



Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Adoption Collaborative
Quarter 2 Performance Report 2022-23
Position as of 30 September 2022

Introduction

This report provides an overview of Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Adoption Collaborative (VVC) performance against key indicators in respect of children and adopter as agreed by the Regional Management Board.

Raw data held by the four local authorities and the regional collaborative has been used to provide an overview of performance for the six-month reporting period. The report looks specifically at the performance priorities for children, life-journey work, and adopters.

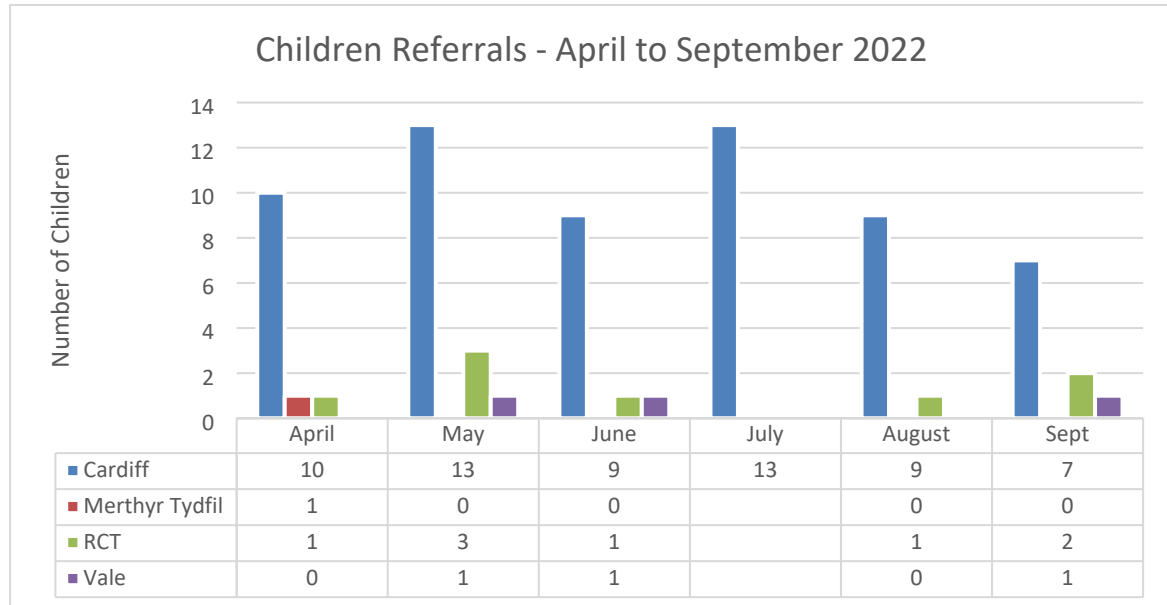
Key headlines (April to June 2022):

- ❖ **28** children placed
- ❖ **75%** children have been placed with VVC adopters
- ❖ **100%** of Life Journey material available at point of matching panel.
- ❖ **98** initial enquiries
- ❖ **30** adopters approved

