



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

**REPORT OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

***Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative  
Annual Report 2018/19***

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee with an update on the progress of the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative by considering the information provided in the Annual Report for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- (i) Consider the contents of the annual report.
- (ii) Scrutinise and comment on the information contained within the report.
- (iii) Receive a further report at future meetings

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Adoption Collaborative (VVC) is the largest of the five regional collaborative which form part of the National Adoption Service in

Wales (NAS). It provides a regional adoption service to the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, Cardiff Council and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council. The service is hosted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

**3.2** This is VVC's fourth annual report and covers the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. The Collaborative is required to review the service it provides by regulation and as part of the reporting requirements set out in the legal agreement underpinning the operation of the collaborative. The Report seeks to combine the various reporting requirements in one report.

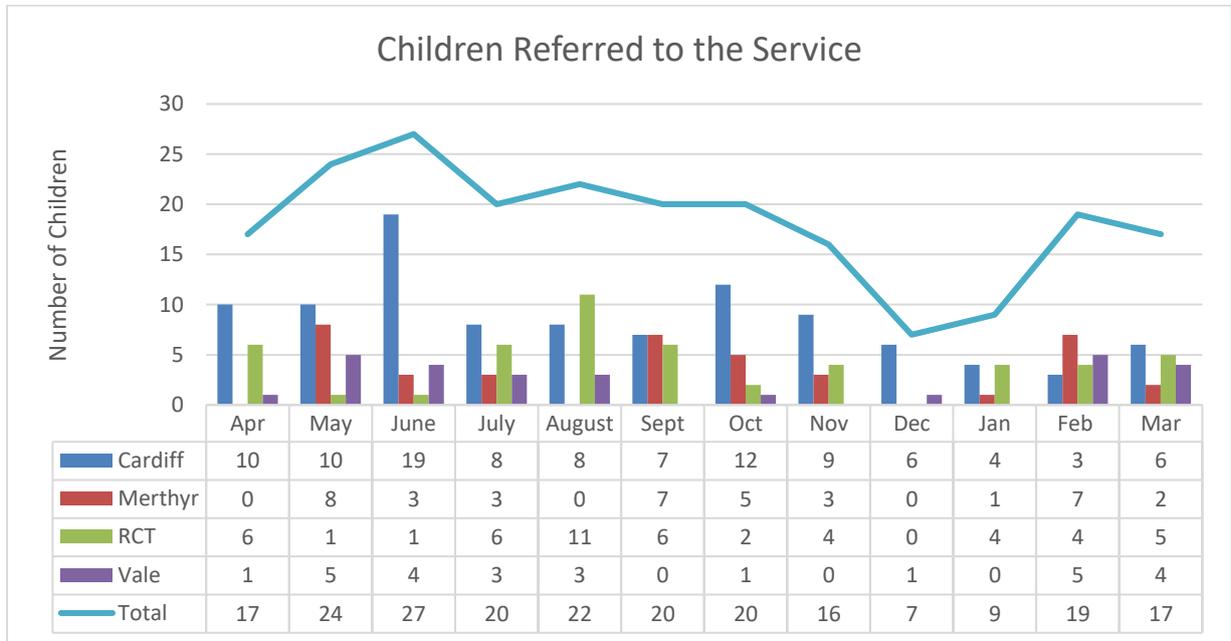
**3.3** The report attached at Appendix 1 is the Annual Report that as part of Regulation 22 of the Local Authority Adoption Service (Wales) Regulations 2007 and section 15(c) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 ( Joint Adoption Regulations) (Wales) Directions 2015, that is required to be brought before Scrutiny.

**3.4** Angela Harris, Regional Adoption Manager, Vale, Valleys & Cardiff Collaboration will be in attendance to deliver the report and respond to Members' questions.

## Appendix 1 – Family Finding

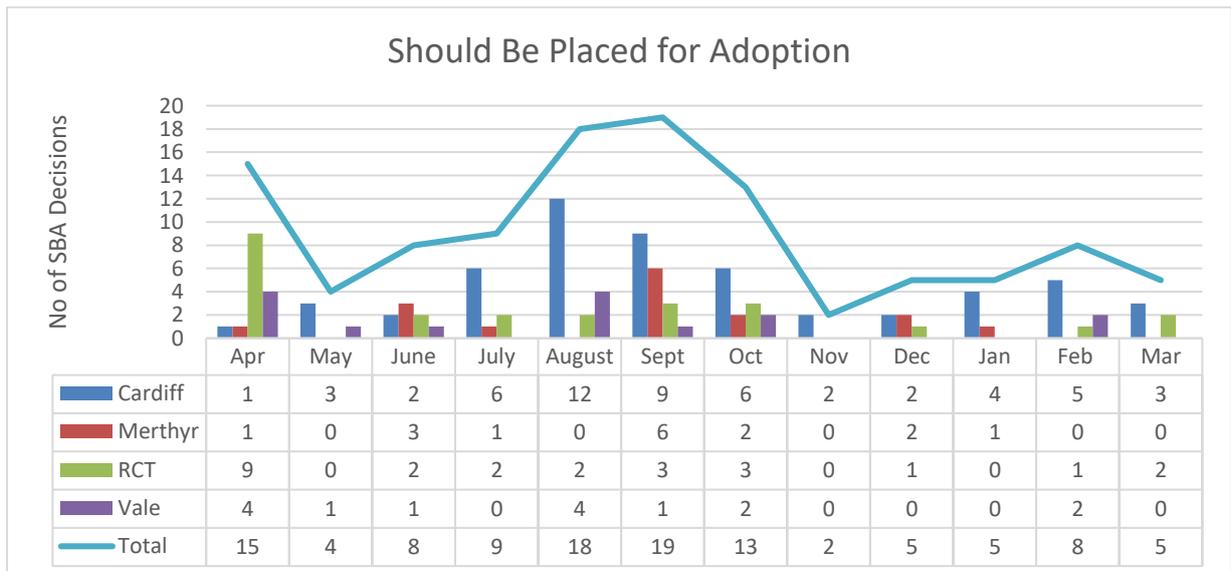
### Children Referred.

During the period April 2018 and March 2019, 218 children were referred to the Service.



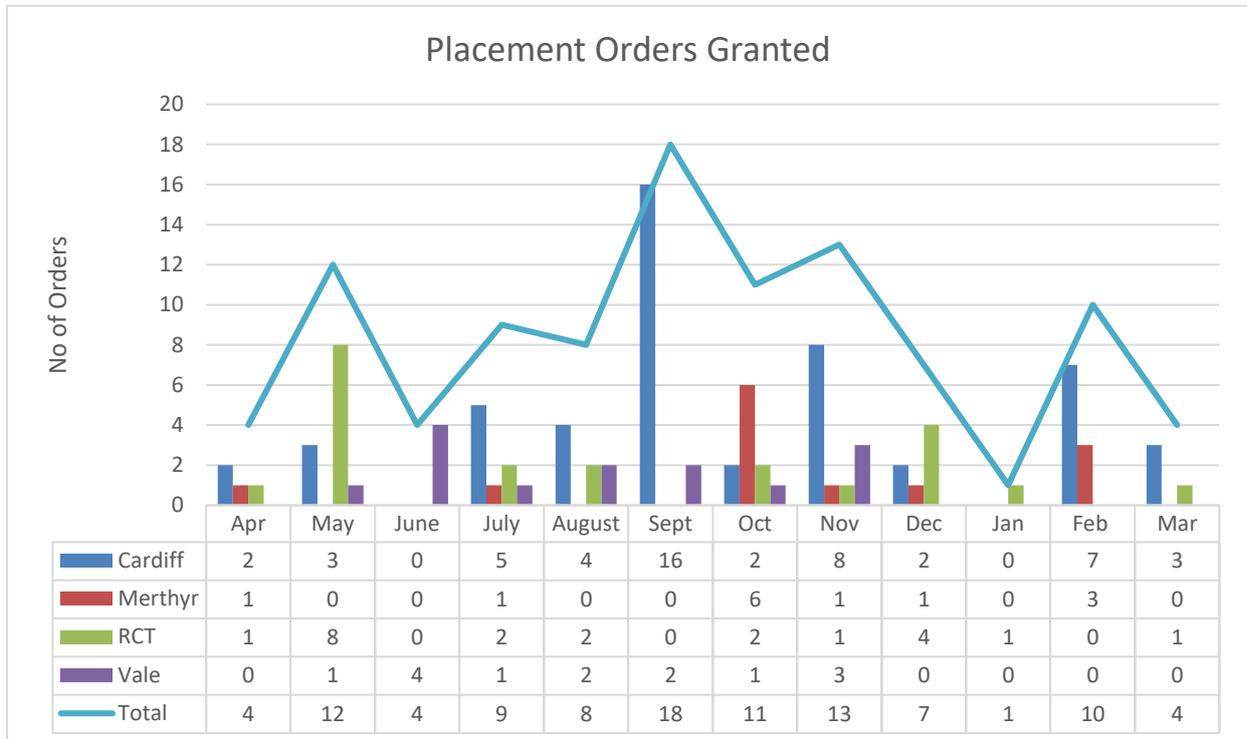
### Number of “Should be placed for Adoption” decisions

During the reporting period, 111 SBA decisions were made in relation to children referred to the Service.



