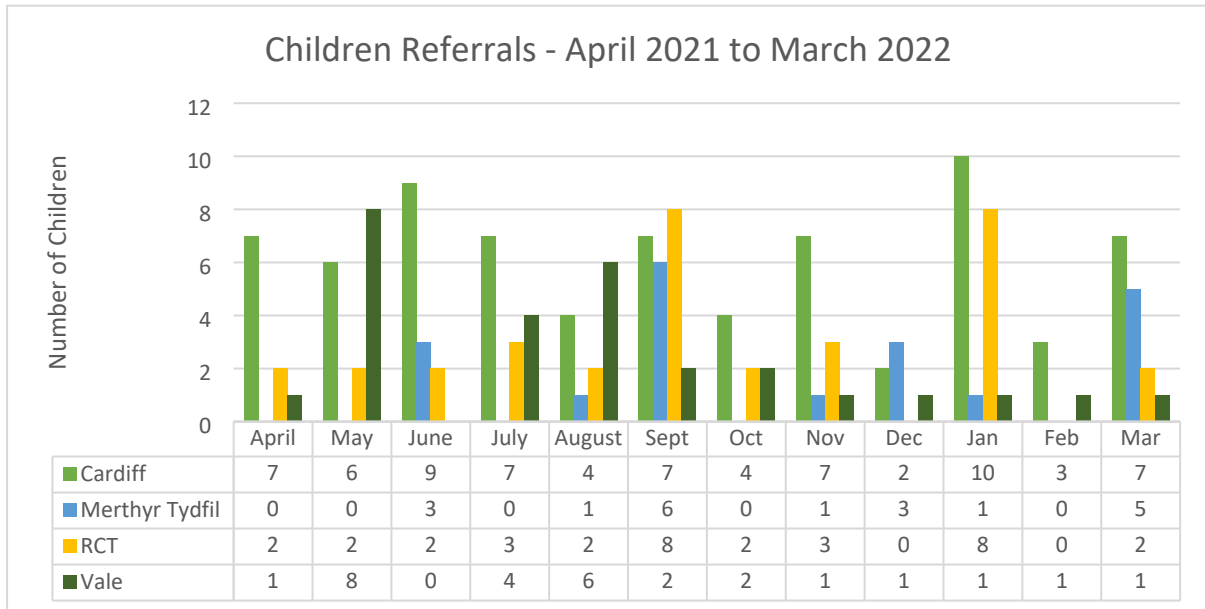


Appendix 1 – Family Finding

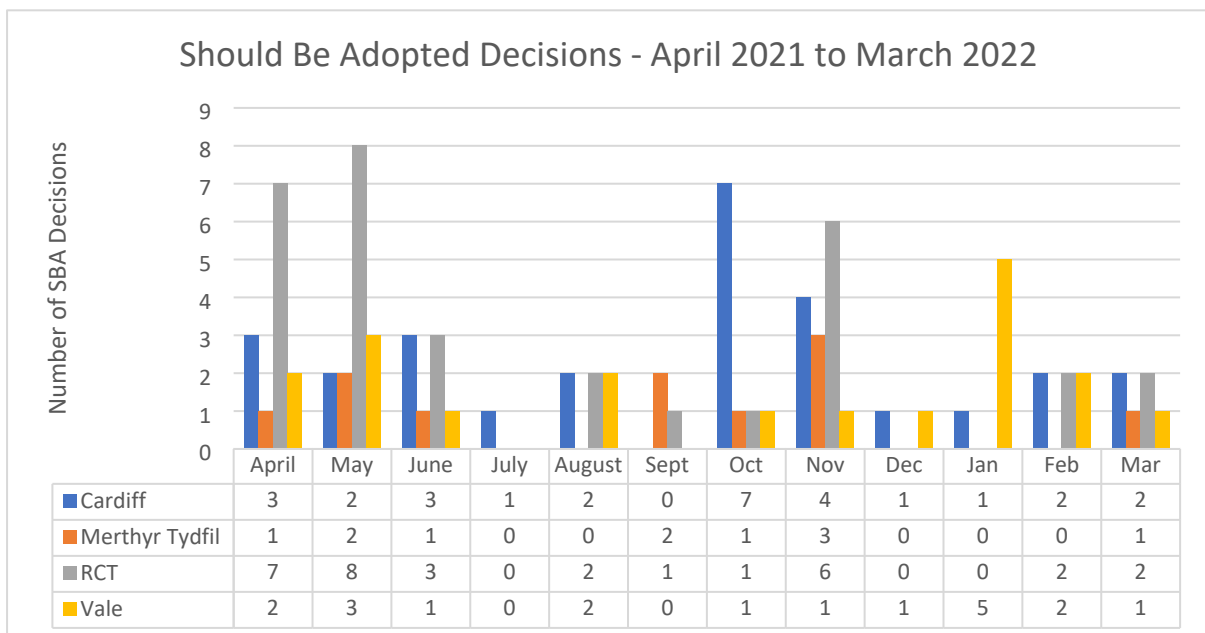
Referrals

155 children have been referred to the service since April 2021.



