3m investment. The majority of the investment was used to create capacity in new and additional services in both local government and the voluntary sector.

The additional £100k allowed NAS to extend the period of television, radio and outside of home advertising at supermarkets and buses.

# PLACING MORE CHILDREN

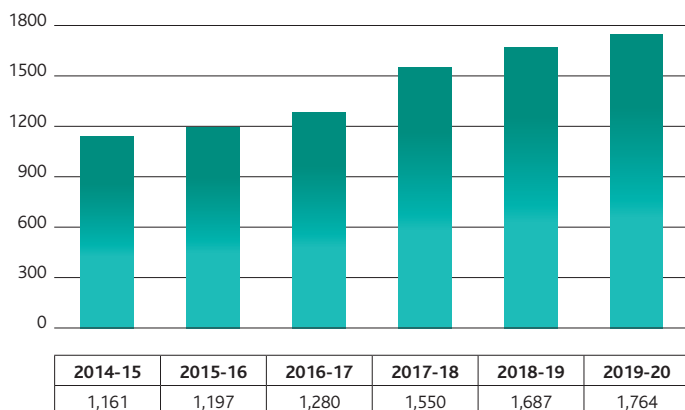
## Increase recruitment of adopters to meet the number and needs of children waiting, including using the new 'Adopting Together' service for children who wait longest

### ADOPTERS – TRENDS IN APPROVALS, ENQUIRIES AND NEW ASSESSMENTS

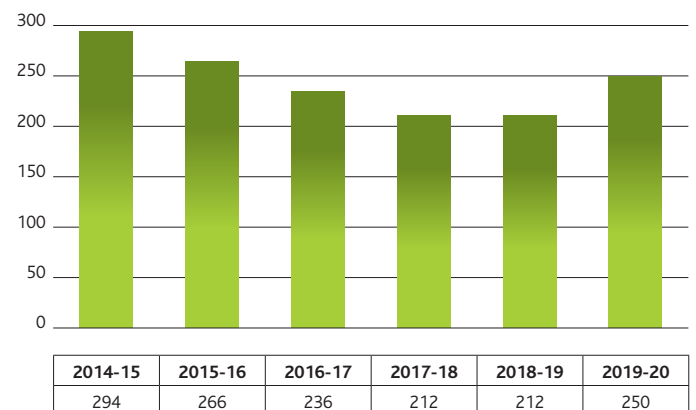
Our aim is to recruit more adopters, to place more children in a timely way and to have choice in meeting the needs of children for whom adoption is the plan.

- Adopter approvals increased by 18% overall, new enquiries by a further 5% and there was also a small increase of 3% in adopter assessments commencing.
- Nearly half of adopters were approved within 6 months of their application; on average it takes 6.5 months for an adopter to be approved which is positive and in line with guidance.
- The number of approved adopters waiting for a match at the end of the year increased.
- The gap between families needed and adopters available reduced during 2019/20 by 26% to circa 170 families.

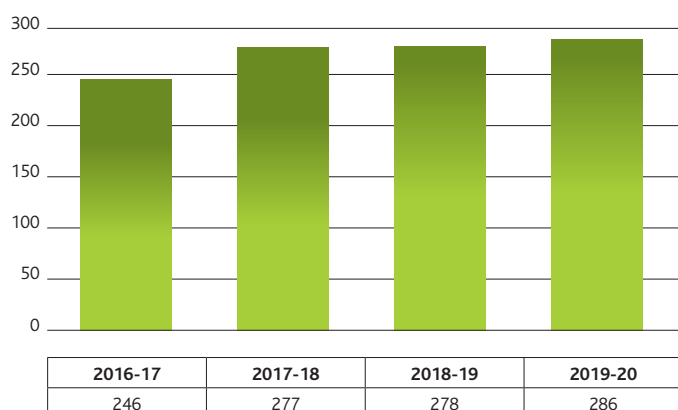
Number of initial enquiries



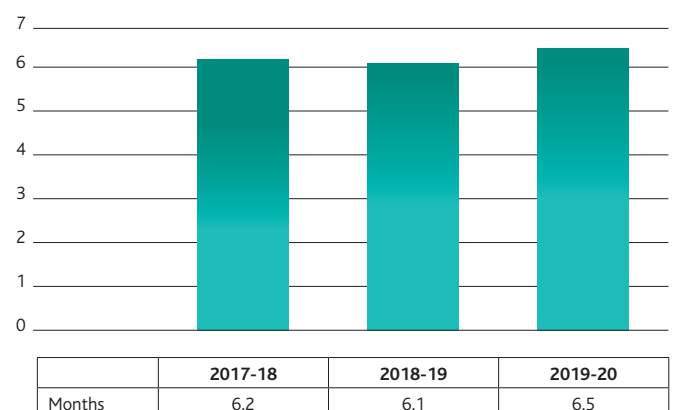
Number of adopters approved



Number of adopter assessments started



Average timeframe (months) from application to adopter approval



Benchmark: 6 months or less



Recruitment drive at Pride



Exhibiting at the National Eisteddfod for Wales

## HOW ARE WE IMPROVING RECRUITMENT?

- We created and delivered a new recruitment campaign **#become the parent only you could be** that featured real adopters from our adoption champions which was shown on TV, on buses and in supermarkets as well as on social media. commencing during National Adoption Week in October 2019.
- The Welsh Government invested an additional £100,000 to enable a second 'burst' of the campaign from January 2020 onwards.
- The above was facilitated by Cowshed PR and Communications with whom we now have a contract to support national and regional/agency marketing.
- Cowshed assisted in co-ordinating staff from services across Wales to work together on recruitment 'stands' at a number of high-profile events such as the National Eisteddfod for Wales and Pride.
- All Regions now have a Marketing and Recruitment Officer in post to support the recruitment campaigns as well as respond to initial enquiries.
- Revised information for adopters about making an enquiry.
- New leaflet to accompany the recruitment campaign.
- New guidance for staff on dealing with enquiries, and
- The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section on the website was updated to 'bust myths' about who can adopt based on a survey undertaken during the summer events.



## ADOPTING TOGETHER SERVICE

2019/20 was the first full year of the Adopting Together Service (ATS) which was developed by the Welsh Voluntary Adoption Services for NAS in order to find and support families for children waiting longest for adoptive homes in Wales.