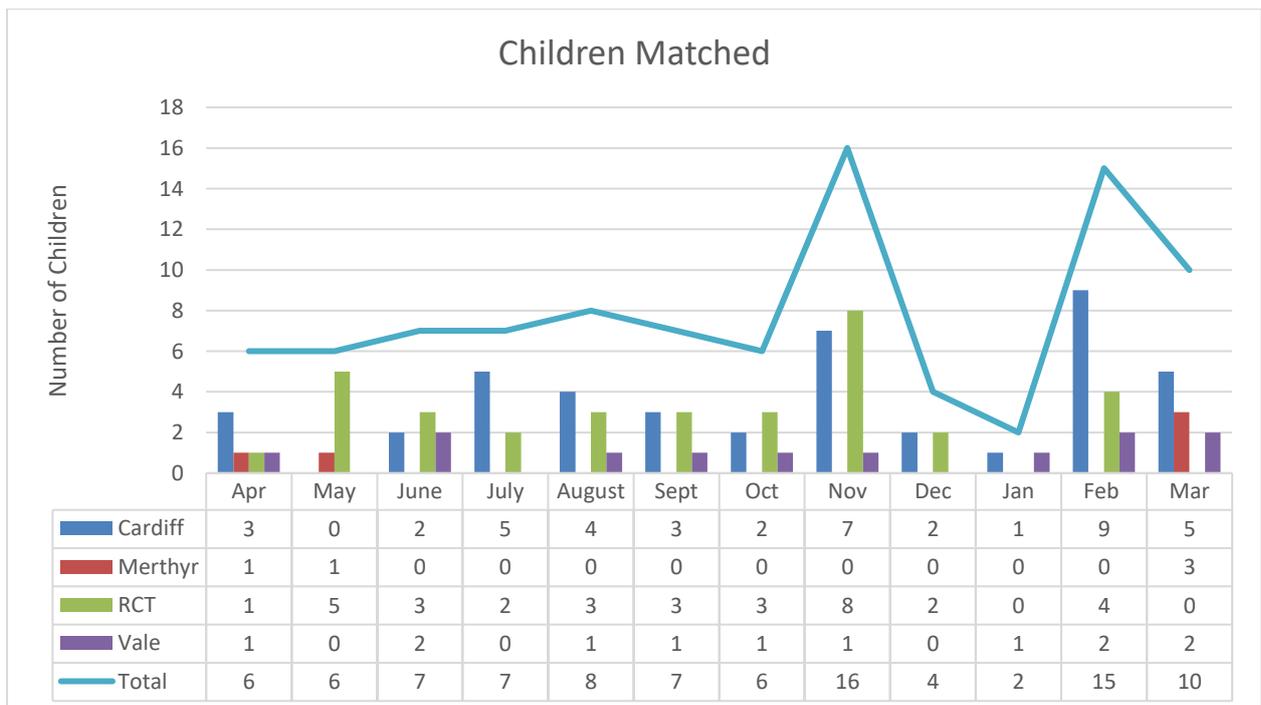
## Placement Orders granted

During the reporting period, 101 Placement Orders were granted.



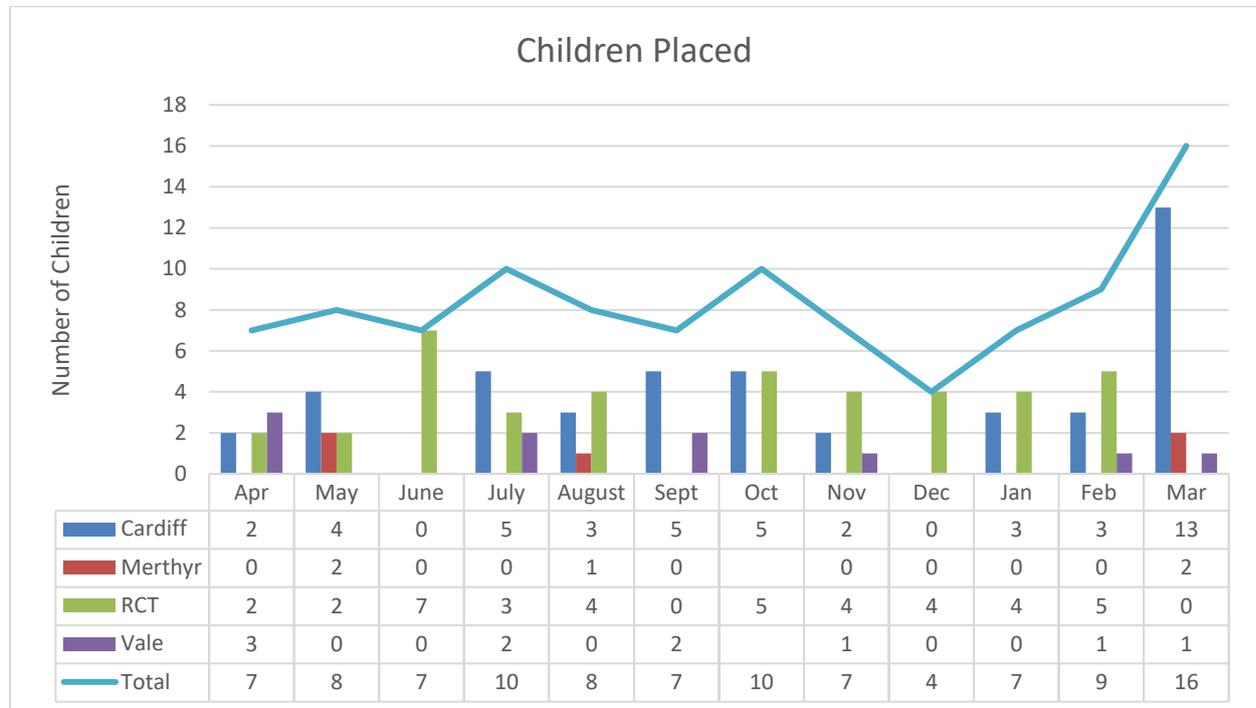
## Children Matched

94 children were matched with prospective adopters during the reporting period.