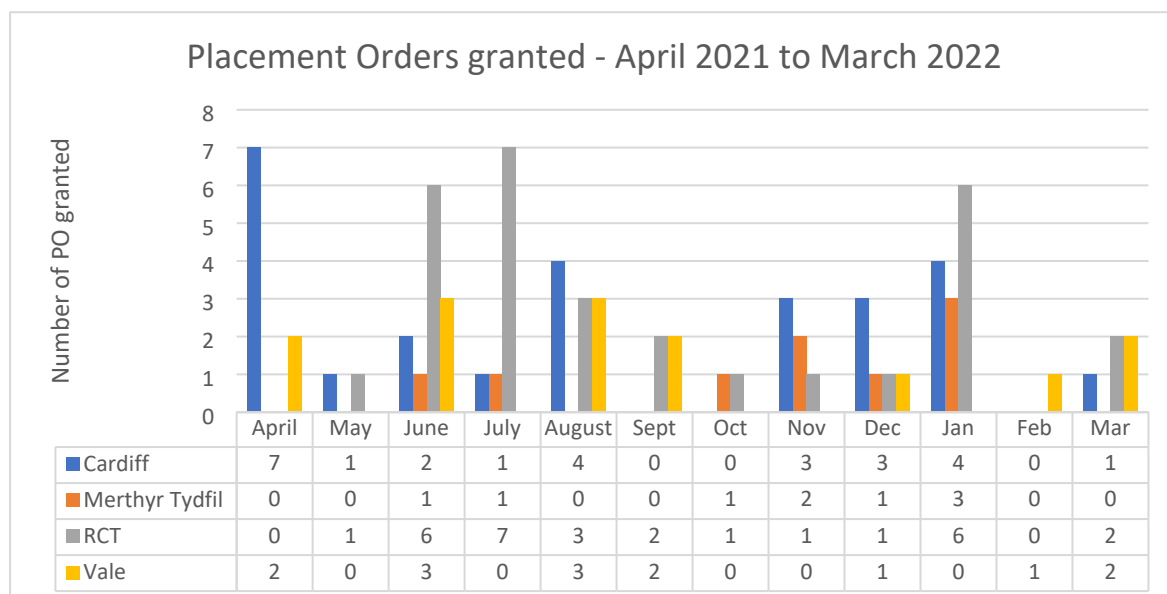
Should be Adopted Decisions

90 SBA decisions have been made during the reporting period.



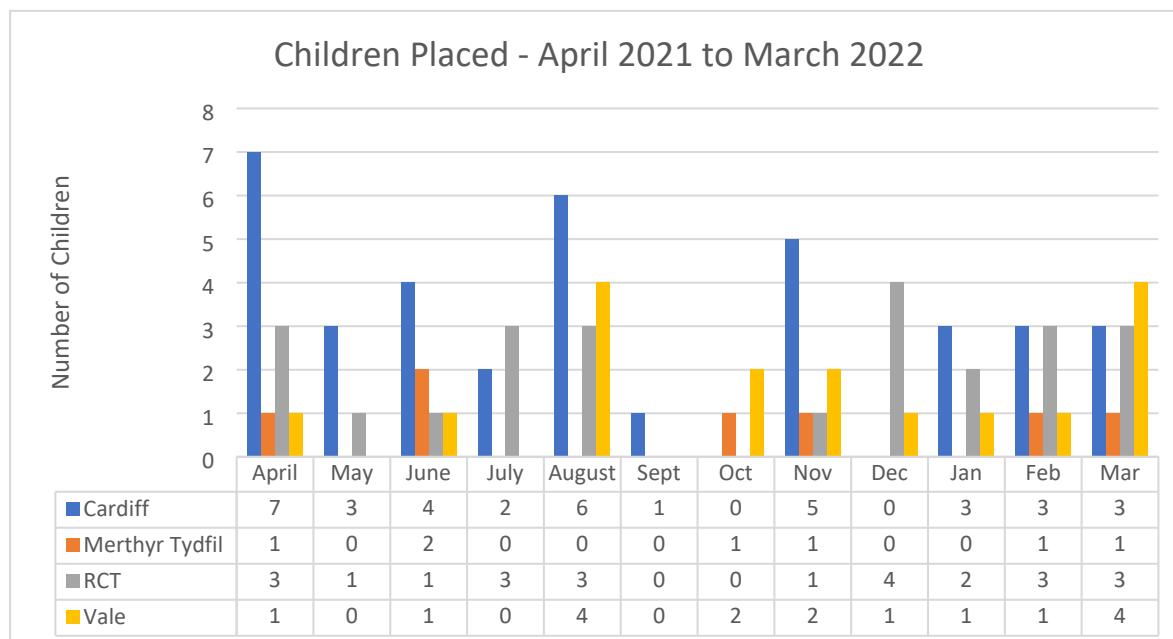
Placement Orders

79 Placement Orders were granted in the period April 2021 to March 2022.



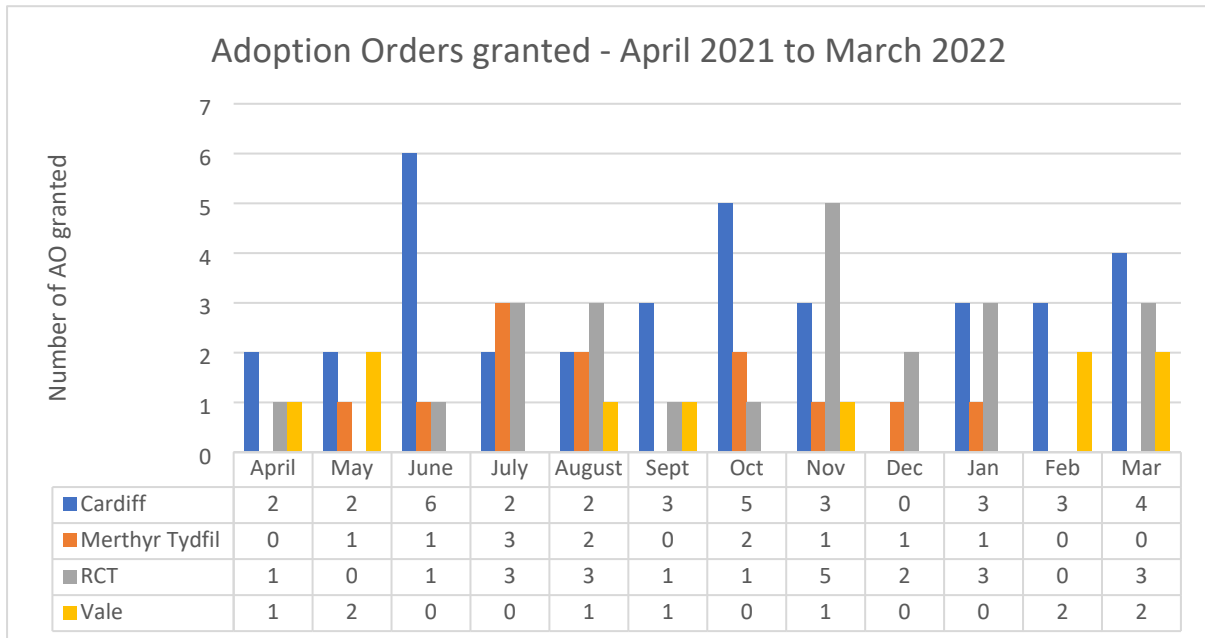
Children Placed

85 children were placed between in the reporting period.



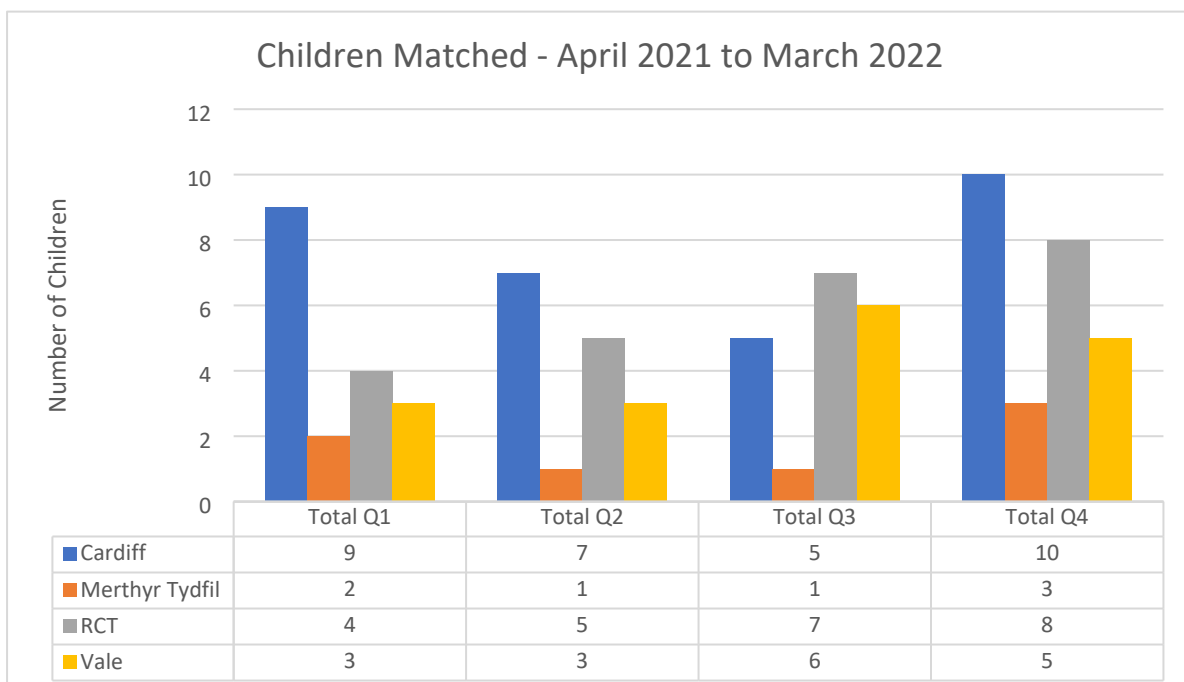
Adoption Orders

80 Adoption Orders were granted in the reporting period.



Children Matched

79 children were matched to adopters during the reporting period. This figure is consistent with comparative data for same period in previous year.