It provides specialist adopter recruitment, enhanced training for adopters, peer buddying, and customised therapeutic and psychological support to adopters through this service.

The service has placed 14 children for adoption since it was launched in June 2018: 8 during 2019/20. At time of writing the service was considering 46 active referrals and undertaking 2 child specific recruitment campaigns.

Ben adopted a sibling group with his partner talked about their experience of Adopting Together:

*"Adopting Together enabled us to have more of an open mind with what we thought we were looking for, and we quickly realised there was no point overlooking children just because they didn't fit our initial perceptions of the 'ideal' age. With older children, you have a much clearer picture of how they are developing than you might have with a baby."*

# Embed the Adoption Register for Wales, to speed up matching of children through quicker notification of children and adopters, in line with revised regulations.



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

## ADOPTION REGISTER WALES

The new Adoption Register for Wales (ARW) was launched in June 2019. It is a fully bilingual, online family finding service with managed adopter access. Using Link Maker, a quick and easy to use secure system, the Register supports services in Wales to match children with adopters and reduce their waiting time.

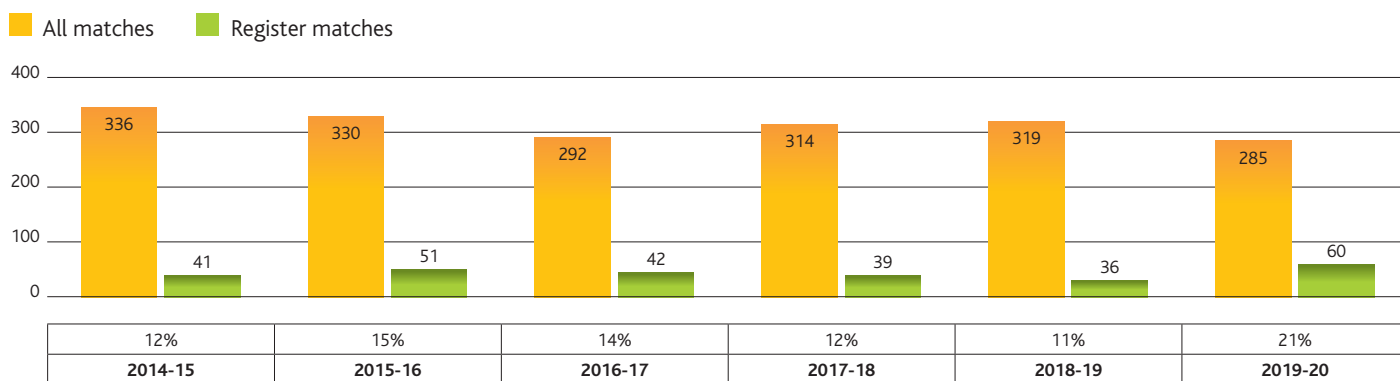
## ADOPTION REGISTER ACTIVITY

308 children were referred alongside 193 prospective adopters who had either self-registered or been referred by their agencies. This is a similar number of children to the previous year but 62% more adopters, which may be linked to adopters being able to access the service directly and the change in the regulations whereby children and adopters should be referred earlier.

A total of 285 matches have occurred in Wales this year, 60 of which were identified via the register, a comparison with 36 and 39 from previous years. This is a significant increase on previous years to 21%, given that matches via the register had varied between 11% and 15%.

As the new register becomes more firmly embedded we will continue to analyse these trends.

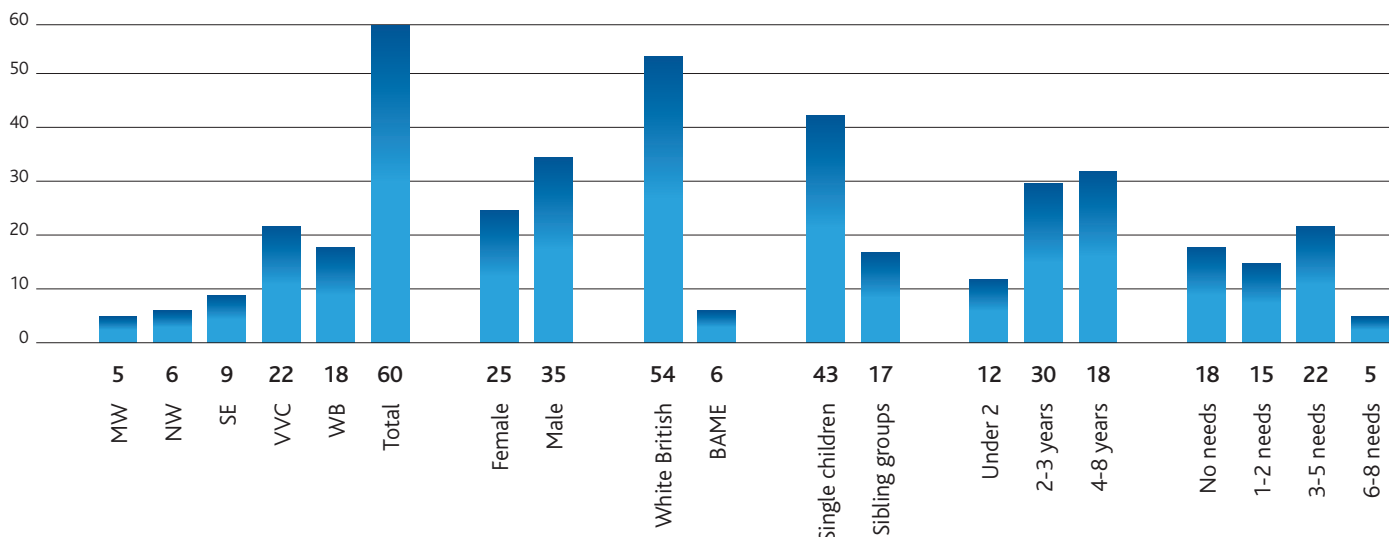
### Register Matches



### Matches

The graph below shows 70% (n42) of the 60 children placed via the register were children who might wait longer for placement due to their identified additional needs or increased likelihood of additional needs. It also shows that 80% (n48) were over 2 years of age, 70% (n41) had attachment difficulties and 36% (n22) were classed as having behavioural difficulties and/or emotional difficulties.