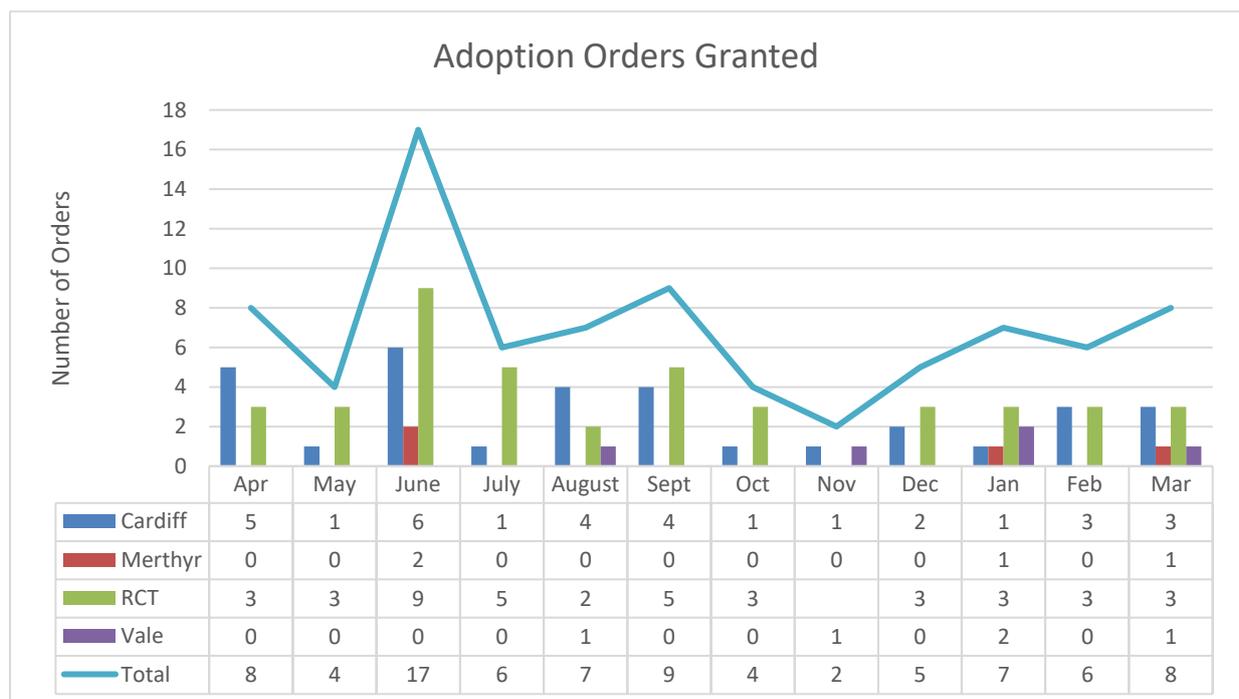
## Children Placed

100 children were placed with adopters during the reporting period.



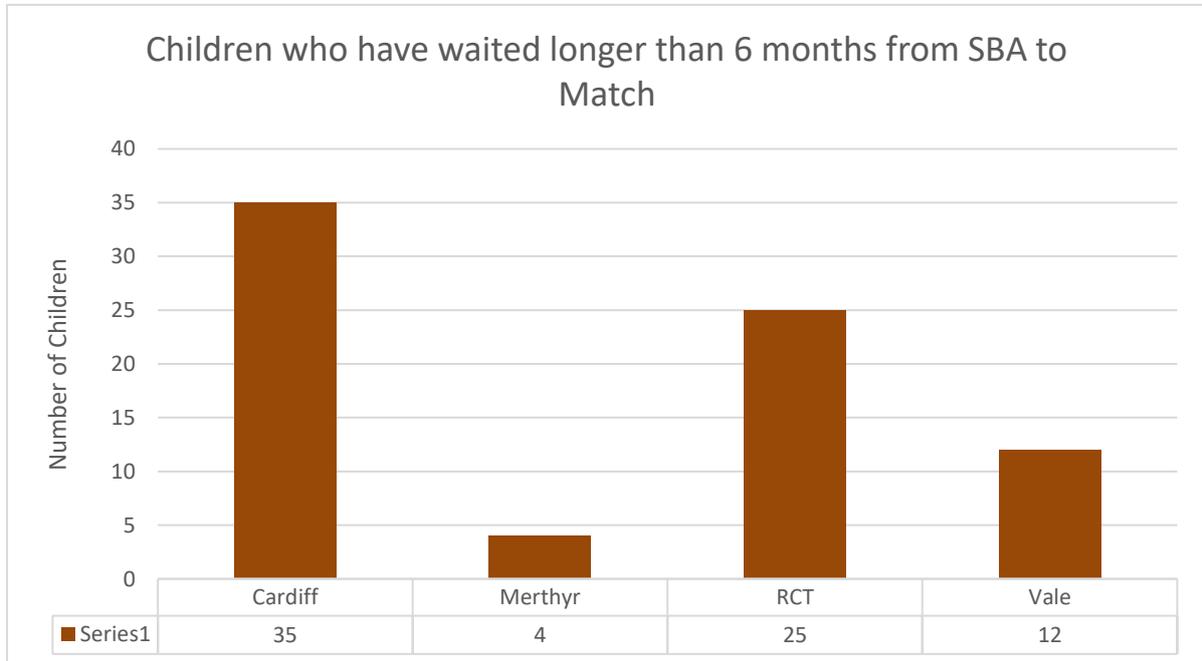
## Adoption Orders Granted

83 Adoption Orders were granted during the reporting period.



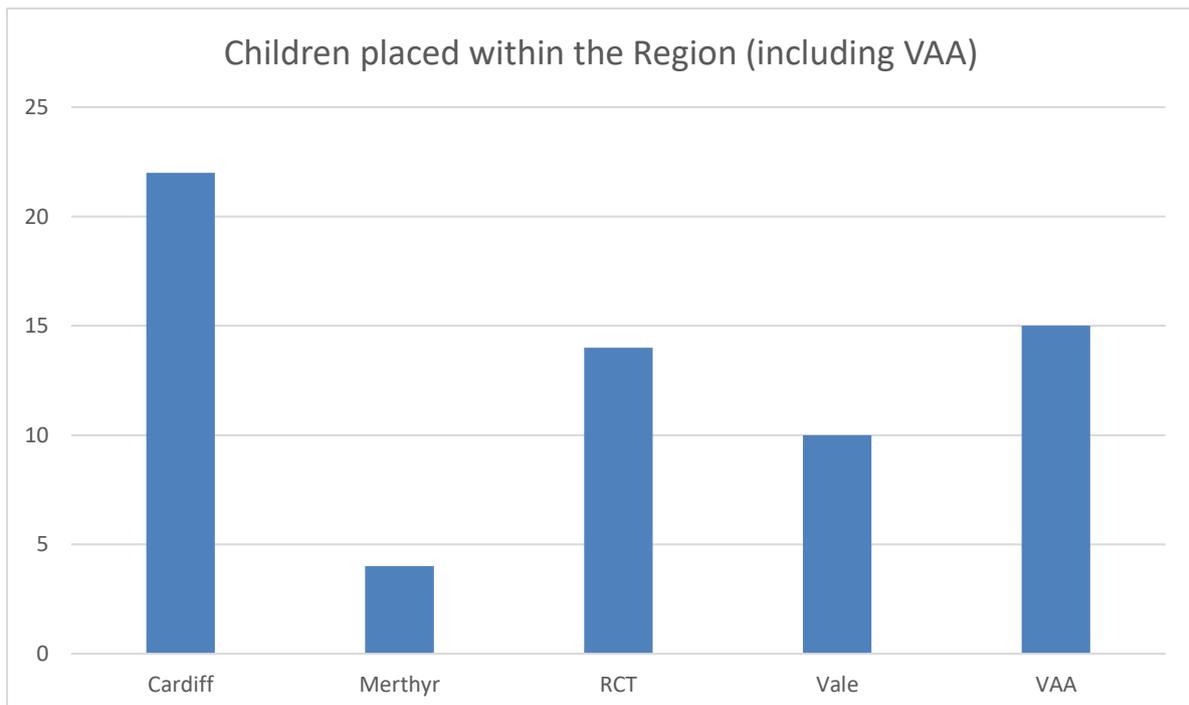
### Children who have waited longer than 6 months from SBA to Match

76 Children waited longer than six months from the date of the "Should be placed for Adoption" decision and the children being matched with prospective adopters in the reporting period.