Children

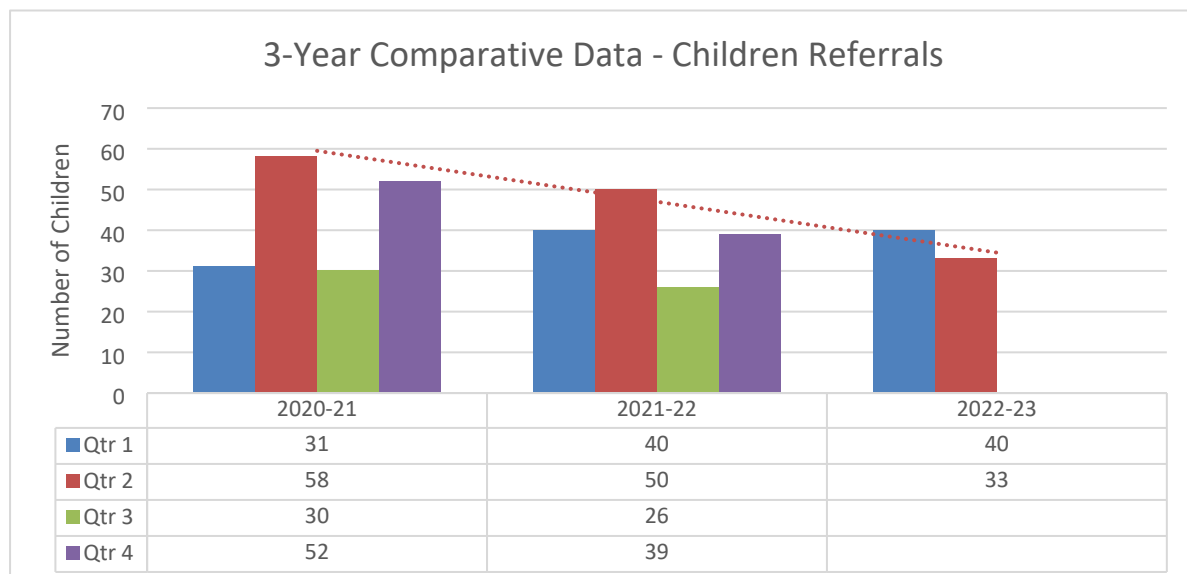
Referrals

73 referrals have been received during the reporting period.



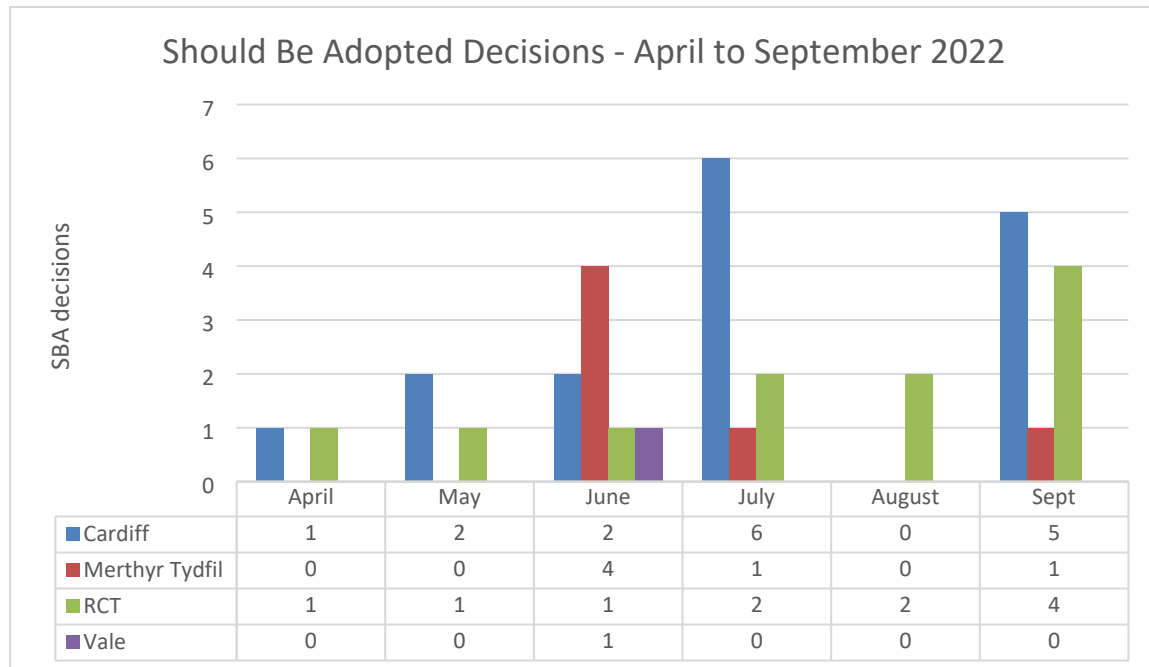
Comparative Data

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.