Number of children Matched since April 2020 who have waited longer than 6 months (or 3 months for a relinquished child under 6 months of age) to progress from “Should be placed for Adoption” decision to approve to Match

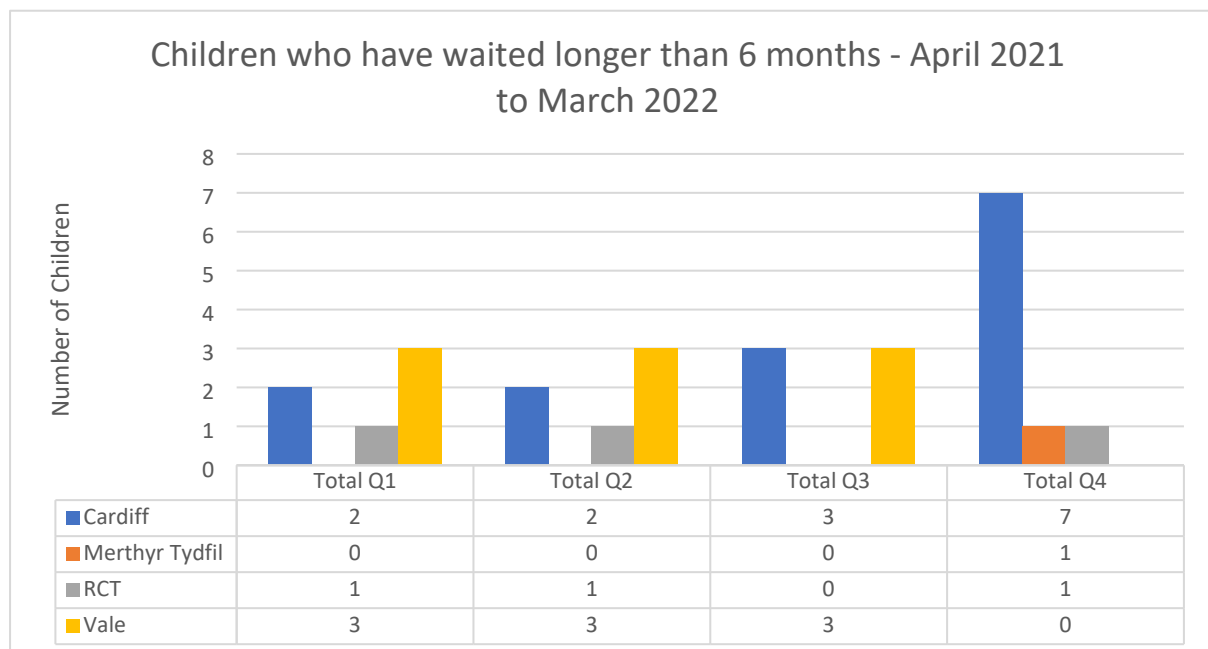
27 children matched in the reporting year have waited longer than six months to progress.

Of the **6** children matched in Quarter 1 who waited longer than six months to progress, two children were siblings, one child was 7 years old, 2 children were delayed as a result of foster care assessment and 1 child was delayed as a result of new medical information.

Of the **6** children matched in Quarter 2 who waited longer than six months to progress; 2 children were aged 4+, 2 children were BME, 2 children were a sibling group, and for 3 children, no suitable link was available.

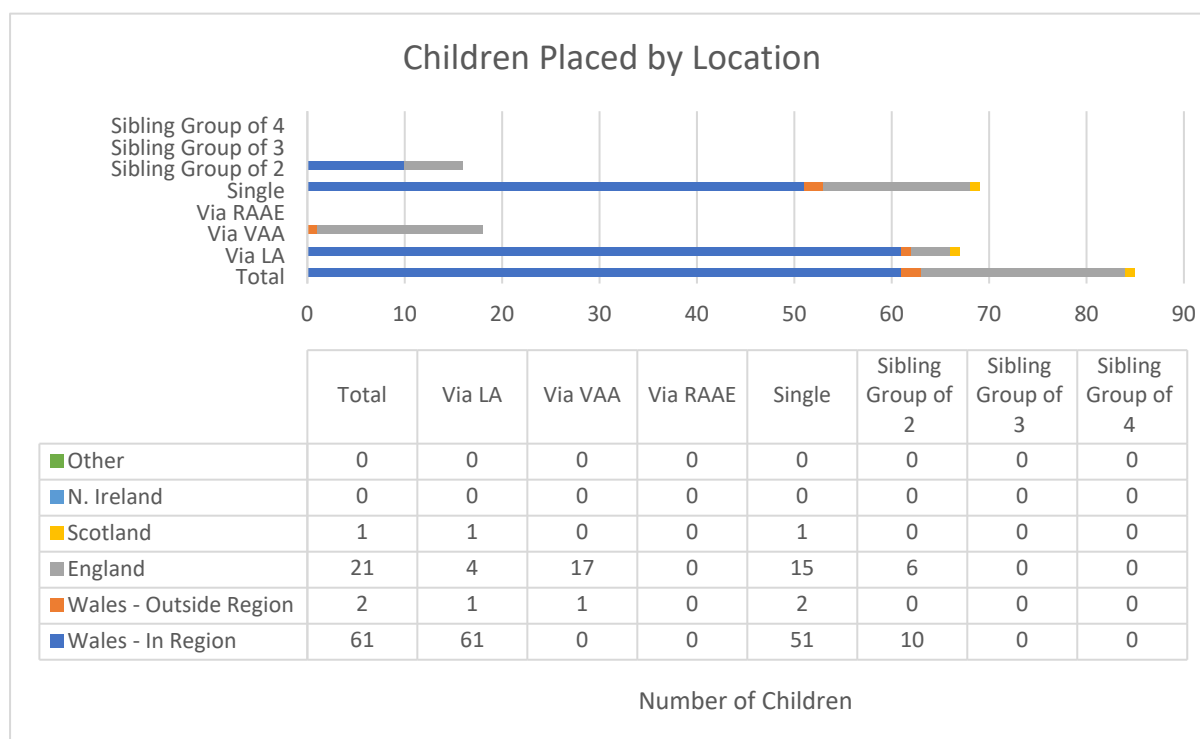
Of the **6** children matched in Quarter 3; 2 children were a sibling match and aged 4+, 1 child was 4+, and 3 children were delayed as a result of foster care assessment.

Of the **9** children matched in Quarter 4, two children were siblings, three children were aged 4+, one child was BME and three children were delayed as a result of foster care assessment and/or complex needs.



Type of placement

72% of children have been placed with VVC adopters, **25%** of children were placed in England and the remaining **3%** were placed within Wales but outside of the region and Scotland.