### Matches made through ARW 2019-20





A 4th **Adoption Activity Day** was held in Wales in March 2020. These have become an established method of matching children waiting for adoptive placement, particularly for children who have been waiting longer to find potential adoptive families, some of whom may have additional needs. The event this year followed a similar schedule as had proved successful in previous years although due to the emerging Covid-19 situation required some adjustments.

As a result, there were 17 expressions of interest (compared to 14 in 2018/19) from families and these are in the process of being followed up.

There were also two Exchange Days held during the year in Cardiff and Colwyn Bay respectively. A total of 27 families attended with 136 children profiled, the majority being part of sibling groups and with complex needs. As a result of these events there were 4 successful matches (in comparison to 3 in 2018/19).



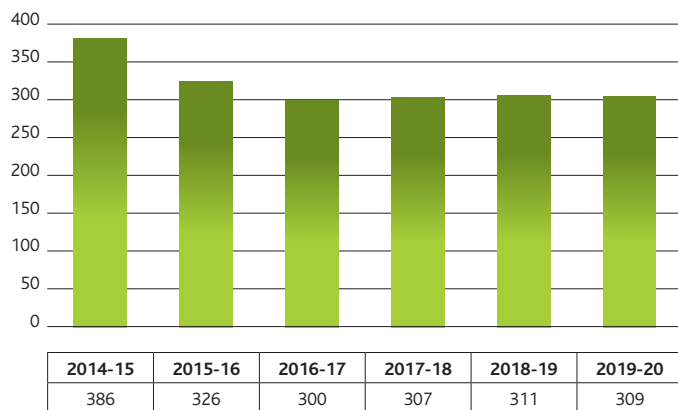
"This was a very well planned and thought out event. The children were provided with a fun, interesting and engaging environment."

"..... thoroughly enjoyed himself and did not want to leave at 4pm!"



# What was the overall impact on placing children in 19/20?

Number of children placed for adoption

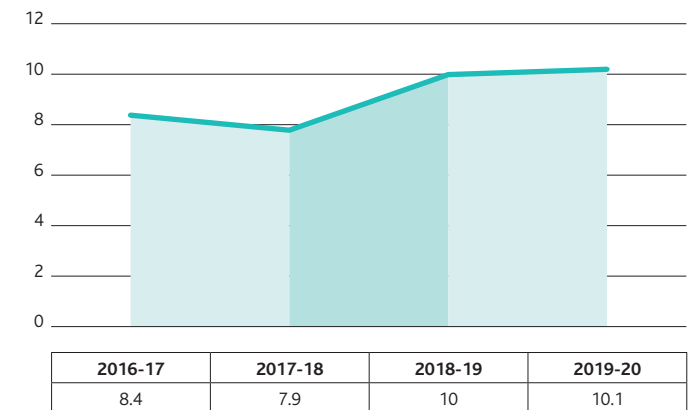


The number of children waiting for an adoption placement reduced during 2019/20.

- Overall 309 children were placed, a similar number to the last three years.
- Circa 270 adoption orders were granted for children already placed.
- The number of children waiting at the end of the year (31.03.20) reduced to 270. This included a further 68 children with a 'firm link' which was likely to be agreed plus 22 children who were likely to have their status changed back to long term 'looked after'.
- As such there was active family finding for 179 children at the end of the year.



Average timeframe (in months) from PO to PFA



Research and best practice emphasise the importance to children of being placed as soon as possible after their placement order is made.

- Average timescales for children being placed remained relatively static at 10.1 months, albeit a little above the benchmark of 8 months as outlined in guidance.

2019/20 saw some changes in demand for adoption with a reduction in children being referred, albeit not as large as that seen in 2015/16 after two significant High Court judgements.

- Referrals dropped by 21% from 2018/19 – all regions experienced a reduction.
- Placement orders dropped by 19% (n63) – all regions except for Mid & West Wales experienced a reduction.

The reasons for this are likely to be varied and will reflect the work being done by local authorities, with the Welsh Government, to reduce levels of 'looked after' children in Wales, including the positive impact of 'Edge of Care' and 'Reflect' services.

For adoption services this provides an opportunity to focus on further reducing the level of children waiting. It remains the case that circa one fifth of all children leaving the looked after system permanently do this through adoption.

# CONTINUING TO IMPROVE ADOPTION SUPPORT



## Implementing the Adoption Support Framework and investment plans

In 2016 NAS developed its strategic plan for the development of adoption support services in Wales.

With its distinctive umbrella symbol, the vision over time was to guarantee a 'Core Offer' of support for all Welsh adopted children and young people and their parents, as well as to others affected by adoption.

It is intended that this 'Core Offer' will:

- equip adoptive families at the start and support their early days to encourage healthy and confident families;
- provide effective information, advice or support as and when families need it and in a timely way so any issues that arise are less likely to escalate into more serious issues; and
- Provide ongoing support or easy re-entry to services where it is needed.

Realising this vision was given a huge boost when Welsh Government announced a £2.3m investment package from April 2019. The investment covered 14 objectives.

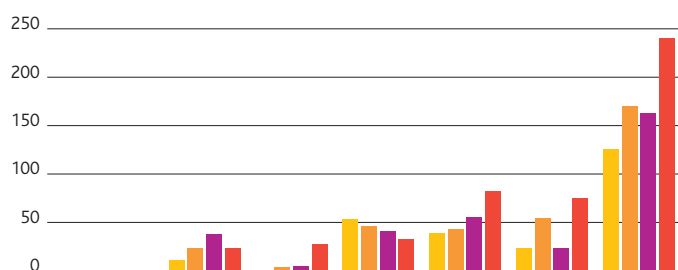


## OVERVIEW OF ADOPTION SUPPORT PROVISION DURING 2019/20

The number of children whose plan included support from the time of placement remained relatively stable during 2019/20, comprising circa 35% of children placed. Although this remains a fairly low percentage, it is an increase from the estimates of circa 25% in the research that pre-dated NAS, as well as that undertaken by ourselves in 2015/16.

Similarly there was also an increase in the number of new assessments for adoption support carried out. These are for families / children who are not in receipt of ongoing support who develop support needs. This increased to 237 from 170 the previous year with increases concentrated in three regions.