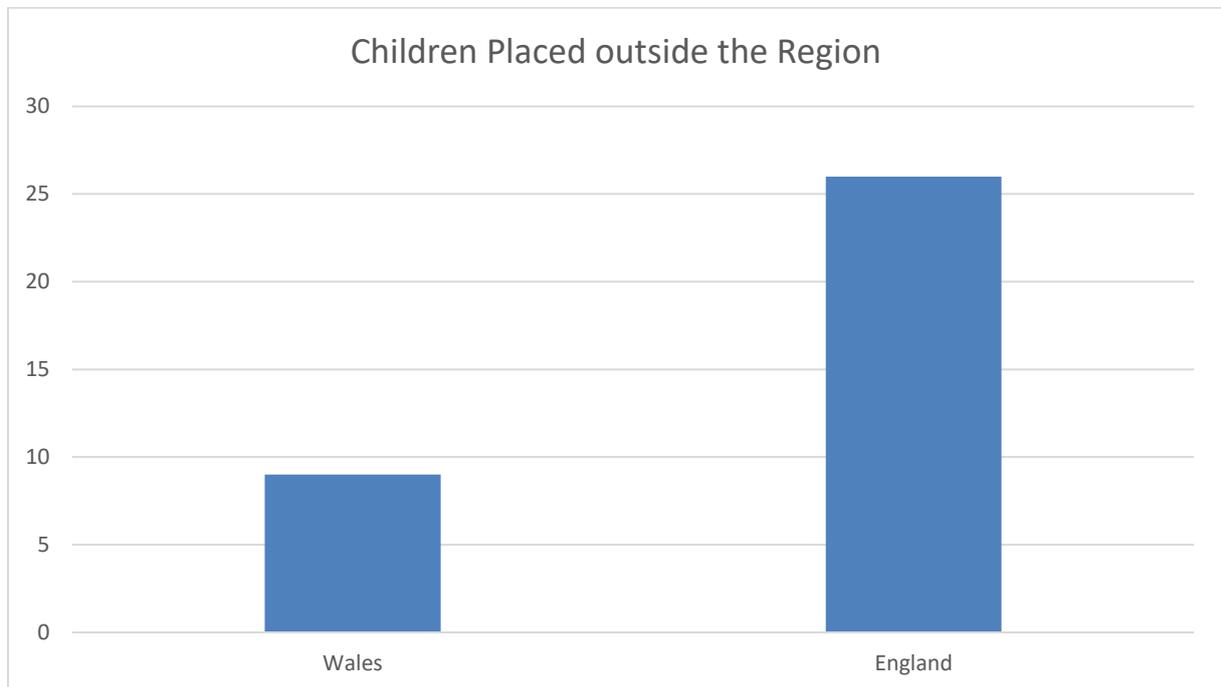
### Children placed in the Region

64 children were placed with adopters living in the region. 15 children were placed with VAA adopters within the region.



### Children placed outside of the Region

35 children were placed outside of the region, 9 of which were placed with adopters living in Wales.

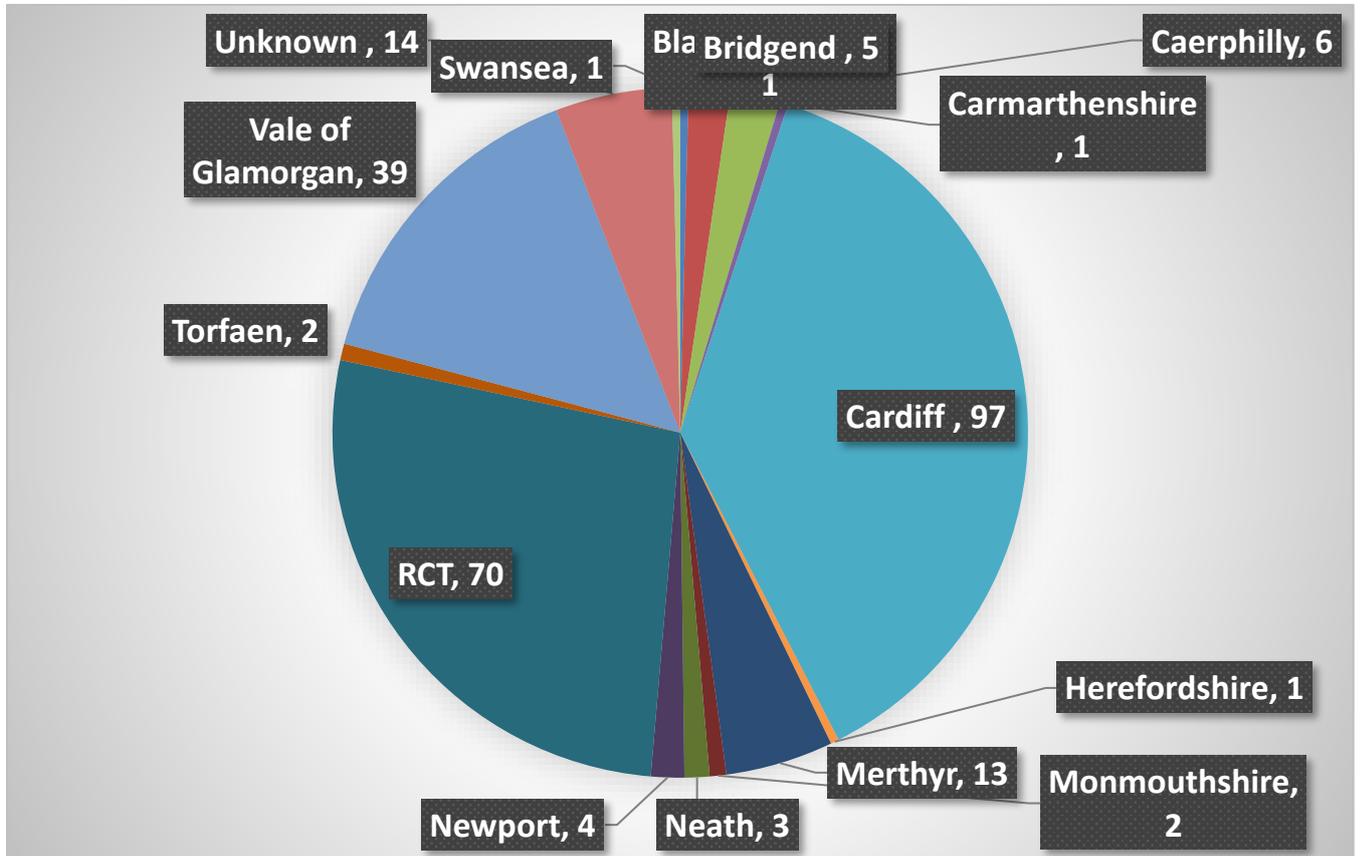




## Appendix 2 – Recruitment & Assessment

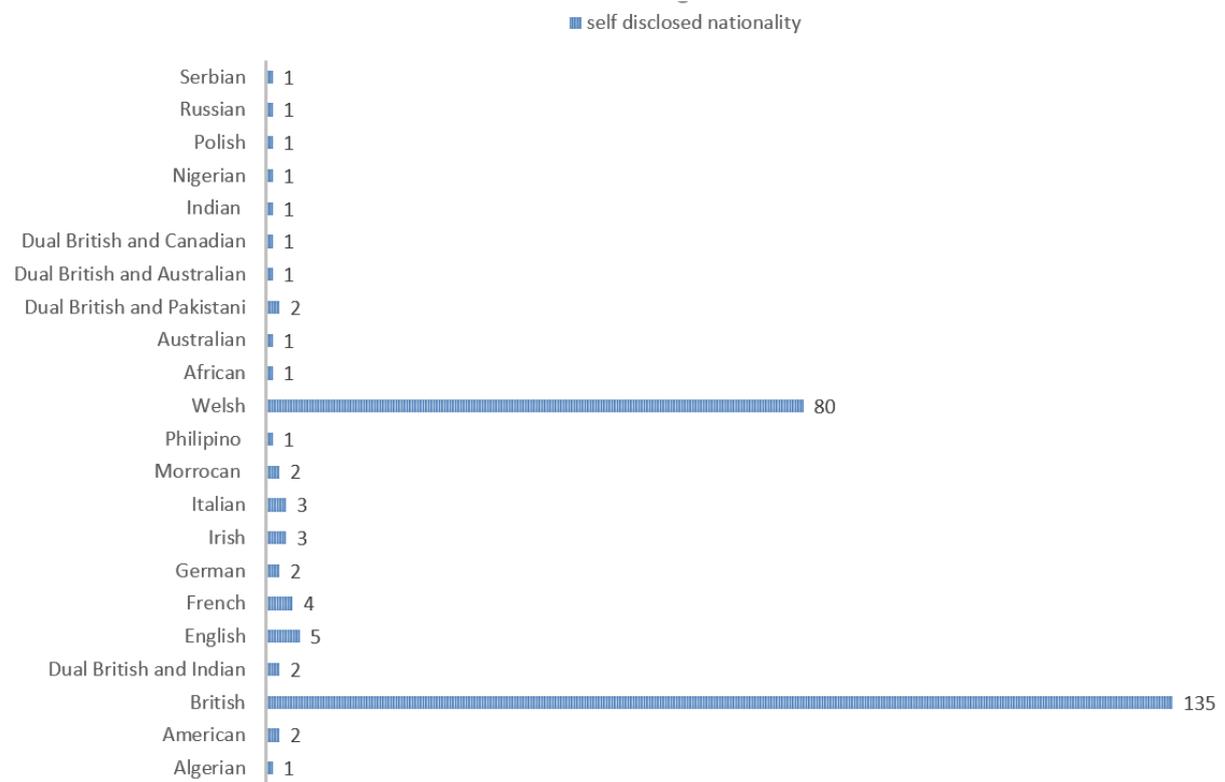
### Enquiries

219 enquiries were received from people living within our region. In addition, 26 enquiries were received from people living outside our area.