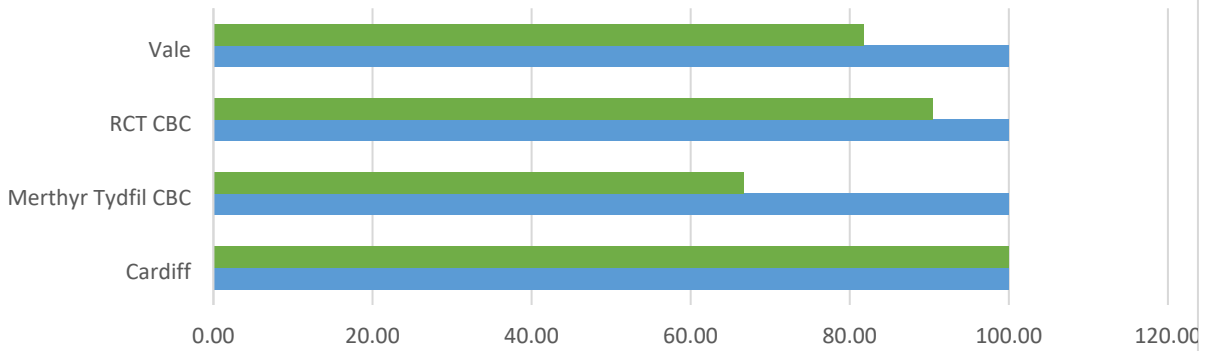


Life Journey Work

In the reporting period, 100% of life journey material in draft format is made available at the time of panel. An improvement is observed in life journey material available at the point of 2nd Review when compared to previous year. It should also be noted that in instances where life journey material has not been available at the point of 2nd review, further investigation has revealed either the review was bought forward, or adopters have been difficult to engage and have needed prompting to approve the final draft of the life journey book.

M20, M20A and M21 - Life Journey Work – April 2021 to March 2022						
	Matches	LJ Materials	2nd Review	LJ Materials	Panel %	2nd Review %
Cardiff	31	31	34	34	100.00	100.00
Merthyr Tydfil CBC	7	7	9	6	100.00	66.67
RCT CBC	24	24	21	19	100.00	90.48
Vale	17	17	11	9	100.00	81.82
Total	79	79	75	68	100.00	90.67

Life Journey Materials available at Panel and 2nd Review - April 2021 to March 2022

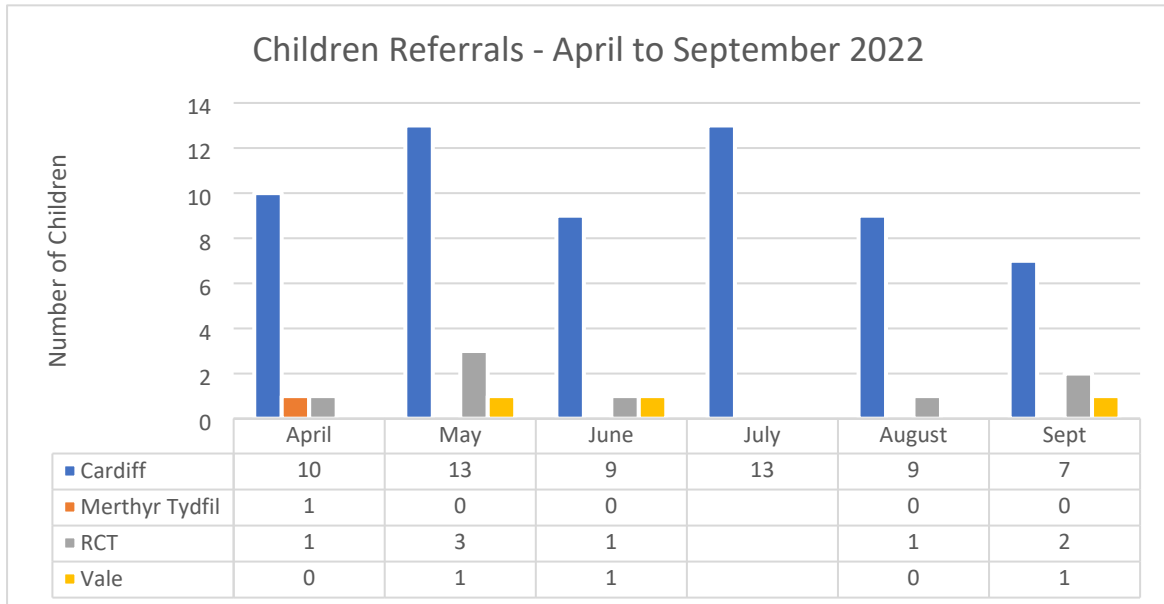


	Cardiff	Merthyr Tydfil CBC	RCT CBC	Vale
■ Matches				
■ LJ Materials				
■ 2nd Review				
■ LJ Materials				
■ Panel %	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
■ 2nd Review %	100.00	66.67	90.48	81.82

Family Finding – April to September 2022

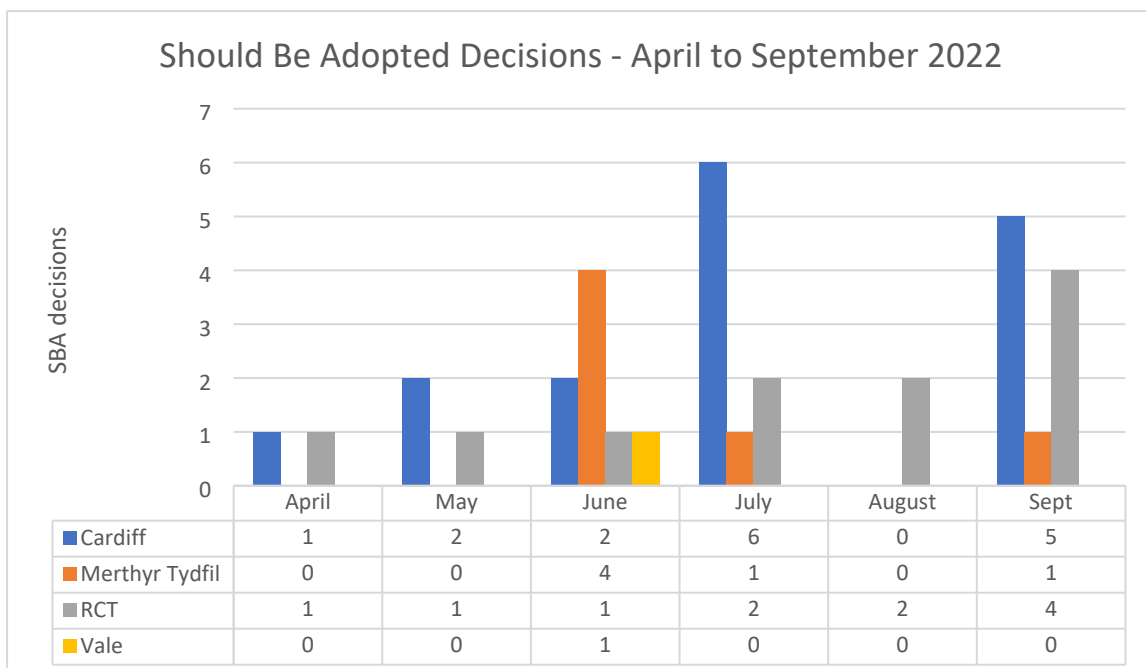
Referrals

73 referrals have been received during the reporting period.