### Number of completed new assessments in respect of children that are currently not receiving an adoption support service



	MWW	NW	SE	VVC	WB	Total
2016/17	11	–	52	38	23	124
2017/18	23	4	45	42	53	167
2018/19	38	5	40	54	23	160
2019/20	23	27	32	81	74	237

More than two thirds of new assessments result in therapeutic or practical support being provided, with the numbers of families receiving one off financial payments and adoption allowances continuing to decline slightly.

Taken together the above shows that more adoption support is being offered and taken up both before placement and post adoption.

In terms of other adoption support services:

- The number of active letterbox arrangements reached 3,819, an increase from last year. These are important links for adopted children helping them to gain information about their birth families and help them understand about their history;
- The overall level of requests from birth siblings for an assessment rose significantly, but this was largely concentrated in one region as a result of work focusing on this, with the trend across the other regions being a fall in requests;
- Requests for access to birth records also declined by a small amount overall, with some regions increasing and others reducing; and
- Requests for intermediary services also fell overall with all but one region experiencing a reduction.

## THE NAS ADOPTION SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

2019/20 saw the first year of funding from the Welsh Government to implement specific elements of the Adoption Support Framework at national and regional levels, including some commissioned services from voluntary sector partners.

This £2.3m investment package was warmly welcomed by NAS and its partners enabling the first steps towards the step change in services that we want to make.



### Implementation of the TESSA programme

The Therapeutic, Education and Support Services in Adoption (TESSA) programme is a Wales wide initiative that aims to empower adoptive parents, who are raising traumatised children, by giving them early access to a clinical psychologist as well as peer support. Research shows that up to two-thirds of adoptive parents in Wales require professional support at some point.

Adoption UK are our strategic partner for this initiative. Investment funding provides 5 regional posts and part funds the national infrastructure for this service, which also receives a share of UK wide Big Lottery and Communities Funding.

The service began delivery in November 2019, having spent the preceding months recruiting and training experienced parent partners to provide peer support across Wales and establishing the psychology service that undertakes assessments and provides support groups.

By the end of March the service had received 42 referrals. These families were all being supported by a parent partner and either had, or had planned in their assessment and/or support sessions, albeit that during March the service model switched to on-line due to Coronavirus. 16 consultations were held, 1 group involving 5 families delivered and 1 enhanced provision around child to parent violence.

Mary is one of the adoptive parents who is currently receiving peer support from Julie one of the parent partners. Mary and her partner adopted their son when he was nine months old. By the time he was four he had already gone through five nursery and school settings, all of which had broken down. Mary said: *"The lowest point came following the termination of one placement when we were told that he was "a naughty and nasty child who was bad for business".* Mary recalled: *"We were told about TESSA by Adoption UK and within weeks we had spent some quality time with a psychologist who helped us to piece together the jigsaw of our son's life and together we started to explore how we could approach things through his eyes. The support didn't stop there – we were partnered with a peer who also came to our house to listen and share experience. Less than two months on we've a detailed view of our son's needs; strategies to help ensure he feels happy and reassurance that we're doing the right things."*

Mary added: "We now look forward to working towards finding the right placement for our son to achieve his potential in September when he starts school."

A very successful Psychology symposium was held in early March, attended by more than 97 participants, where psychologists and other professionals joined with adoptive parents to discuss the TESSA approach and its roll out across Wales.

*"The whole day was very good, it was well organised there were friendly faces on arrival. The food and singing were excellent. I really liked the message that it is the family and the environment that makes the difference for children's development and it's isn't about 'fixing the child'."*

The conference was opened by the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services Julie Morgan MS, followed by an address from Lyne Neagle MS who, as chair of the National Assembly for Wales Children, Young People and Education Committee, was responsible for the influential 'Mind over Matter' report.



## NEW NATIONAL SUPPORT AND INFORMATION SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

During 2019/20 the new 'Connected' service worked with 84 children and young people, alongside planning to expand into all parts of Wales in partnership with the NAS regions.

Adoption UK are our strategic partner for this initiative. Investment funding provided 5.6 posts, one national co-ordinator post and one in each of the Regions.

There are the four key elements to this service nationally:

1. Connected groups which will be available across Wales;
2. Information and advice – About adoption available to young people through the same channels that they access other information;
3. Being heard and respected – Gathering the views and priorities of adopted children and young people and feed them into regional and national plans in a systematic and fully participative way. It includes a young adopted adult's ambassador scheme with two young adults already signed up; and
4. Awareness and upskilling – Awareness raising and upskilling mainstream youth/play services to ensure they understand and respond better to the needs of adopted children and young people.

The existing connected groups have provided much positive feedback on the benefits of spending time with their peers in the sessions:

*"It is good because I don't have to explain things to them and they don't say stupid things like 'what happened to your real mum then?'"*

*"My friends at school don't get what it is like to be adopted and I can't talk to them about it. When I have tried before, they didn't understand what I was talking about. I like being with other adopted kids because I don't feel like I am the only one."*

*"Yes to me it's just 'normal' being adopted, so to meet other people who are normal like me is great."*



## Charlotte is a young ambassador

"Some people might call me an adoptee, I call myself an adopted person, but day to day you can call me Charlotte because that's my name and I prefer my labels on clothes not people. There are so many positives associated with adoption however there are also some negatives experienced as well. Everyone is different and experiences and feels adoption differently. Being adopted to me, means being given a second chance at life. I grew up with an incredible set of kind and supportive parents who gave me age appropriate information throughout my life and so I'd always known I was adopted I just hadn't always fully grasped what it meant and the impact it would have on me and my life and it wasn't until I fully understood what being adopted meant, that I started to feel a sense of loss.

The way I would describe transitioning from knowing I was adopted to understanding I was adopted is experiencing the feelings of the grieving process, and I dealt with each feeling at a different age and time in my life. Denial being the stage where I knew I was adopted but didn't fully understand what it meant. In my teens I experienced the anger, bargaining and depression and guilt stages of the process where I understood what adoption was but it led to the 'why, what, how' questions that made me feel angry thinking of the likely answers and not having a way to find out. I would often fantasize about my biological parents and what it would be like to meet them and then when I really began to understand that my fantasies wouldn't be reality, that's when the depression and guilt hit because I didn't have a life story book, I felt a sense of loss because I was told different things by different people throughout my life that it didn't feel like my story, it felt like a bunch of people each contributing a piece to the puzzle that was my life. And I wanted to experience building that puzzle, so when I understood that the control wasn't necessarily mine, it hurt.