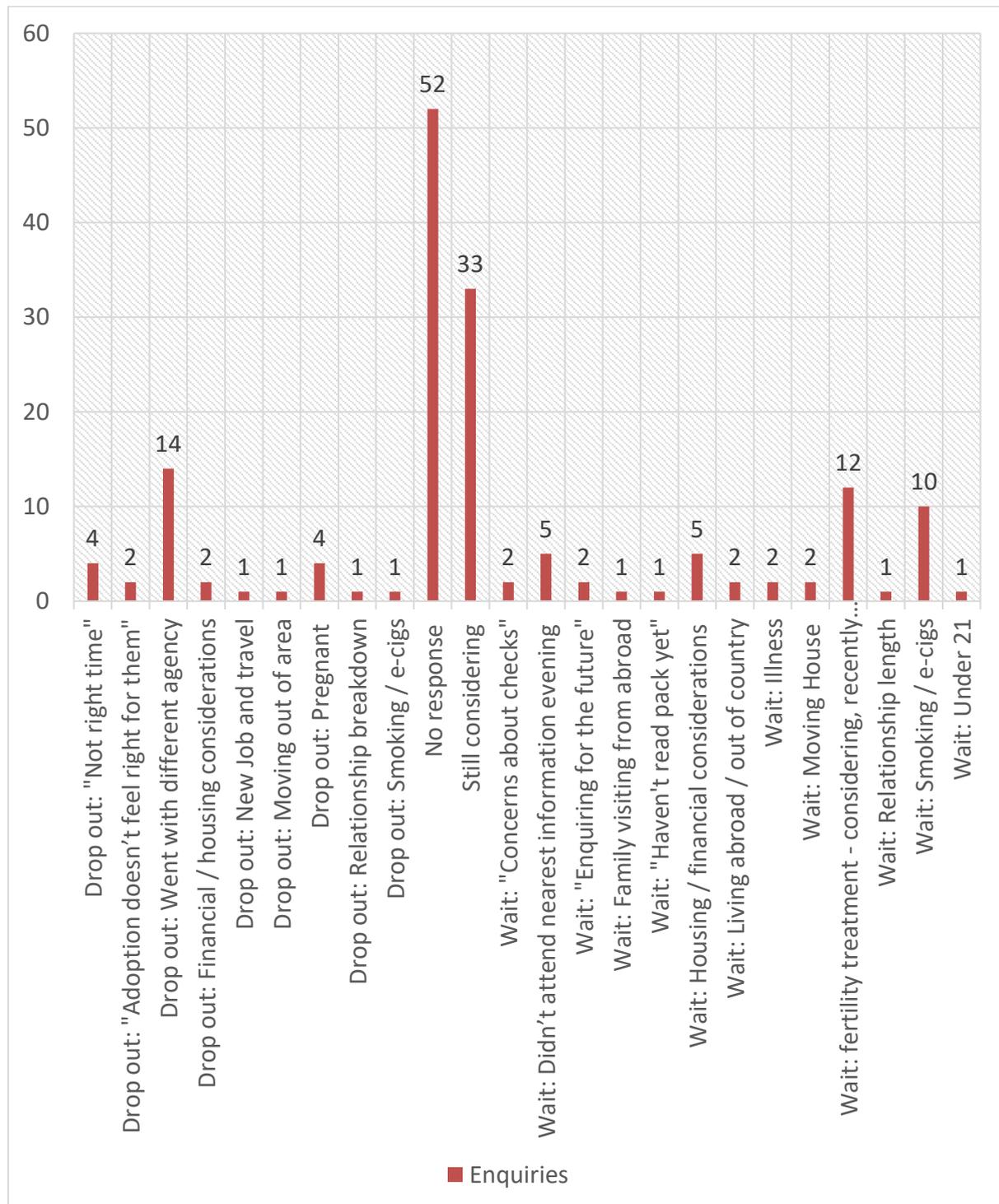


## Self-disclosed Nationality

53% of respondents identified themselves as British and 31% of respondents identified as Welsh.