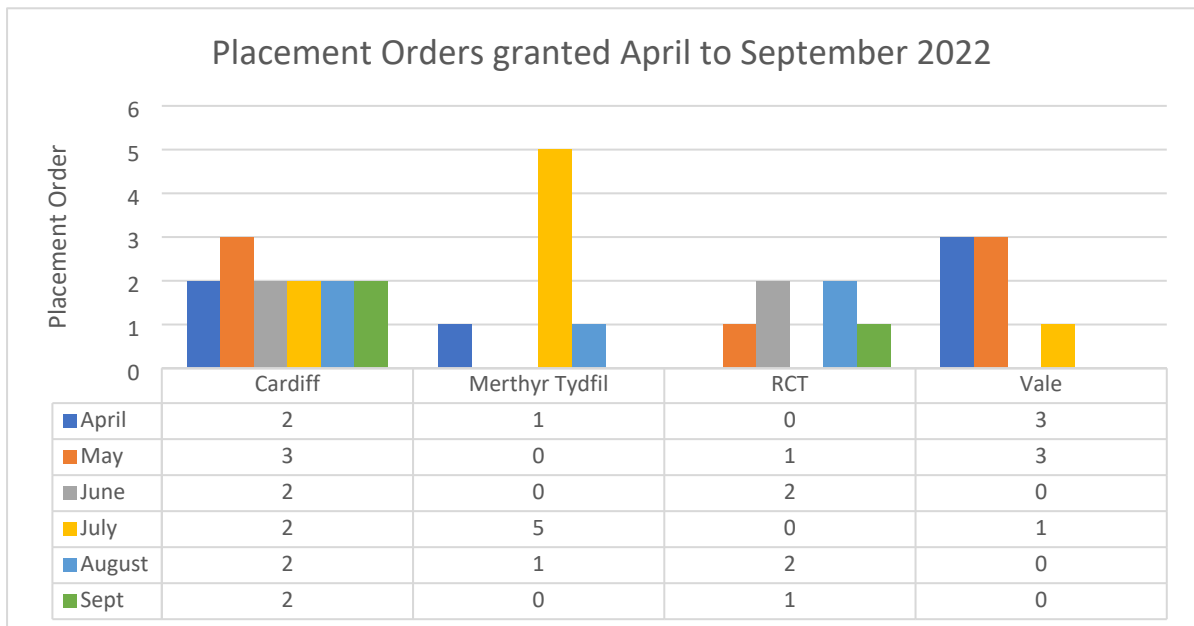
Should be Adopted Decisions

34 SBA decisions were made during the first half year.



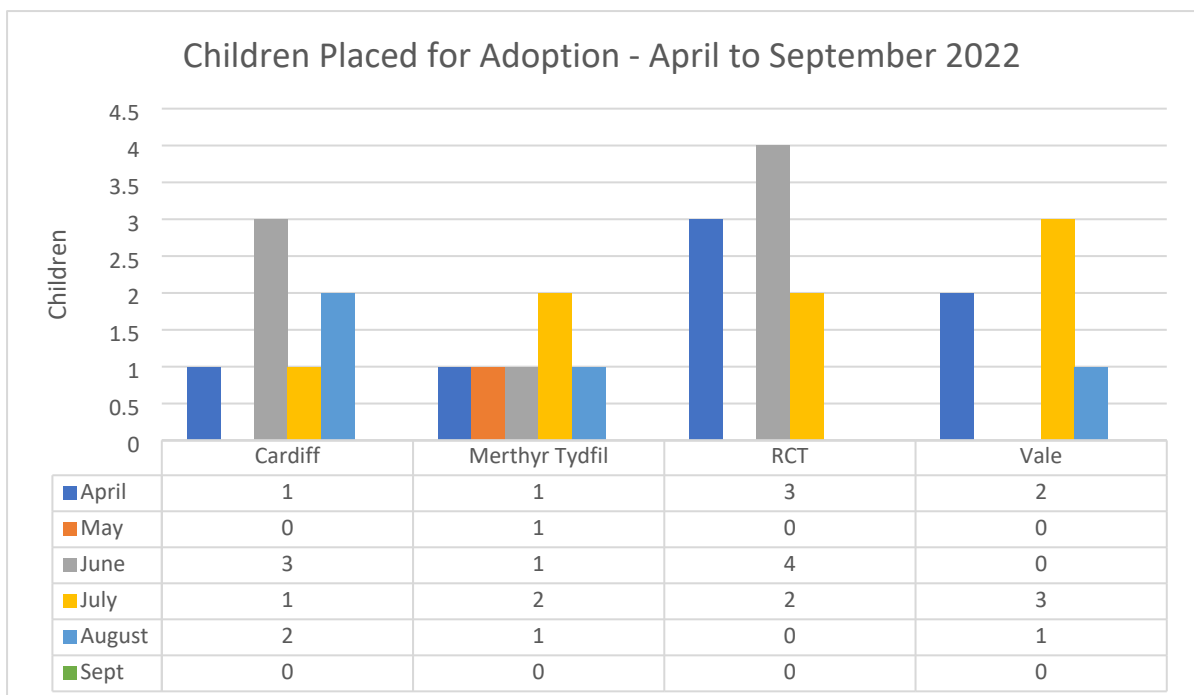
Placement Orders

33 Placement Orders were granted during the reporting period.



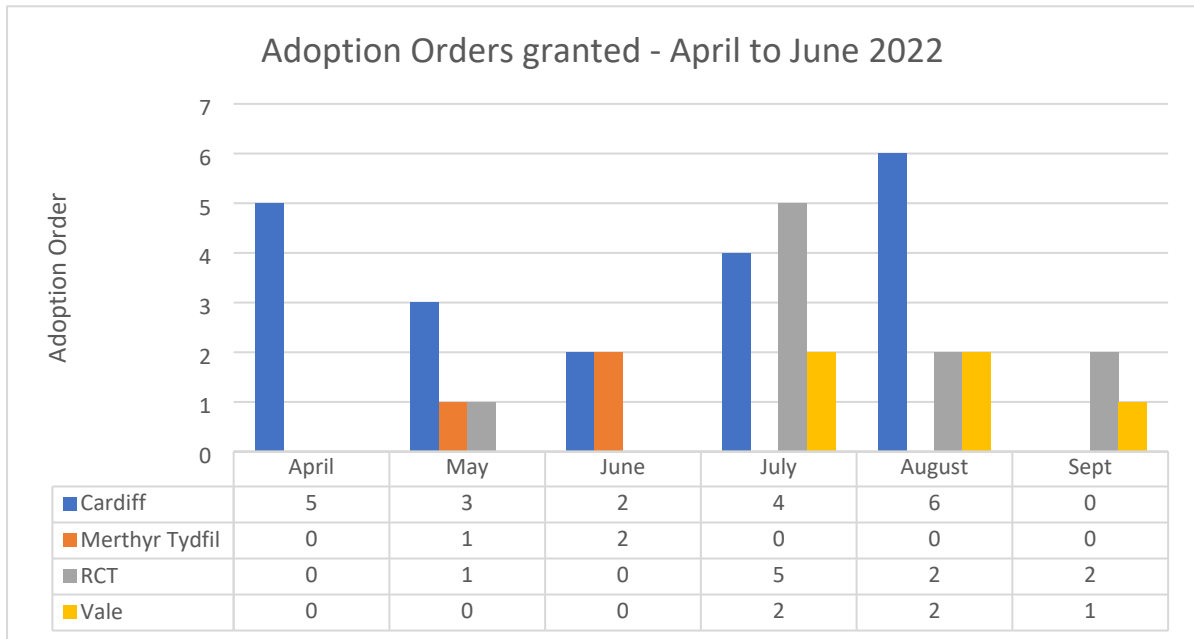
Children Placed

28 children were placed with their adoptive families during the reporting period.