When I was first told about talk adoption I won't lie, it was daunting because I hadn't ever really talked to anyone else about my adoption and had always kept my experience on the down low so it felt like I ripping a plaster off a cut that hadn't quite healed yet, and showing the world. I was 14 when I was luckily introduced to talk adoption and the wonderful Ruth Letten, who has unknowingly been my life coach throughout the process, she gave me a safe space to explore and process all my emotions and feelings in an authentic way, through art, communication, drama, and engaging with other adopted young people, while also encouraging and allowing me to be 100% unapologetically myself. I was both nervous and excited to see what talk adoption was all about and I didn't for a second anticipate just how impactful it would be for me and so many other young adopted people.

Talk adoption [now 'Connected'] has been one of the greatest things to have been created in the last decade because it's helped shape me as a person and has given me so great opportunities to get my voice and the voices of other adopted people heard. Without the continued encouragement and support from both my parents and Ruth, I wouldn't have been able to reach the final stage of the grieving process, acceptance and for that I'm forever thankful and in debt. Since reaching the stage of acceptance I have been able to change my mind set from 'why did this happen' to 'how can I help others through their struggles and that's why I've put more time into volunteering at the talk adoption groups rather than using the service, because I realised I no longer needed help but I still want to help others and hope others can benefit from my experience."



## EMBEDDING THE NEW LIFE JOURNEY MATERIALS FRAMEWORK

NAS continues to work on improving the content, quality and availability of Life Journey Materials for adopted children, young people and their families. We've continued to work on and implement the new Framework and Good Practice Guide for Life Journey work in Wales which was launched in 2016.

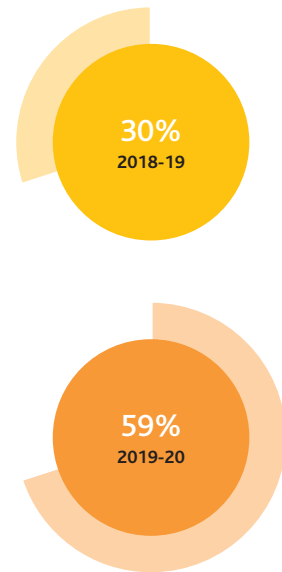
All children who cannot be cared for by their birth families, need to have an understanding of their family history and their unique journey through life journey materials which support a child's identity, promote self-esteem, and help give the child a sense of belonging and wellbeing.

Working with staff across Wales and supported by AFA Cymru, the on-line resources have been increased with additional guides and tools for birth parents and foster carers added this year. Work is ongoing to make the ever increasing range of on line resources for this work accessible and usable by both adoptive parents and staff.

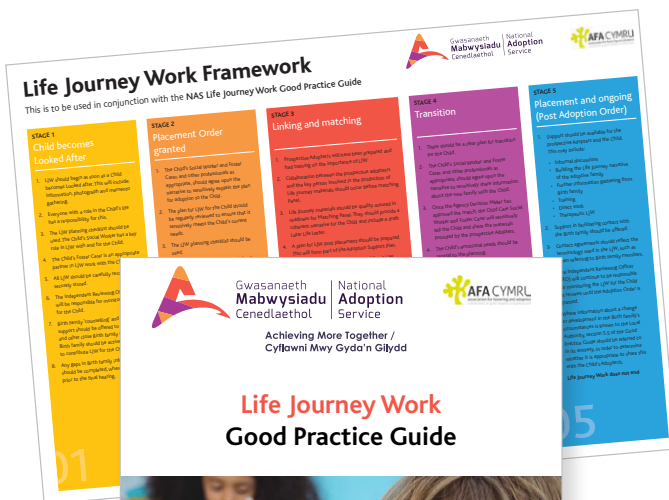
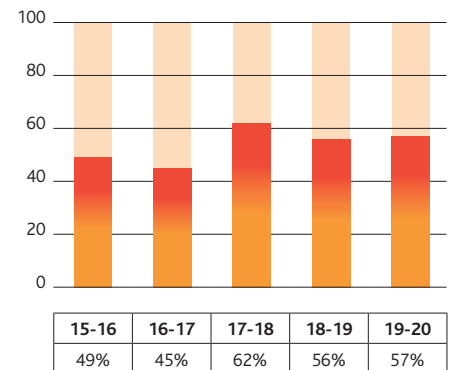
The investment funding has enabled a champion 'co-ordinator' post to be created in each of the five NAS regions, in order to better implement the approach consistently. One region has used some of its funding to create posts in its local authorities to deepen this consistency with staff who manage children's cases.

- The proportion of children whose life journey work was available at the time they were matched, has improved significantly to 59%.
- The impact on availability of life journey work at the second adoption review is less clear currently although, at 57%, the slow upwards trend continues.
- There are now up to 14 posts across Wales focused on this important area of work with some impact becoming clear; there have been significant improvements in the region that is using investment to work on this in its local authorities.

Proportion of children who had their Life Journey materials at matching panel



Proportion of children who had their Life Journey materials at second adoption review





## NEW BEST PRACTICE APPROACHES

AfA Cymru have been commissioned as our strategic partner for this work. Drawing in relevant research and expertise and working with regions, VAA's across Wales and the central team, they are supporting NAS to develop new best practice approaches to:

- Transitions and early placement support (including Adopting Together);
- Contact arrangements for adopted children;
- Work with birth parents; and
- An updated good practice framework and approach to adoption support assessment, planning and review.

Alongside this, regions have invested in capacity to begin to deliver improved ways of working in these areas.

### Placing children and providing early support

During the year AfA Cymru have been developing the 'good practice guides', drawing on the expertise and developing services that exist in regions and VAA's, as well as drawing on research and existing models. It is in final draft with plans to launch during 2020/21.

The aim is that all children and adoptive families in Wales will benefit from a consistent and supported approach to introductions, placement and early support shaped to their needs. Investment funding provides 5 posts with each region investing in staff capacity to implement these approaches.

The investment funding in 2019/20 also subsidised the local authority costs of the Adopting Together placements made in 2019/20.