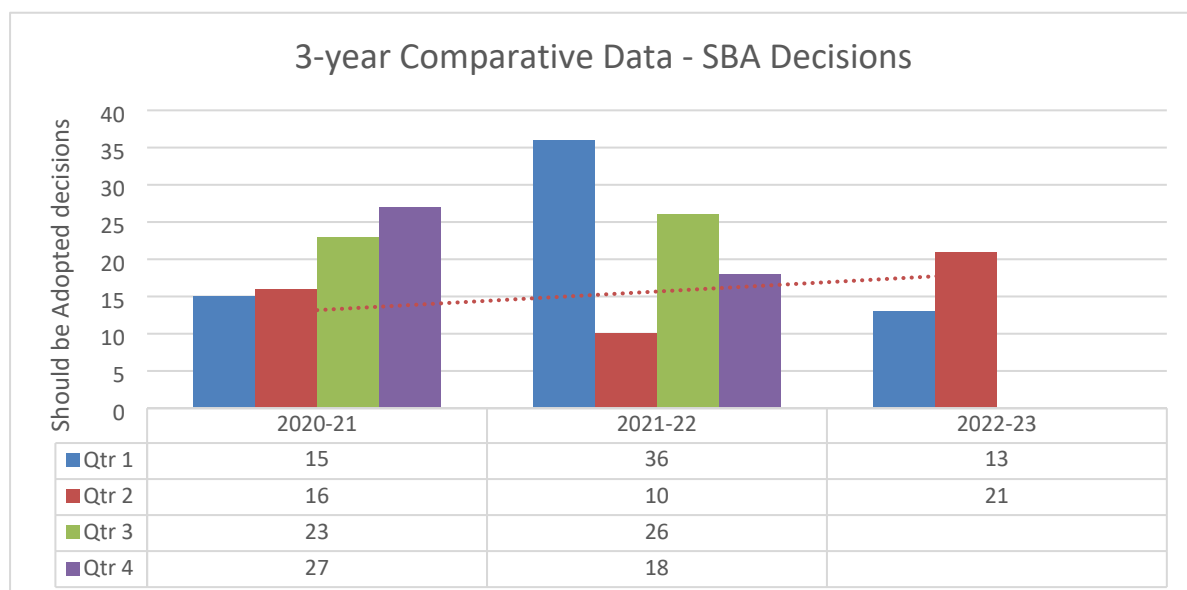
Should be Adopted Decisions

34 SBA decisions were made during the first half year.



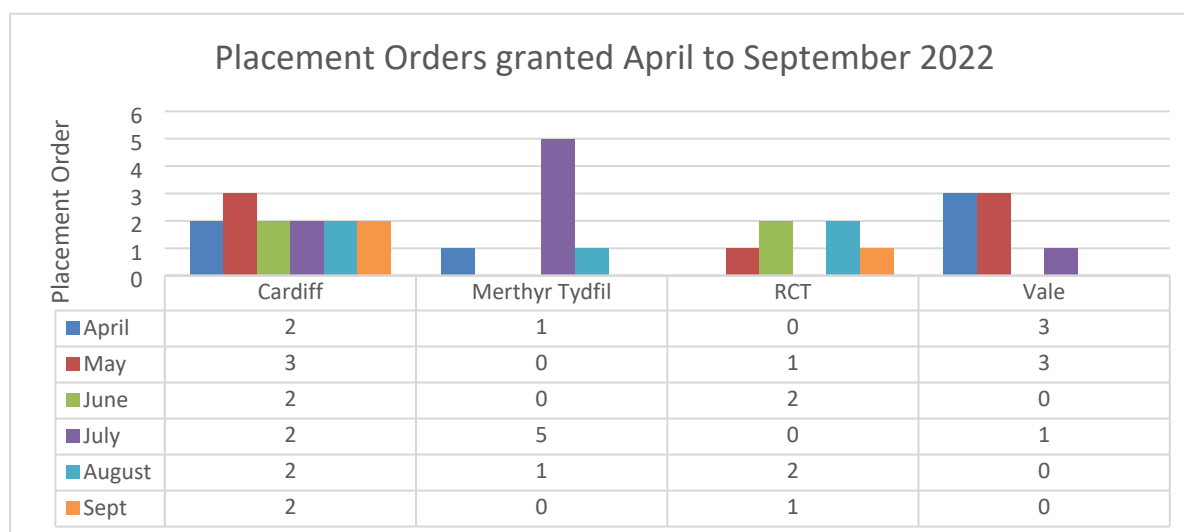
Comparative Data

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.