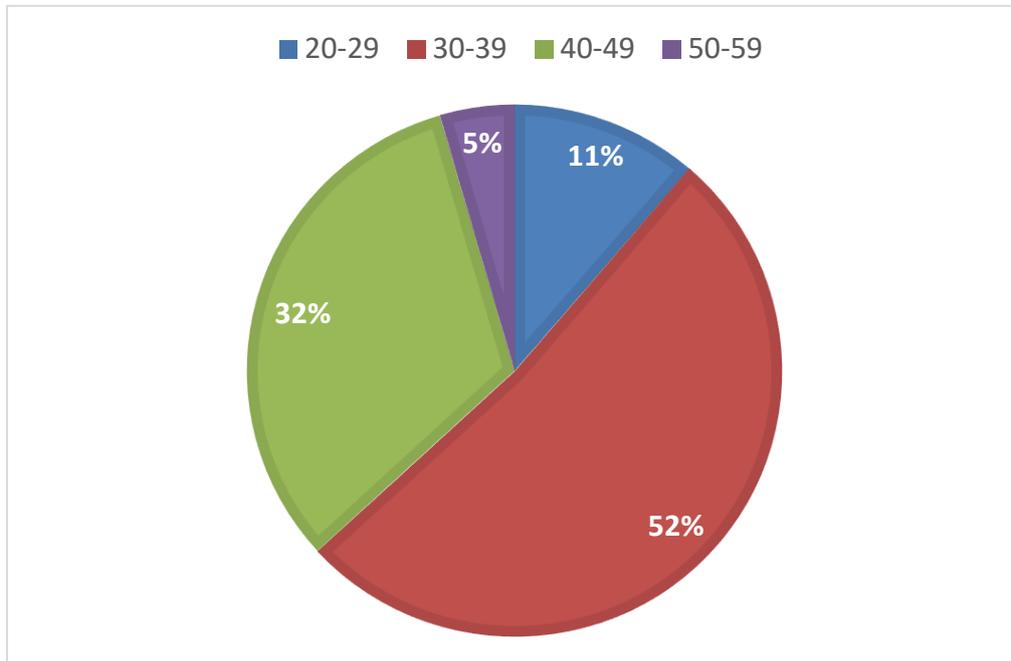


## Self-disclosed Follow up - reasons for delay or withdrawal from adoption process

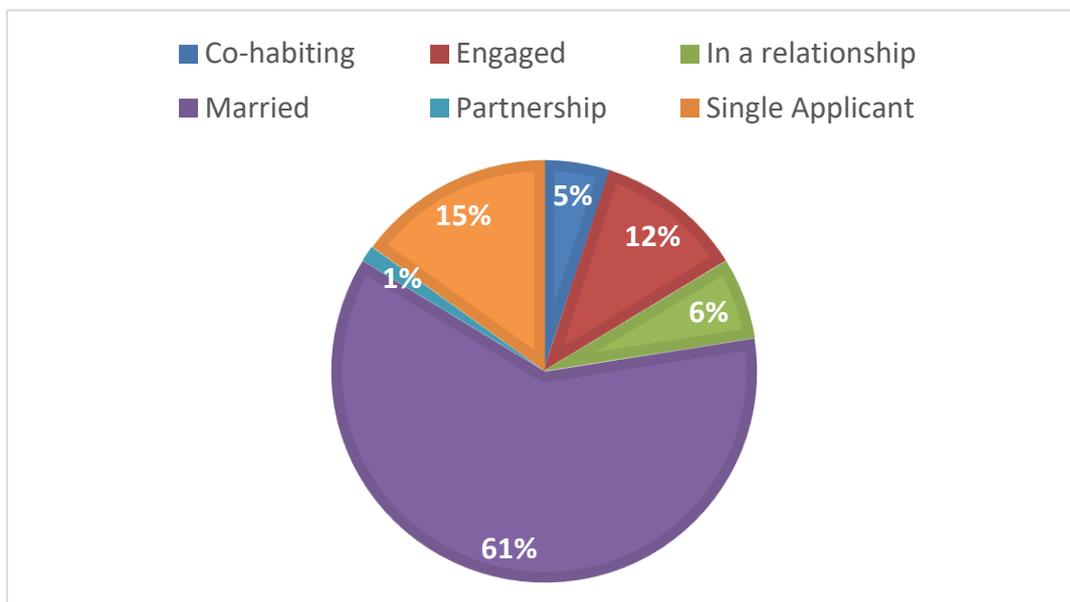


## Example of demographic reporting 2019 (April 2019)

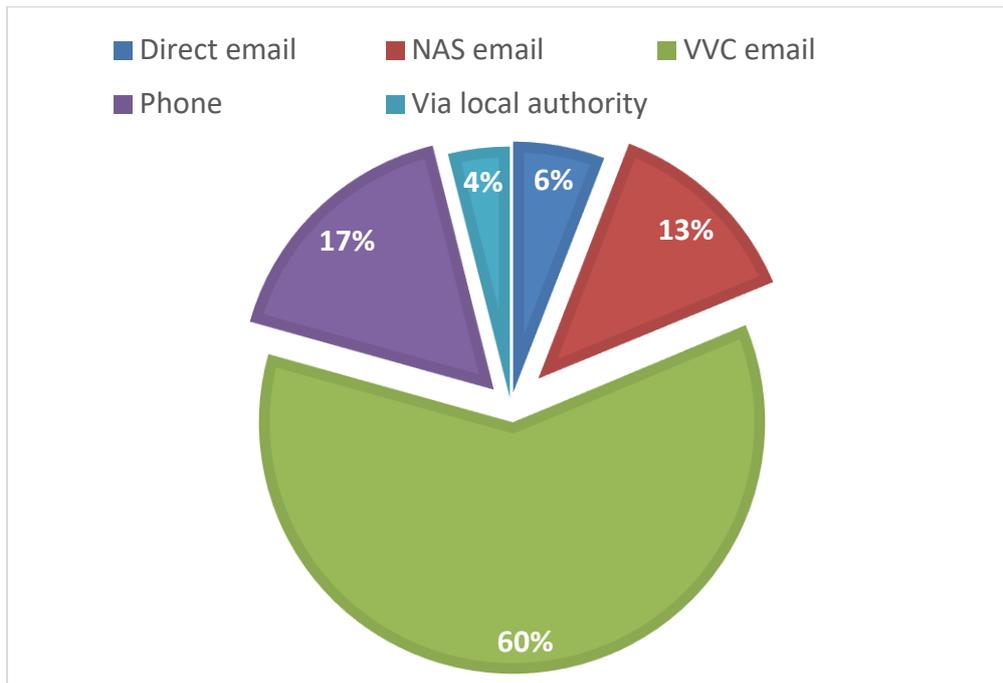
### Age: April 2019 – Present (19/09/19)



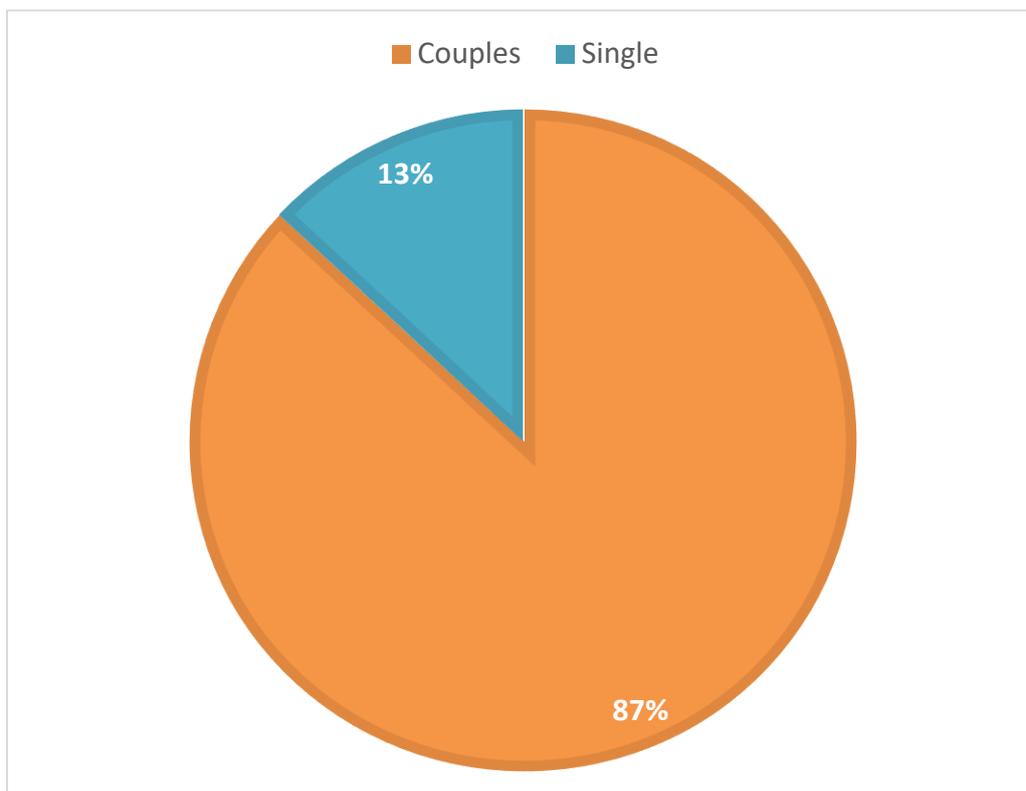
### Relationship Status: April 2019 – Present



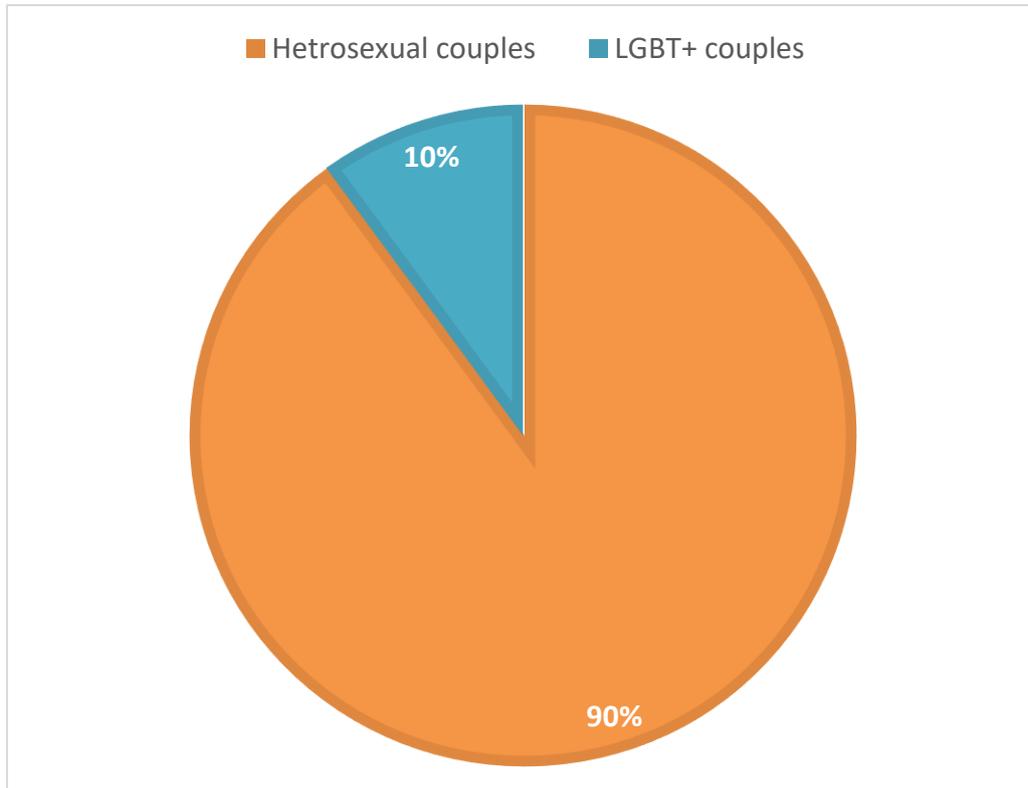
### How they contacted us: April 2019 – Present