## A NEW BEST PRACTICE FRAMEWORK AND APPROACH TO CONTACT

As above AfA Cymru have been developing the 'good practice guides', drawing on the expertise and developing services that exist in regions and VAA's as well as drawing on research, existing models and linking into the other work that has been continuing in Wales. This is also in a final draft stage with plans to launch during 2020/21 and there are posts funded in two regions.

- The Central Team continues to work with Voices from Care (VfC), Children in Wales and other partners (AUK, AfA Cymru, Children in Wales, Cardiff University, the Fostering Network) to respond to the Children's Commissioner for Wales 2016/17 recommendation that "The Welsh Government should work with the National Adoption Service (NAS) to ensure that siblings' rights to contact are fully considered during adoption care planning". This has become known as the 'Sibling Alliance'.
- As a result of this collaborated with the Children's Legal Centre for Wales to produce and publish an 'Advice Leaflet' on contact for children and young people who are adopted or looked after.
- The Sibling Alliance are currently developing a 'pledge' for children and young people who are separated from their siblings. The intention is that this will gain the support from all public and voluntary organisations to make improvements. This is currently at the consultation stage after which it will be shared widely with all professional stakeholders, Ministers and the Judiciary in order to steer improved practice in planning for contact.

## A NEW FRAMEWORK AND APPROACH TO WORKING WITH BIRTH PARENTS

Again, AfA Cymru have been developing the 'good practice guides' drawing on the expertise and developing services in regions and VAA's, as well as drawing on research and existing models alongside considering the linkages with the network of **Reflect**<sup>1</sup> projects that are now in place across Wales. This will also be launched in 2020/21. Three of the regions have created 4 posts to support work with birth parents.

During 2019/20 more than 330 birth parents took up services from the NAS regions. There were more than 650 birth parents referred of which a high percentage were offered a service; take up in the first year is low but improves considerably when looking at parents from previous years. Again, take up is improved in those regions where the investment has been used to improve the service.

In one region the relationship with the **Reflect** service ensures birth parents are supported with some elements of adoption process. In South East Wales the **Reflect** process, to support birth parents and families at their farewell contact to their children, is based on constructive and positive information sharing and decision making. Birth parent feelings and wishes are included in when and how the final contact takes place. Birth parents are given help in travelling to the contact, preparing activities, taking photographs – anything to maximise the parent's time with their child. The photographs are used to support birth parents complete life story work for their child. These simple steps can make a difference to birth parents experiences of such a traumatic day and make it more bearable as they will feel more prepared and more in control.

## AN UPDATED BEST PRACTICE FRAMEWORK AND APPROACH TO ADOPTION SUPPORT ASSESSMENT, PLANNING AND REVIEW

AfA Cymru have also been working on this, albeit that this commenced last, as it needs to gather in the principles from the above guides as well as focus on the legal and regulatory elements. One region has used its investment to create an additional post to focus on improving this.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF INDIVIDUALISED PLANS FOR ADOPTER POST APPROVAL TRAINING/ DEVELOPMENT

The 12 post adoption training modules for adopters, developed in conjunction with AfA Cymru and Adoption UK and in consultation with adoption practitioners and adopters, have been launched and are now on the NAS website.

They are intended to help and support adopters to weave together an understanding of what they need to know and the skills they need to develop to build and continue to improve their relationship with their child.

They are available on the website for people to access individually or for trainers to download and use in group training. The modules were piloted in the NAS regions by AUK.

Approximately 160 people attended 15 different training events hosted by Adoption UK Cymru (AUK) using these post adoption training modules during 2019/20. These were delivered across all the regions and included the following titles: Life Journey Work, Health and Development, Living with Challenging Behaviours, Non-Violent Resistance and Contact with Birth Families. Approximately 75% of the attendees were adoptive parents or prospective adopters and the rest were professionals working with adoptive families.

Feedback from staff is positive:

- 'a very thought-provoking course with lots of perspectives on contact' – parent who attended a course on Contact.
- 'really useful course, reminded me of a lot I had forgotten, feeling much more positive and able to manage as feel encouraged that I will be able to do it' – adoptive parent on a course for 2nd time adopters.
- 'this course was amazing, wish we had had it years ago, it might have made a big difference to our family' – adopter who attended a Challenging behaviour course.

One region has an active existing training officer post and a second region used investment to create a new post. In the latter, Mid and West Wales, almost 150 adopters and more than 40 foster carers attended training provided by the region during 2019/20. The region has also piloted an e-learning programme which 21 adopters and a number of staff have completed. Feedback from the e-learning has been positive in terms of content and accessibility, with a high completion rate by adopters as well as professionals.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Reflect' is a service that aims to provide practical and emotional support to women and their partners who have experienced the compulsory and permanent removal of a child /ren from their care. Parents are supported for a period of time and given tailor-made help.



## IMPROVING THE RANGE OF TARGETED/ SPECIALIST THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT AVAILABLE THROUGH HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND EDUCATION

Investment funding provides 6.9 posts which are used according to regional need for example:

- in South East Wales additional capacity in the existing psychology service is being funded meaning circa 40 additional children and families have been supported, there have been excess of 130 additional direct therapy sessions and 7 training and support sessions for staff have been provided; and
- in three other regions posts have been created and staff trained to provide therapeutic services such as play therapy and DDP.

Feedback from parents in Mid & West Wales included:

*"Great to have this adoption support as area has been neglected"*

*"Thank you, this help is really making a difference"*

*"without this help we would have suffered a family breakdown as I couldn't cope"*

*"... seen a marked improvement in behaviours and X is more settled in general".*

## AN 'ADOPTION AWARENESS' KITE MARK SCHEME DEVELOPED AND ROLLED OUT

One region is developing a kite mark for adoption awareness, which may be something to extend across Wales in the future.

## REDUCING DELAY, ENSURING THE WIDEST CHOICE OF PLACEMENTS OR IMPROVING MATCHING FOR CHILDREN

There was some flexibility in the investment offer to support other adoption functions. Two regions opted to use this to create a fulltime and part time Marketing and Recruitment Officers respectively. Their role is to increase enquiries from prospective adopters and provide support for each contact made.

These additional posts mean that all region now have these posts which is benefitting our ability to recruit adopters.



## Continuing to raise awareness amongst professionals and the public

Adoption is a feature of community life where adoptive families live, work and play including health, education. A key function of the National Adoption service is to keep and raise awareness amongst professionals and the public.