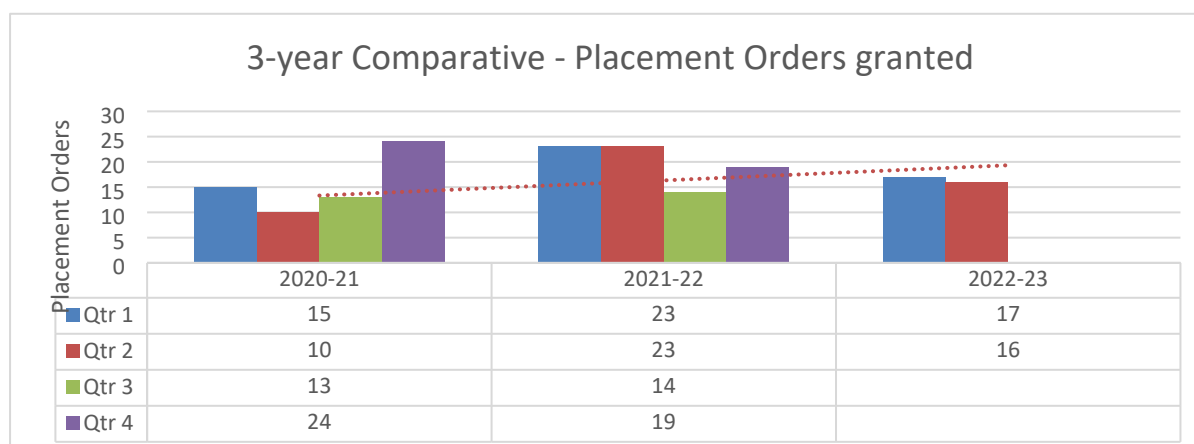
Placement Orders

33 Placement Orders were granted during the reporting period.



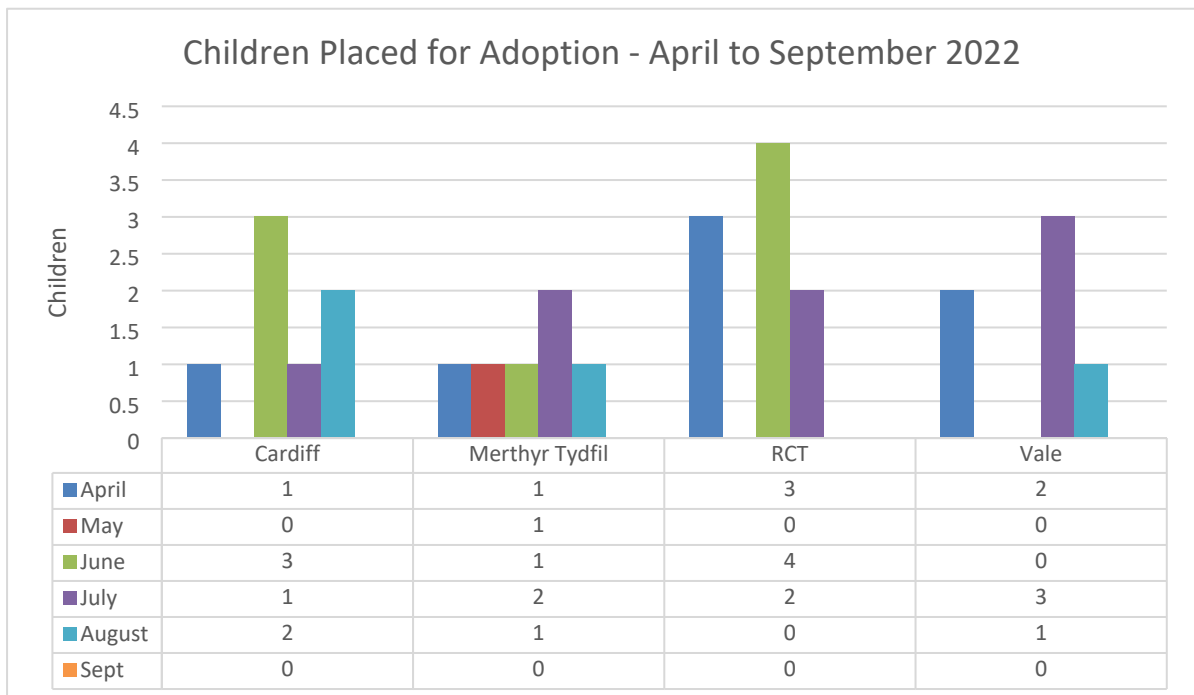
Comparative Data

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 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.



