



Mabwysiadu
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru
Adoption
Mid & West Wales

Update for Carmarthenshire Education and Children Scrutiny Committee on 14.4.16

Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Powys came together to form Mid and West Wales Adoption Service (MWAS) in April 2014. Carmarthenshire is the lead authority. It is part of the National Adoption Service (NAS), which is made up of a small central team and the 5 regional collaboratives: MWAS, SEWAS, North Wales, Western Bay and VVC. NAS was launched formally in November 2014.

Progress since November 2014

Regionally

- Adoption panel in Carmarthen became paperless, which is more efficient and reduces administration costs. The success of using iPads and sharing documentation electronically will now be extended to the adoption panel that meets in Brecon
- MWAS has updated the Adoption Support Policy to create a consistent approach across the region.
- A process of consultations with a psychologist to inform the child's adoption support plan is being piloted in Carmarthenshire. If the evaluation finds this is effective the process will be extended across the region
- The training programme has been rationalised to reduce duplication and increase opportunities for adopters and others to access a wide range of training. This has included collaborating with the University of Wales Trinity St David to produce some short films that will be used for training. Birth parents and adoptive parents have also contributed to training events.
- MWAS management committee includes representatives from Health, the voluntary sector and Education
- Grant funding has been obtained to provide training to 4 parenting workers from each of the 4 local authorities, a total of 16, to enable them to deliver attachment based training
- An increase in the number of birth parents meeting with adopters prior to placement as well as Child Appreciation Days are ways to assist children to make the transition to adoptive placements more successfully

Nationally

- Development and embedding of performance indicators- sharing of good practice between regions as well as driving the priorities such as reducing the delay in finding suitable placements for children with a plan for adoption

- Annual work plan and priorities for the work of the sub groups; media and marketing; adoption support; common policies and procedures; and performance.
- Stakeholder engagement- NAS is facilitating a programme of events to consult with a variety of stakeholders
- NAS took over responsibility for the Wales Adoption Register from BAAF
- Commissioning projects in respect of adoption allowances and adoption support services.
- Learning from best practice and research will be possible going forward due to the strong relationship that has been established with Cardiff University through both CASCADE (the social sciences research centre) and the Adoption Cohort Study.

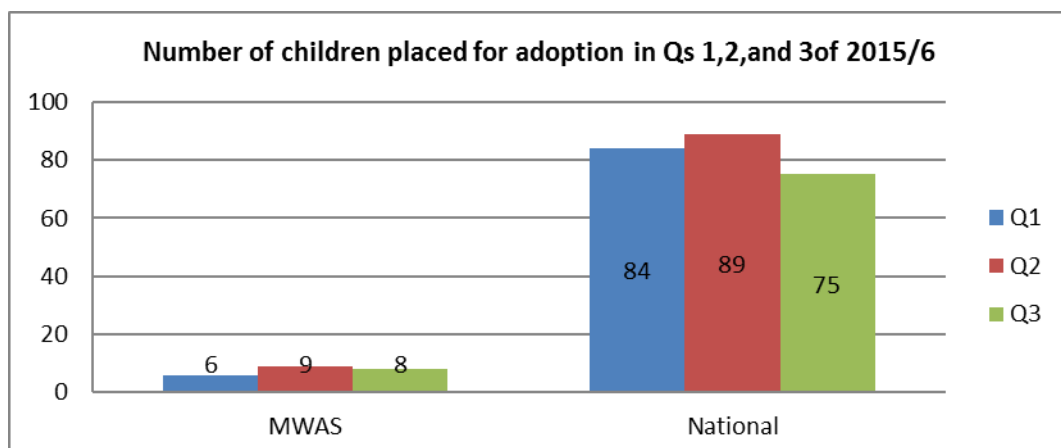
Priorities for 2016

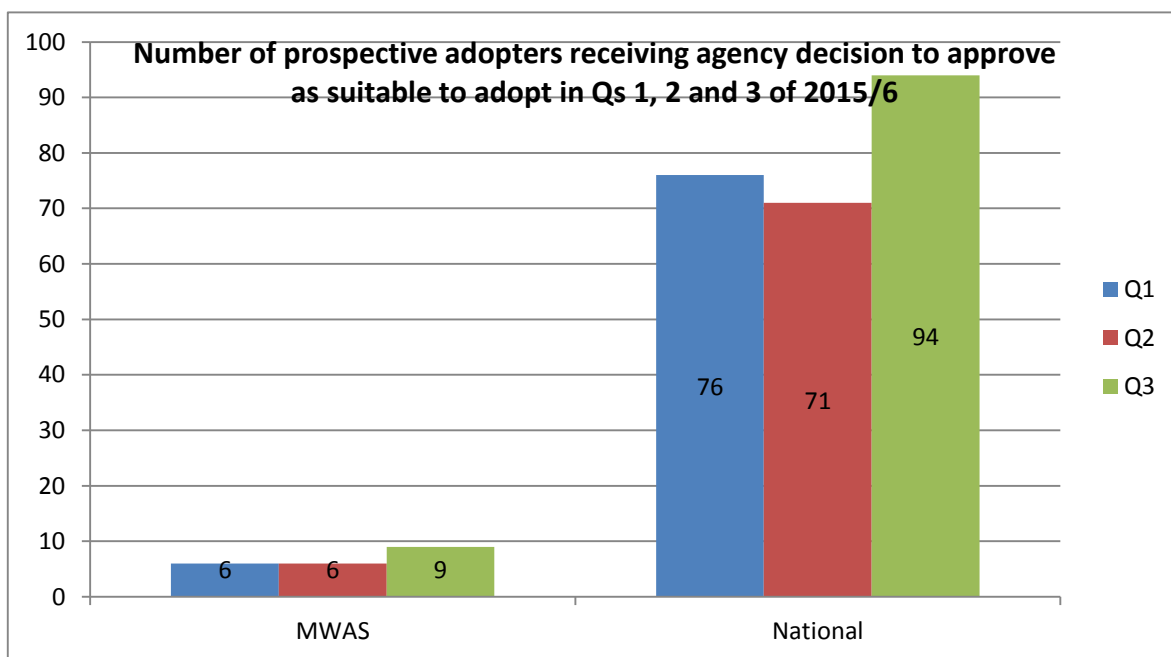
Regionally

- Provide suitable adoptive placements to avoid delay for children
- Improve outcomes for adopted children by providing appropriate support. This includes improving the quality of life journey work
- Maintain effective working relationships with childcare teams to assist with planning services and better identify the types of adoptive placements that will be needed
- Increase consistency of practice across the region, sharing good practice.

Nationally

- Reduce delay for children
- Increase consistency of practice
- Develop adoption support services
- Increase stakeholder engagement
- Build on partnership working with the voluntary adoption agencies
- Integrate messages from research into practice and policy
- Ensure all children have life journey work of an acceptable standard when they are placed for adoption





Positives of being part of a national adoption service

- Increased pool of adopters within the region provides greater choice and opportunities for matching
- Sharing of knowledge and good practice- for example Powys' work to achieve kite mark for participation of young people
- More choice of training events for adopters
- Performance measures provide basis for analysing performance and exploring ways of improving practice and processes
- NAS has raised profile of adoption
- Increased consistency nationally in terms of adoption support and adoption assessment processes
- Reduction in duplication

Frances Lewis, Service Manager.