2019/20 saw the launch of leaflets and information for health professionals. This was developed in partnership with health colleagues and has now been circulated widely to community and hospital settings across Wales where Health professionals work. The aim is to help them better understand 'adoption' to inform the best way to work with the adopted children and families that they see.

NAS contributes to a wide range of the Welsh Government's all Wales work-streams; this contributes to us improving adoption awareness amongst professionals as well as informing policy to ensure that other developments, including in mainstream services that adoptive families use, are 'adoption aware'. During 2019/20 this included the below:

- Ministerial Advisory Group on Improving Outcomes for Children;
- Welsh Government 'Parenting Advisory Group'; and
- NAS is seeking to engage in the work on **Strengthening and extending Corporate Parenting in Wales** to ensure that principles, in respect of adopted children, that NAS negotiated into the current version in 2015, are retained in future guidance.

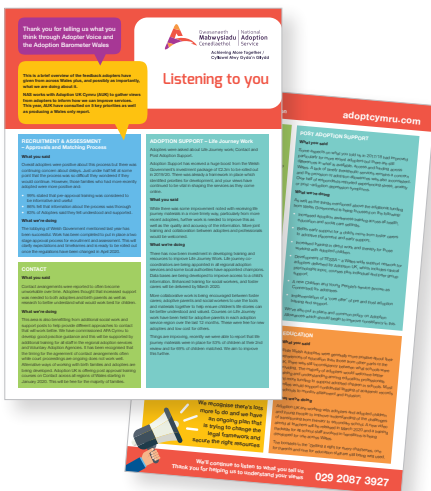


# THINKING AHEAD



## Continuing to co-produce and use information from engagement

The voice of the service user is paramount in the National Adoption Service and leads policy development and service provision.



### ADOPTERS

NAS published a response to the 2018/19 Adoption Voices consultation with adopters outlining how it is responding to the issues raised.

Taking a 'What you said' and 'What we are doing' approach this updates adopters on topics such as CAMHS and emotional wellbeing service, Contact and adopter assessment.

Adoption UK have been commissioned to review the NAS Adoption Voices programme in light of its ongoing plans for the Adoption Barometer.

Alison Woodhead AUK Head of Communications and Ann Bell presented the findings for Wales of the Barometer at the first NAS combined Governance Board in July. The main findings were:

- More adopters had later life letters and life journey materials in Wales;
- Twice as likely to have been made a definite choice not to meet birth family members (social worker influence);
- 71% know where to go for post adoption support. 77% well informed;
- Very high level of need amongst adopted children. 26% had statements compared to 5% of children in Wales generally; and
- Much more training and resource needed for schools.





There were recommendations for Regions and VAA's as below; AUK have followed these up with all regional management boards and VAA's:

- All children should have a clear, written support plan agreed before placement, based on a therapeutic assessment;
- Services should review the advice given to new adopters to keep friends and family at a distance during early placement. Instead, improved guidance for adoptive family's support networks so that they can support early placement without disrupting attachment and settling in should be provided; and
- Services should review and revise the advice social workers give adopters regarding meeting with birth parents prior to adoption.

Alongside the above, regions have been:

- Facilitating family activity events to further develop stakeholder engagement and sustainability of support networks;
- Consulting with adopters to inform training; and
- Establishing feedback processes to learn what individual services do well and improve on areas of concern.

**Children and Young People** – Engagement is a key feature of the new 'Connect' services for children and young people; it is hoped that the services will, in future, achieve the participation standards. At time of writing, consultation is ongoing with children and young people across Wales to inform the ongoing development of the service which also includes an ambassador scheme as outlined earlier.

**Children's Commissioner for Wales** – NAS, through the central team, meets with Sally Holland annually to discuss adoption issues and monitor NAS in relation to recommendations she has made in her Annual Reports.

A small proportion of the Children's Commissioners casework is clearly adoption related, circa 3% in the year prior to the 2019/20 meeting. The themes below have been discussed with regions and are informing policy and practice development:

- Adoption support – not getting what's needed, having to 'fight' for funding and support;
- Foster carers – dissatisfaction with decisions re assessments as adopters and their role if a placement disrupts;
- Prospective Adopters – applications not accepted / assessment delays; and
- Birth parents – seeking advice on challenging decisions etc.

## Using data

### A REVISED PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

The new Performance Management System, supported by Data Cymru, went live at the beginning of 2019/20. The improvements include:

- the regions having their data at local authority level which helps identify variations; and
- supporting regional consistency in reporting to their Regional Management Boards.



WALES ADOPTION COHORT STUDY  
ASTUDIAETH CARFAN MABWYSIADU CYMRU

### SUPPORTING AND INVESTING IN RESEARCH

NAS continues to support the Wales Adoption Cohort Study in its efforts to gain ongoing funding and in promoting the publication of its research papers.

Professor Katherine Shelton is a member of the NAS Combined Governance Board; at its February meeting she provided an overview of the most recent research, 'The neurocognitive profiles of children adopted from care and their emotional and behavioural problems at home and school' helping the board to begin to understand some of the potential implications for practice.

To date the study has published more than 15 research papers in a variety of peer reviewed journals, with some free to download from this Cardiff University website:

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/44107-shelton-katherine>

### EVALUATION OF THE NAS ADOPTION SUPPORT FRAMEWORK

Following an open procurement process the Institute of Public Care were selected as the academic partner for this piece of planned work. This will evaluate the impact of the changes that NAS has made to the way we support adoptive families in Wales, including a focus on the early impact of the recent Welsh Government investment. This work will commence in 2020/21.

## Working to improve the legal, policy and evidence framework that affects adoption

NAS contributes to a wide range of the Welsh Government's all Wales workstreams. This contributes to us improving adoption awareness amongst professionals, as well as informing policy to ensure that other developments, including in mainstream services that adoptive families use, are 'adoption aware'.

### MINISTERIAL ADVISORY GROUP ON IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN

- The NAS plans, in respect of increasing recruitment and improving adoption support, are part of the 'Improving Placement Choice and Stability' workstream. Updates are provided to each meeting.
- Following the January 2020 meeting, NAS was able to input into the work on the new strategy for vulnerable learners through contact with Sir Alistair McDonald, Welsh Government.
- At the same meeting, the importance of NAS maintaining involvement in the continuation of the 'Together for Children and Young People' programme was emphasised.