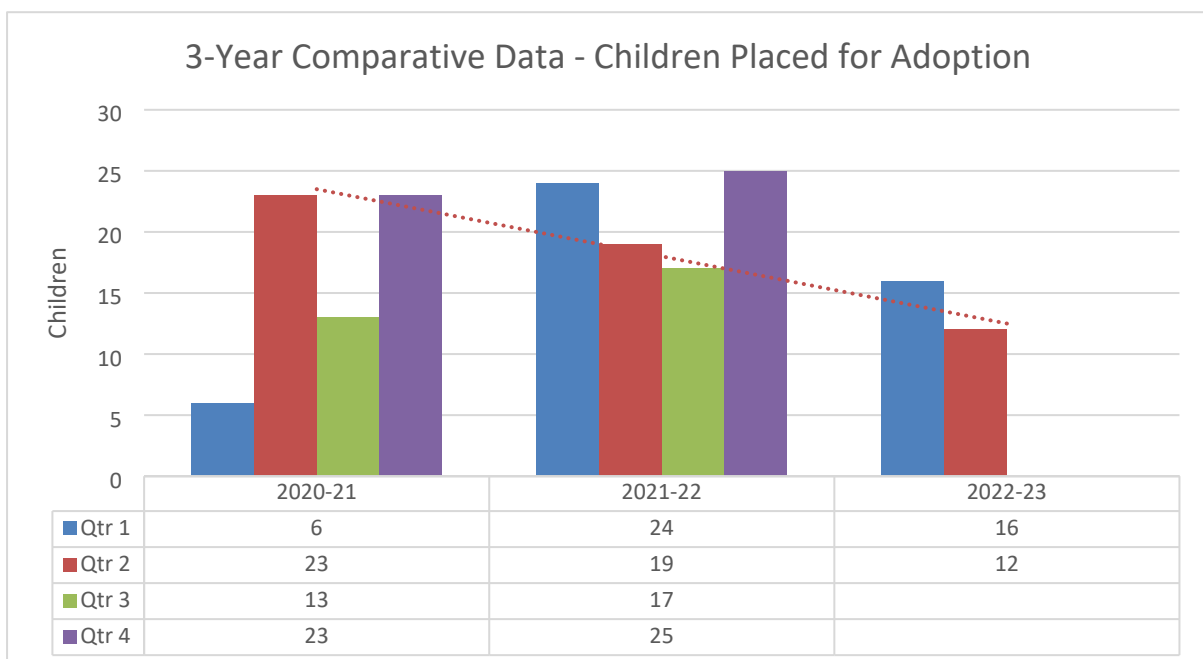
Children Placed

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



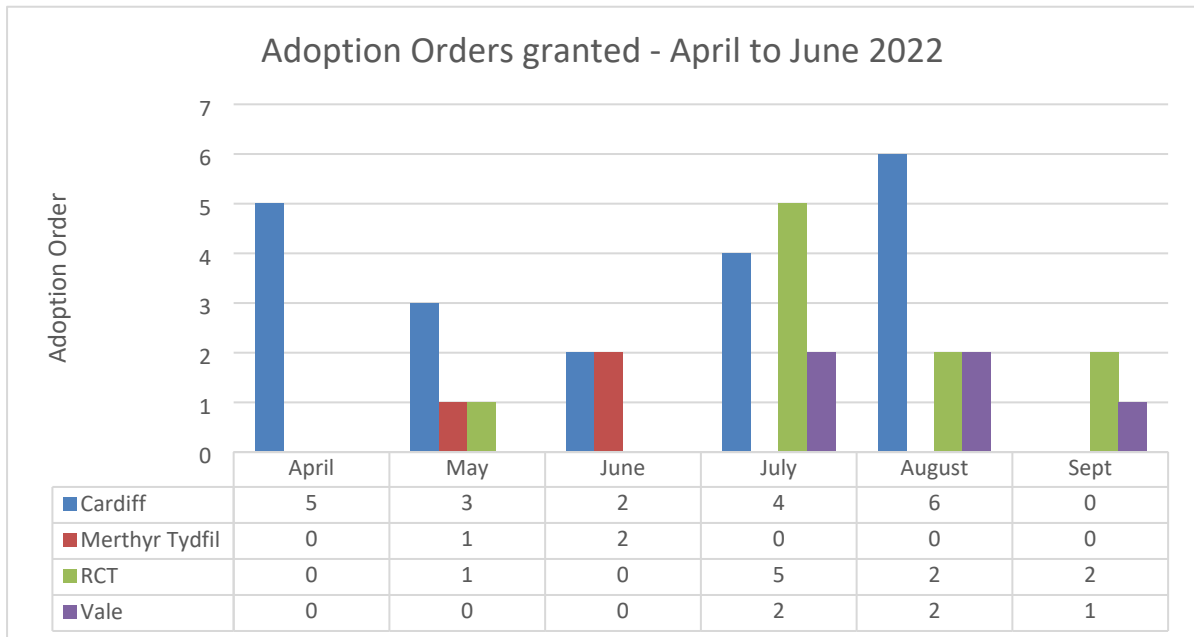
