

# New Adoption Register for Wales



## Bulletin 1 – November 2018

### The Wales Adoption Register is improving and will be renamed the Adoption Register for Wales (ARW).

This is more than just a name change; the new Register will be more user friendly and efficient as well as providing managed access for approved adopters.

The Welsh Government fully funds the Adoption Register in Wales; since 2015 the Register and the associated functions have been provided through the National Adoption Service for Wales.

A new partner, **Link Maker** has won the contract to provide a modern, on-line linking service. This will start operating in Spring 2019.

The purpose of the Register is to minimise delay in finding adoptive families for children with an adoption plan who are waiting. This new service will be a further step in the Welsh Government strategy to 'Improve Outcomes for Children' across Wales and help deliver the National Adoption Service priority to match and place children effectively.

The new Register has been developed to be more accessible to its users and help us all to secure stable, suitable, matches for Welsh children with an adoption plan.

### What's new?

- The new Adoption Register for Wales provided by 'Link Maker' will be fully bilingual.
- For children, it will provide access to the widest range of approved adopters.
- For adopters (once they have discussed with their agency and are verified), they will be able to access the Register to see available children and initiate a discussion with adoption agency staff. The system will also provide adopters with information about children they are interested in or have been linked with.
- For professionals it will facilitate linking and matching of children with adopters within the local government and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector adoption agencies that make up the National Adoption Service in Wales as well across Wales and beyond.
- Current arrangements with the Registers for the other UK countries will continue.
- It will allow the development of a 'keeping in touch' system as part of improved adoption support arrangements.

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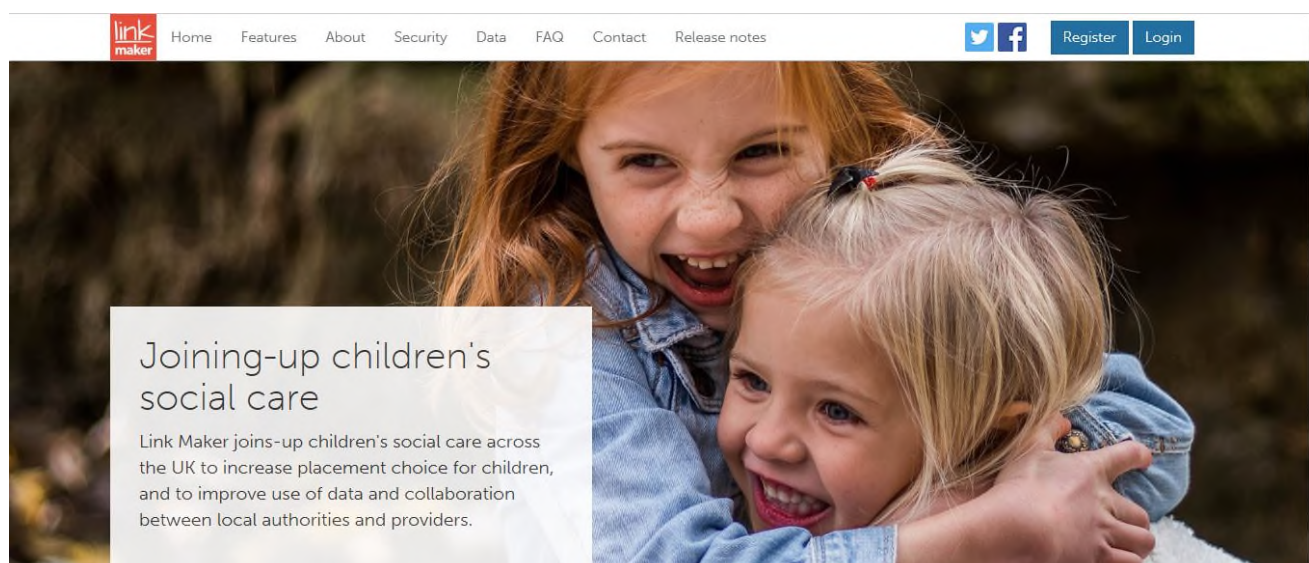
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### What's next?

- Work is currently underway with each Regional Adoption Service and the Voluntary Adoption Agencies in Wales to ensure a smooth transition from the existing Register to the new Adoption Register for Wales.
- Linking and matching between adopters and children who are on the current Register will be unaffected as they move to the new Register.
- Register staff will continue to support agency implementation through visits, training and advice for agencies.
- Guidelines for the use of the new Register are being developed which will be tested and refined.
- We will keep you updated with monthly bulletins like this which will also be available on the National Adoption Service website – [www.adoptcymru.com](http://www.adoptcymru.com)

**Link Maker** also provides the Adoption Register in Scotland; if you wanted to have a look use this link – [www.linkmaker.co.uk](http://www.linkmaker.co.uk)

This project is being overseen by a steering group that meets regularly and includes representatives from the Welsh Government, the National Adoption Service regions and central team as well as the Welsh voluntary adoption agencies.



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### Joining-up children's social care

Link Maker joins-up children's social care across the UK to increase placement choice for children, and to improve use of data and collaboration between local authorities and providers.