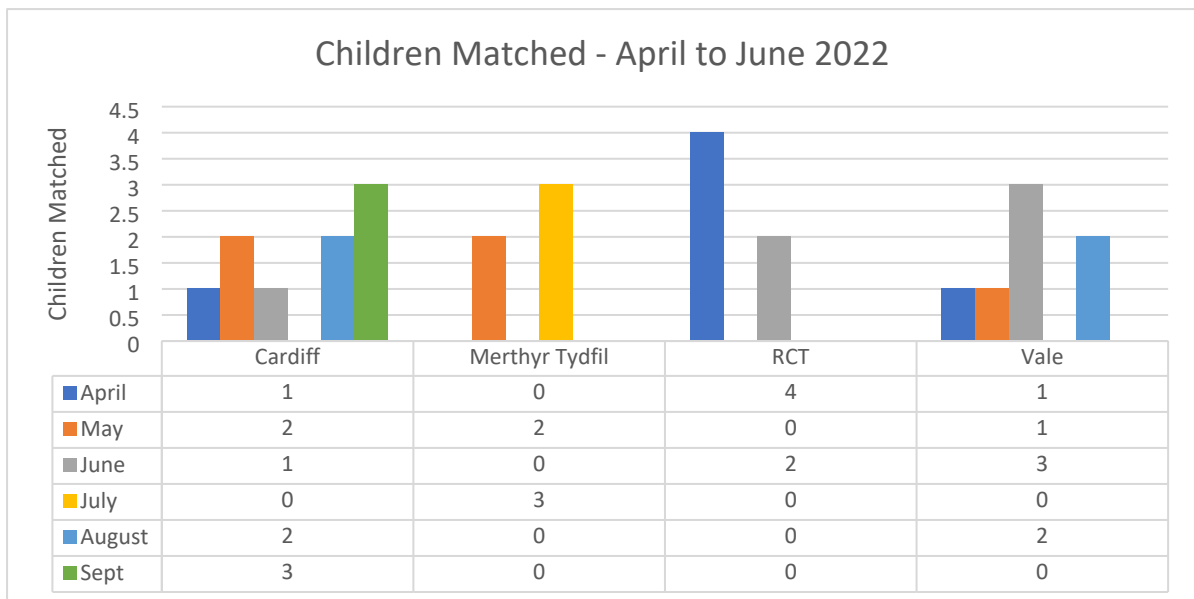
Adoption Orders

38 Adoption Orders were granted.



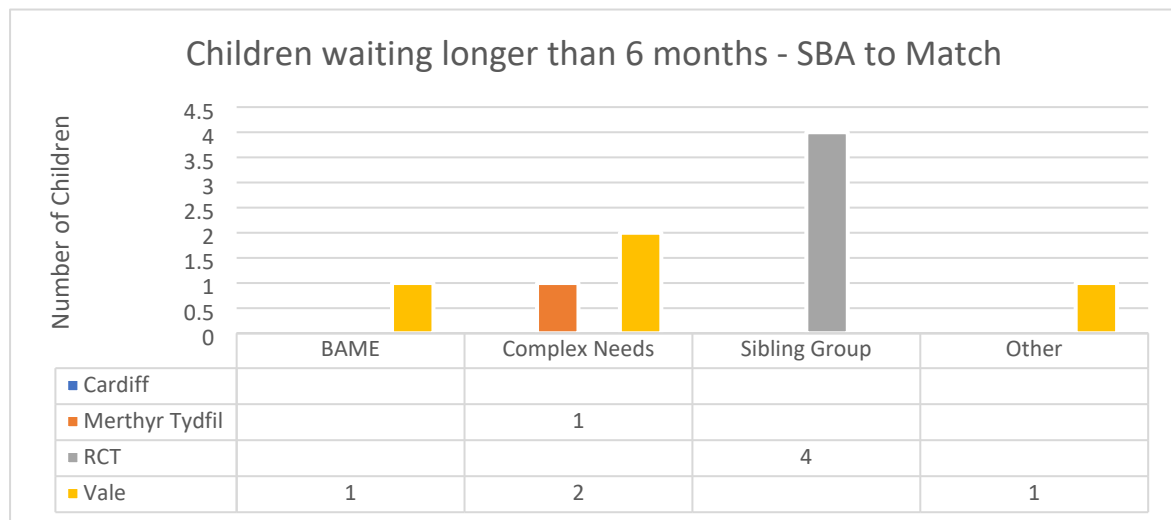
Children matched

27 children were matched during the period April to September 2022.



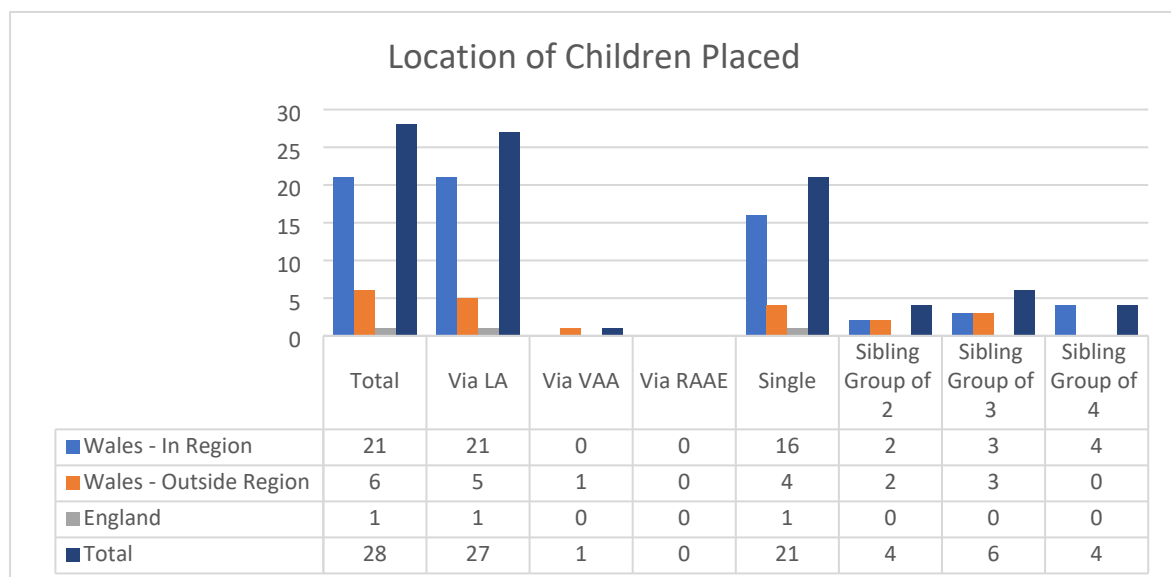
Number of children Matched since April 2021 who have waited longer than 6 months (or 3 months for a relinquished child under 6 months of age) to progress from "Should be placed for Adoption" decision to approve to Match

8 children waited longer than six months to progress from SBA to matched. Four children were part of a sibling group, three children have complex needs and one BAME child's prospective adopter withdrew at the point of introductions, so family finding has restarted.



Type of placement

75% of children were placed with VVC adopters. 21% of children were placed in Wales and 4% of children were placed in England.