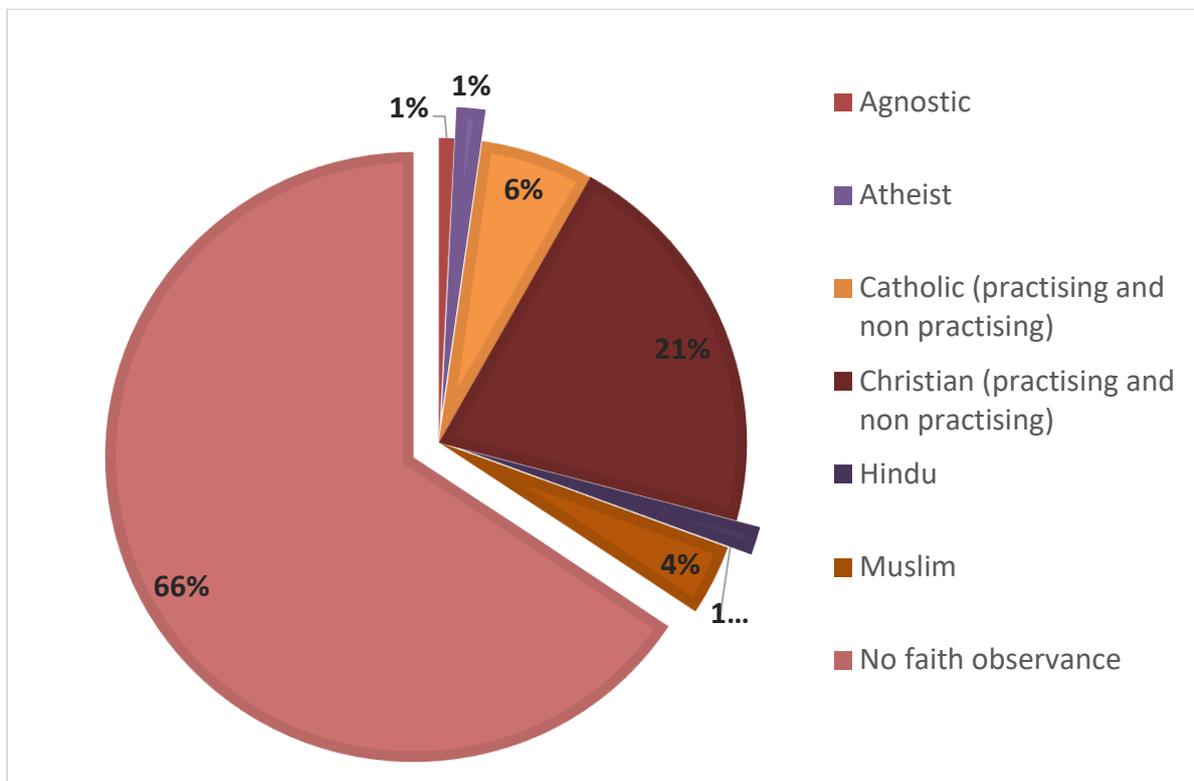
### Couples and Singles: April 2019 – Present



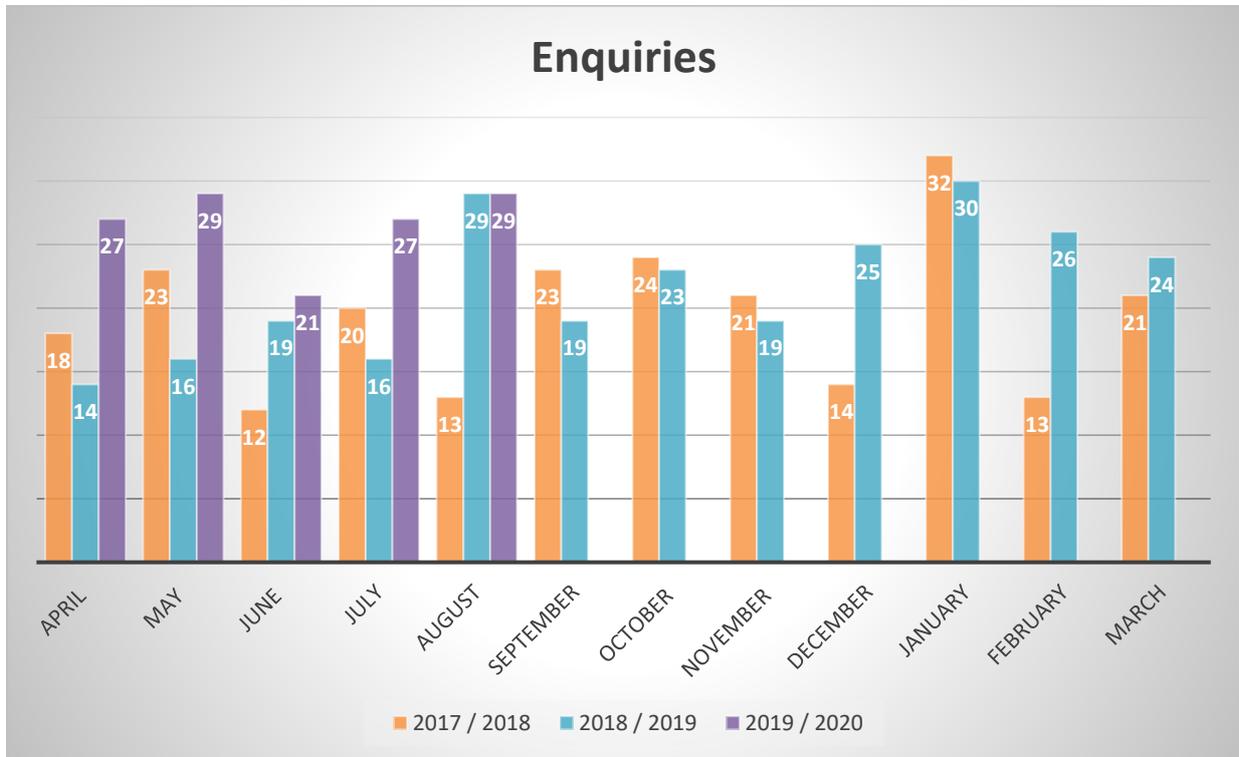
## Couples: self-reported LGBT+ and Heterosexual: April 2019 – Present