NAS is represented on the Welsh Government 'Parenting Advisory Group'. This is one aspect of the work to implement the Children Bill Wales and the withdrawal of the defence of reasonable chastisement. This is to ensure that appropriate advice and information is passed through to adoptive parents.

NAS continues to work on the 'Mind over Matter' agenda with AWHOCS and WLGA. This report by National Assembly Children Young People and Education Committee focuses on improving CAMHS / services to support the emotional well-being of children. During 2019/20 NAS collaborated with AWHOCS and WLGA to send in a joint response to a request to evaluate progress and the Director participated in a Committee workshop.

This year also saw the fruition of some policy changes that we have been working on in previous years.

- In October 2019 the Welsh Government implemented revised regulations for the Adoption Register for Wales, which require agencies to use the Register sooner for both children and prospective adopters. This is an important step in supporting services to match children in as timely a way as possible.
- The regulations to introduce a revised way of conducting the assessment of prospective adopters were consulted on and came into force from April 1st 2020. The '2 Stage Process' is more transparent by grouping the initial checks e.g. medical, police, references into a first stage to be completed satisfactorily, before prospective adopters can progress to the in depth 'suitability' assessment in Stage 2.

Revised guidance for staff and adopters and leaflets are available.

<https://adoptcymru.com/the-adoption-process>

*Note: At time of writing, due to C-19, the full implementation of this '2 Stage Process' has been paused temporarily with the agreement of Welsh Government so that agencies can continue to run both stages alongside each other.*

We continue to lobby for improvements in the legislative entitlement to adoption support.

## NAS REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS

This work is ongoing, having been commissioned by WLGA and ADSS Cymru as NAS' lead organisations; the Institute for Public Care are commissioned to work with us to achieve greater accountability in the arrangements for NAS.

- The first part of the work in this current phase was to combine the former Advisory Group and Governance Board. This has been concluded with the Combined Governance Board meeting for the first time, in July 2019 with revised Terms of Reference.

The first Combined Governance Board combined a workshop with a business meeting where members agreed principles for working within the meetings as well as revised Terms of Reference.

- The second element of the current work is developing the new operating model for NAS, which was agreed last year. IPC have undertaken consultation with a sample of local government stakeholders including Members, Directors of Social Services, Heads of Children's Services, Regional Adoption Managers and some staff.

This has produced a revised 'Partnership Agreement' for NAS replacing the original functional model and set out key elements of the way NAS will operate in the future. This will be finalised and implemented during 2020/21.

## Encouraging the development of workforce understanding and skills to meet NAS priorities

AUK delivered 26 courses in total and also included Adopting for the 2nd Time, Therapy Maze and a more in depth 3 session NVR course.

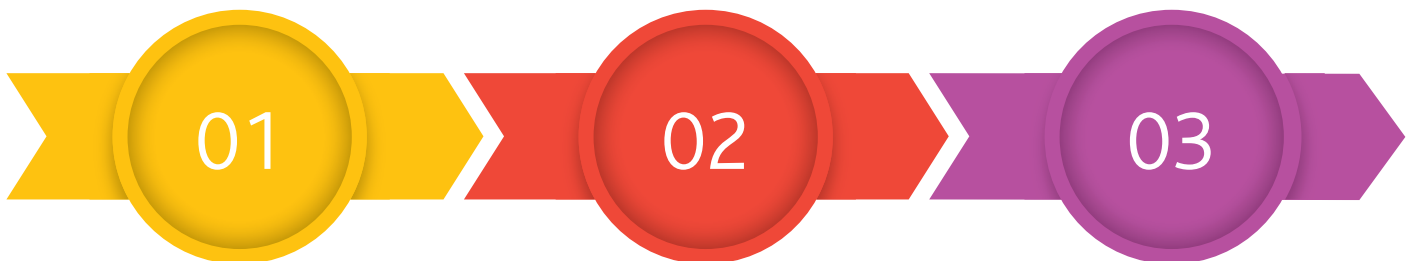
In addition to that AUK delivered INSET training to 278 teachers and other school staff over the year to help them support their adopted learners.

The NAS is proud of its commitment to supporting staff. Training during 2019/20 covered more than 30 subject areas which more than 300 staff attended. Examples include Dyadic Development Practice (DDP), which is based on and brings together attachment theory. The therapy helps children to learn trust.

# MOVING FORWARD



## Improvement priorities for 2020/21



### Placing more children

Increase recruitment of adopters to meet the number and needs of children waiting

Use of 'Adopting Together' for children who wait longest

Continue to embed the new Adoption Register for Wales to speed up matching of children through quicker notification of children and adopters in line with revised regulations.

### Continuing to improve adoption support

Implementing the Adoption Support Framework and investment plans

Continuing to raise adoption awareness amongst professionals and the public.

### Thinking ahead

Working to improve the legal, policy and evidence framework that affects adoption

Continuing to co-produce and use information from engagement

Encouraging the development of workforce understanding and skills to meet NAS priorities

Moving on from Covid-19 lockdown arrangements to the recovery/adaptive phase.

**The National Adoption Service was created to improve services for all those affected by adoption in Wales.**

The National Adoption Service (NAS) for Wales, launched in November 2014, is an innovative collaborative for the provision of adoption services. It brought together Welsh local authority adoption services into a three-tier structure which includes partnerships at all levels with Voluntary Adoption Agencies based in Wales, Health and Education Services, as well as others.

At local authority level, all 22 Welsh councils continue to provide services to all looked after children whilst identifying and working with those children for whom a plan for adoption is appropriate.

Regionally, local authorities work together within five regional collaboratives to provide a range of adoption services. Each regional collaborative has links with the voluntary adoption agencies, health and education. The services provided differ in each collaborative but all provide the adoption agency functions for children, recruit and assess adopters, offer counselling to birth parents and advice to adopted adults. Some currently directly provide adoption support services, whereas in others this remains with their local authorities.



Gwasanaeth  
**Mabwysiadu**  
Cenedlaethol

National  
**Adoption**  
Service

National Adoption Service Central Team  
c/o City of Cardiff Council  
Room 409 County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff CF10 4UW

T: 029 2087 3927

E: [contact@adoptcymru.com](mailto:contact@adoptcymru.com)

[www.adoptcymru.com](http://www.adoptcymru.com)