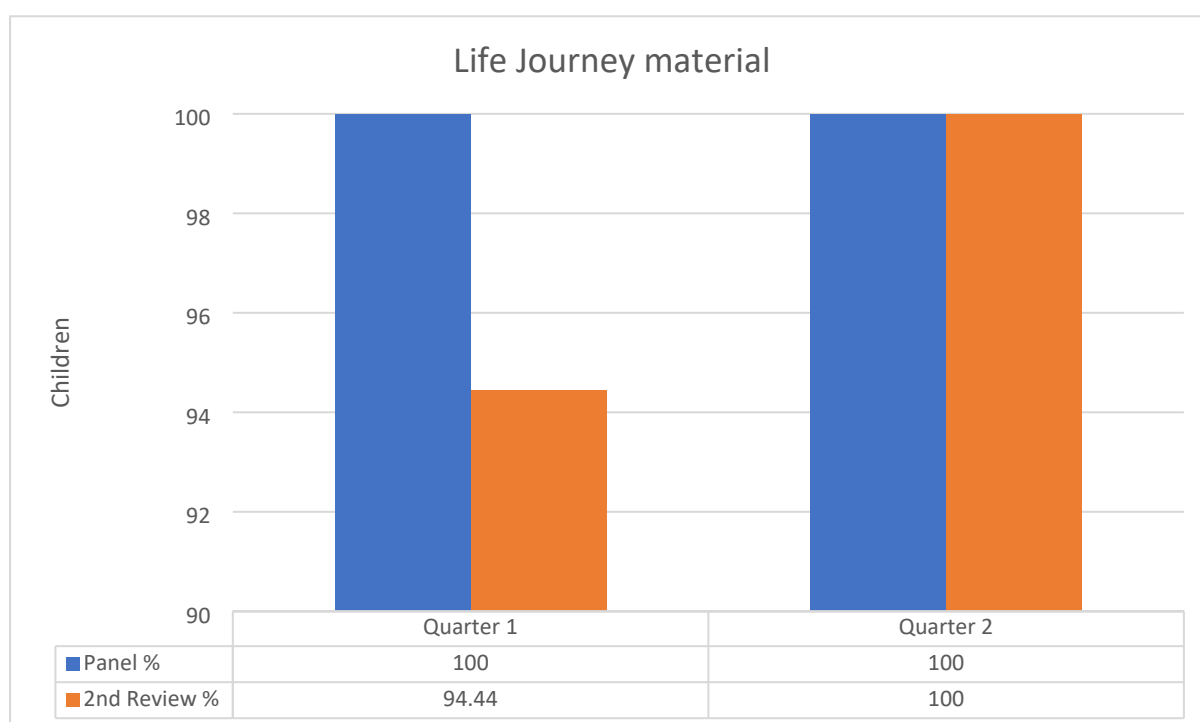


Life Journey

In the reporting period, **100%** of life journey material in draft format is made available at the time of panel. An improvement is observed in life journey material available at the point of 2nd Review when compared to previous year.

M20, M20A and M21 - Life Journey - Accumulated Data						
	Matches	LJ Materials	2nd Review	LJ Materials	Panel %	2nd Review %
Quarter 1	17	17	18	17	100	94.44
Quarter 2	10	10	10	10	100	100.00
Total	27	27	28	27	100	96.43

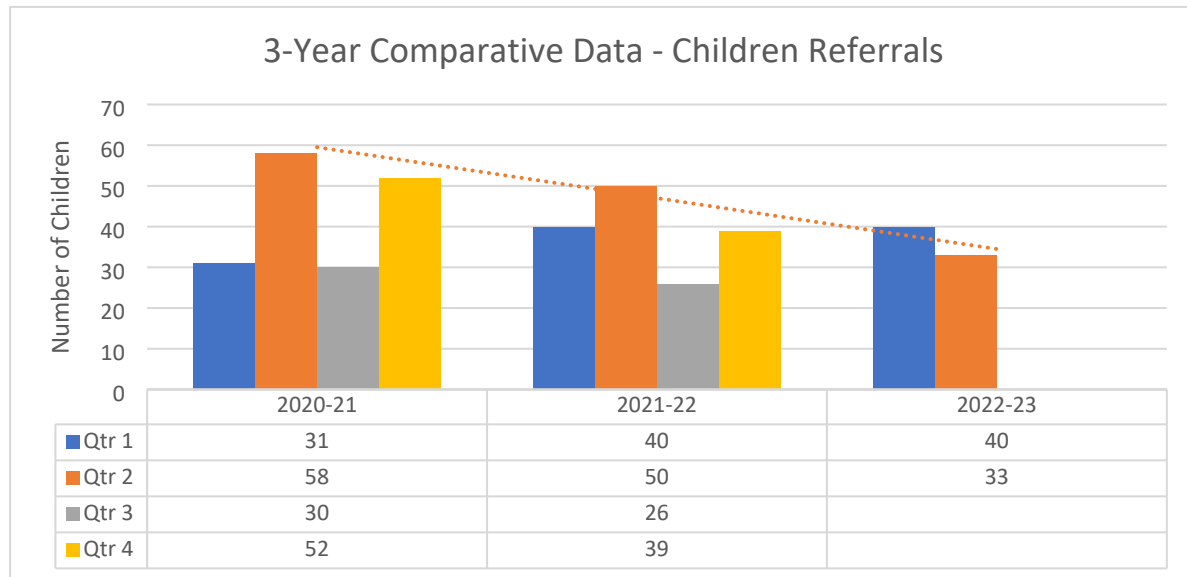
In Quarter 1, Merthyr Tydfil reported the delay in providing later life journey material at the point of 2nd Review because adopters were difficult to engage and needed prompting to approve the final draft of the life journey book.



Comparative Data April 2020 to September 2023

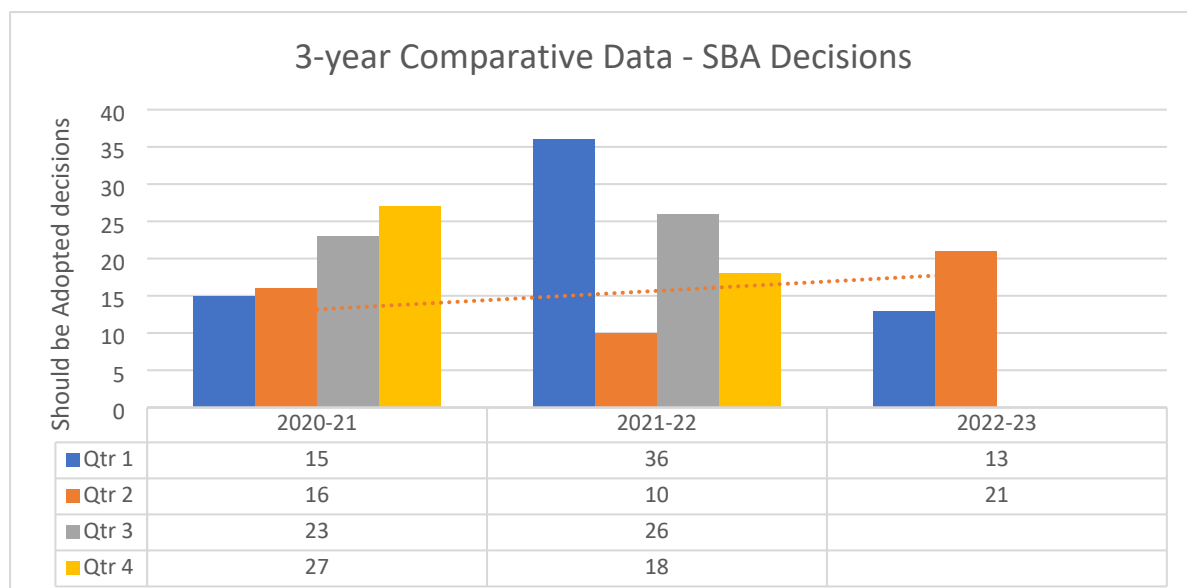
Referrals

Over the past three years, referrals to the service have remained stable. Nationally, for the same comparative period, other regions have reported a decrease in the number of referrals. When comparing referrals at the mid-year point of the year (April to September), an **18%** decrease is noted and is less than other regions. This trend will need to be monitored for the rest of the year to establish whether this is consistent with national trends.