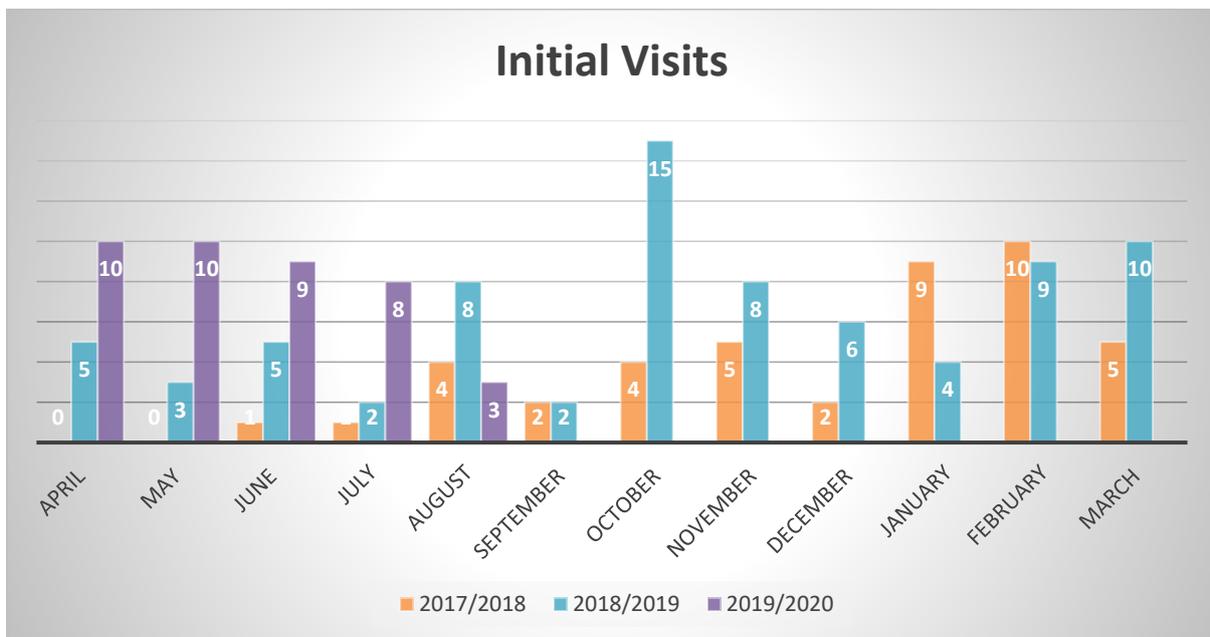
## Self-reported Faith: April 2019 – Present



### Three Year comparison of Recruitment 2017-19 – number of enquiries

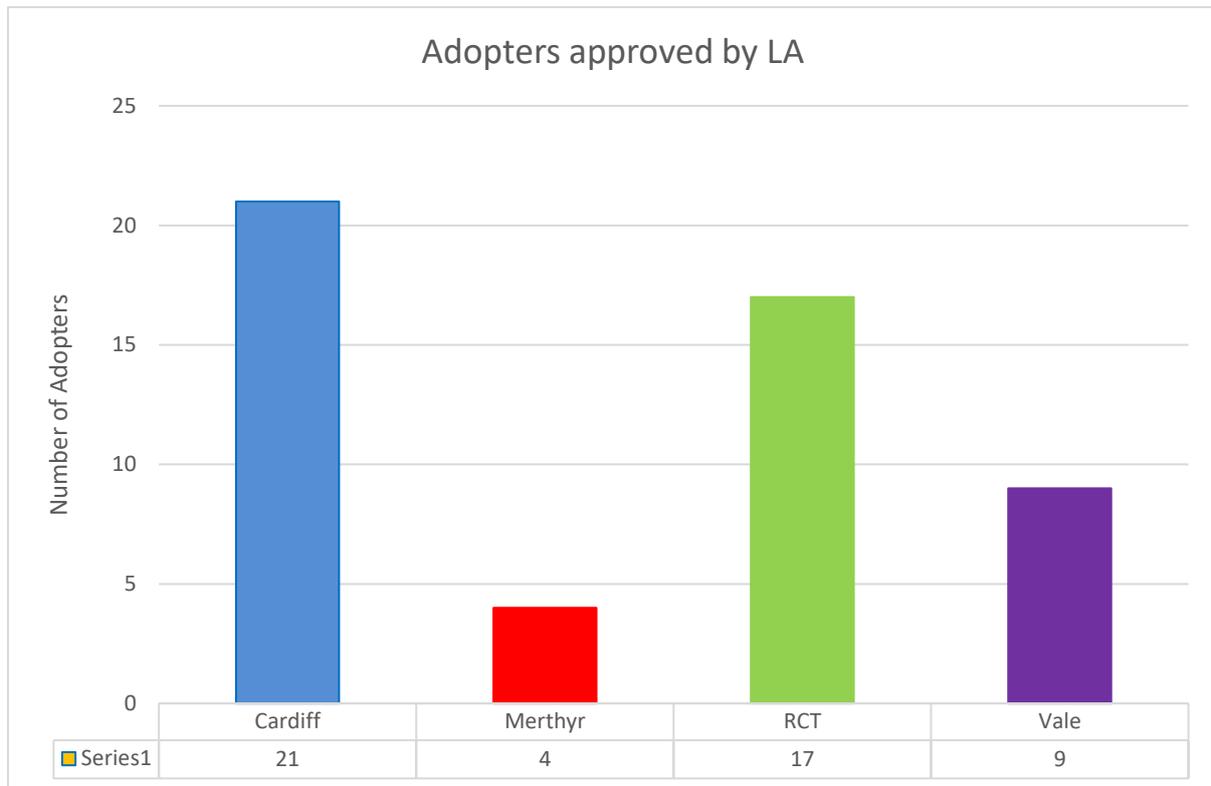


### Three Year comparison of Recruitment 2017-19 – Initial Visits



## Adopters Approved

51 Adopters were approved during the reporting period.



## Appendix 3 – Adoption Support

### Referrals to the Service

Referrals by L.A.		Comparison with 2017-18 data	Average by L.A. over 4 years (2015-2019)
Cardiff	35	43	33
Merthyr	3	4	5
RCT	23	23	23
Vale	16	11	14

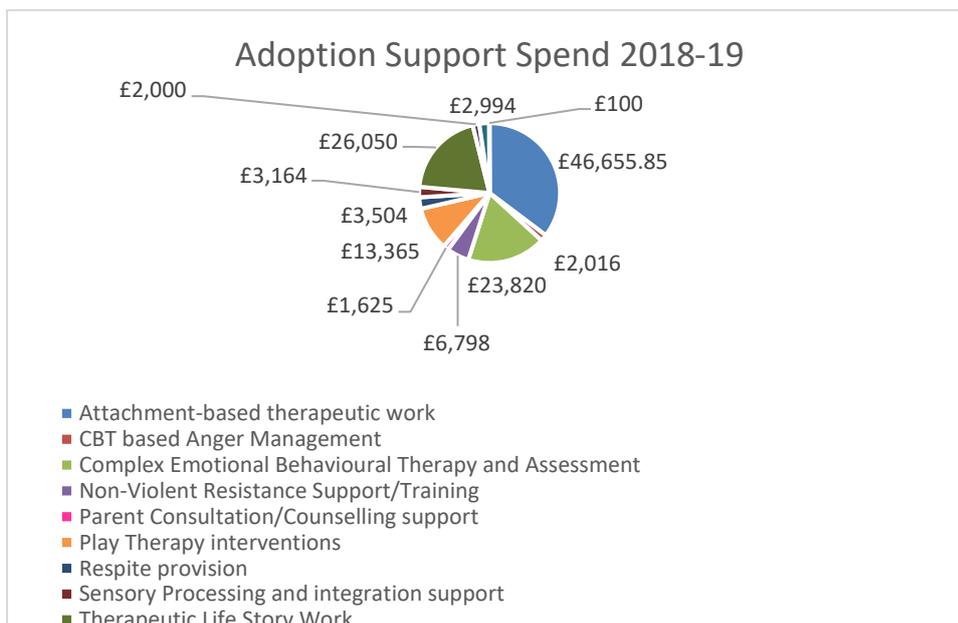
### Total Expenditure

Spend by L.A.		Comparison with 2017-18 data	Average by L.A. over 4 years (2015-2019)
Cardiff	£75,145.85	£33,382.65	£43,155.41
Merthyr	£2,015	£6,718	£4,042
RCT	£24,785	£20,595.80	£27,072.41
Vale	£30,046	£52,024.10	£31,468.47

### Average expenditure by Local Authority

Cardiff	£2,177.36
Merthyr	£2,309.71
RCT	£2,028.30
Vale	£2,275.87

### Types of commissioned provision



## Other Adoption Support Services

### Access to Birth Records

Referrals by L.A.		Comparison with 2017-18 data
Cardiff	21	26
Merthyr	4	0
RCT	19	16
Vale	5	6

### Intermediary Services

Referrals by L.A.		Comparison with 2017-18 data
Cardiff	10	20
Merthyr	3	4
RCT	15	20
Vale	9	10