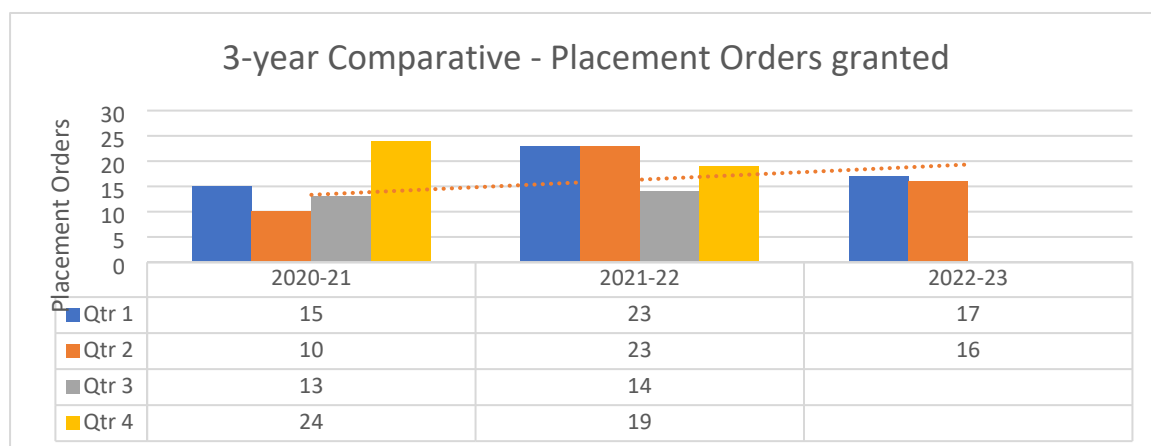
Should be Adopted

Should be Adopted decisions over the three-year period remain stable. When comparing data at mid-year point, a **9%** increase is observed when compared to 2020-21 and a **26%** decrease is observed when compared to 2021-22.



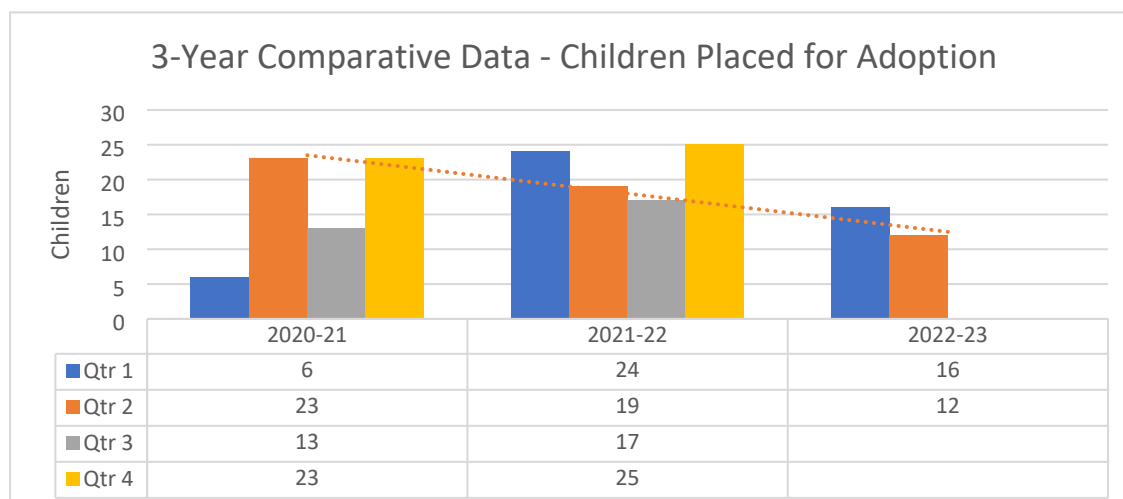
Placement Orders

VVC observed a slight decline in placement orders in around 2019/2020 but not as significantly as being felt across Wales at present. Our rates of Placement Orders within VVC remain consistent albeit with a larger cohort of these from Cardiff rather than the other local authorities. Cardiff's referral rates remain steady into the adoption service at present. The Vale of Glamorgan noted a decline in care proceedings over the past year although report that recently these have been increasing again. Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr Tydfil both report a change in the way they are working under PLO/pre-birth and that this has been having an impact. Merthyr advise that they have seen a decrease in the rate of children becoming looked after linked to a number of service developments. RCT note the work being undertaken in assessment pre-proceedings including parent and child placements but are mindful that these are situations which inevitably involve risk management and there could be an increase in referrals to adoption if alternative care arrangements are not sustainable.



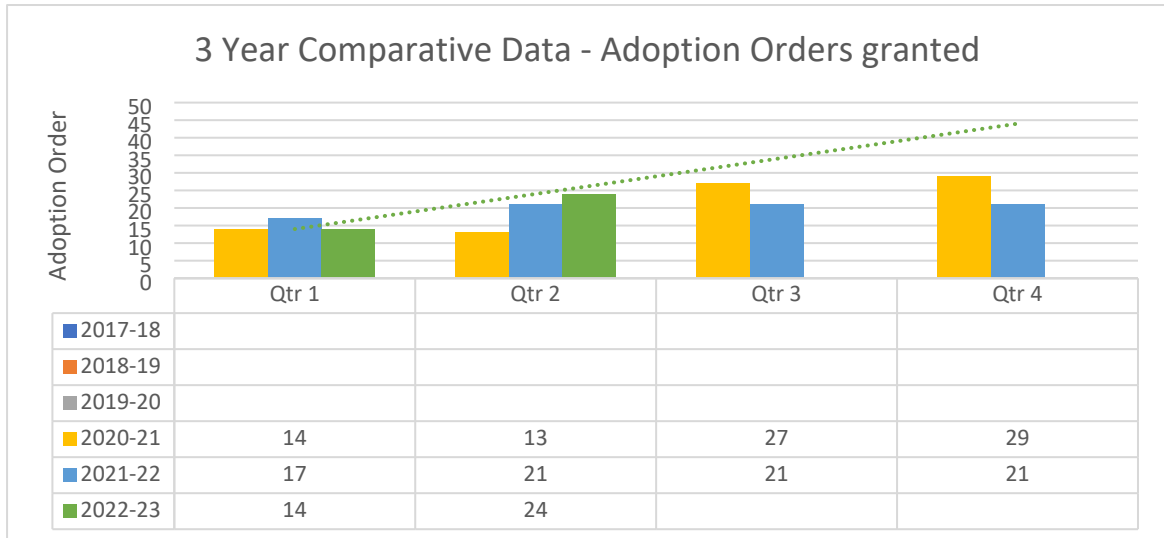
Children placed

A noted decrease (34%) is noted when compared to the same period in previous year. This is consistent with the decrease in the number of children waiting.



Adoption Orders

An increase in the number of Adoption Orders granted is observed when compared to previous years.



Children matched

A downward trend is noted in the number of children matched, which is consistent when considering the number of children waiting.