Comparative Data

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.



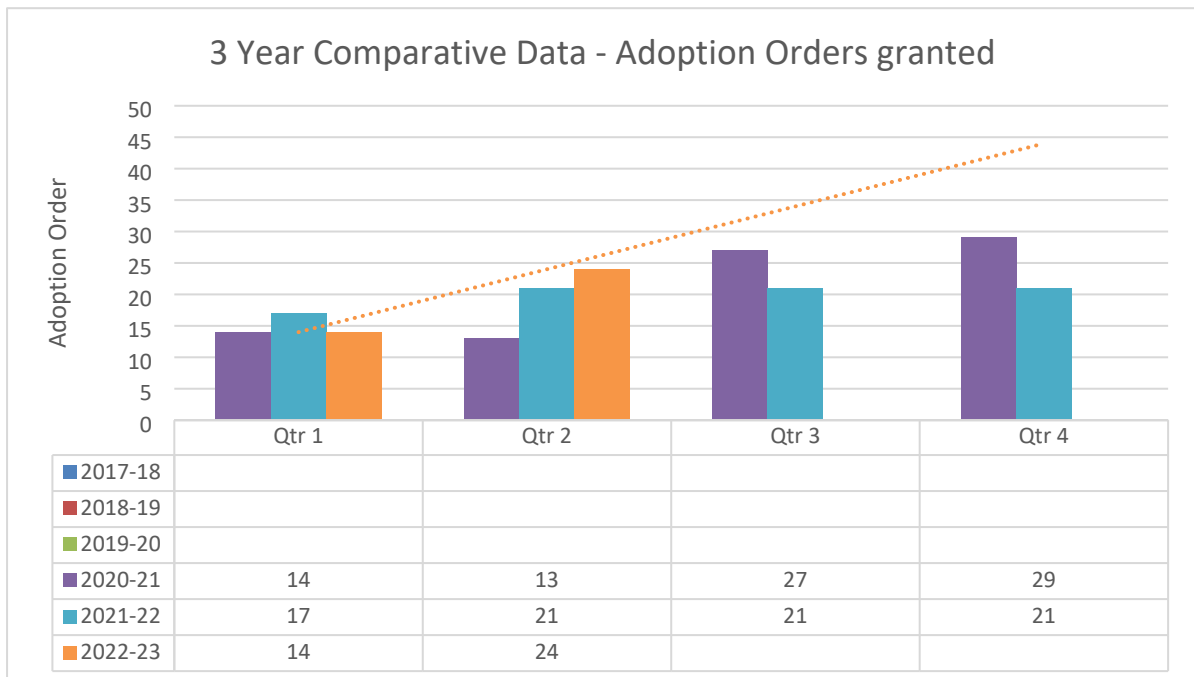
Adoption Orders

38 Adoption Orders were granted.



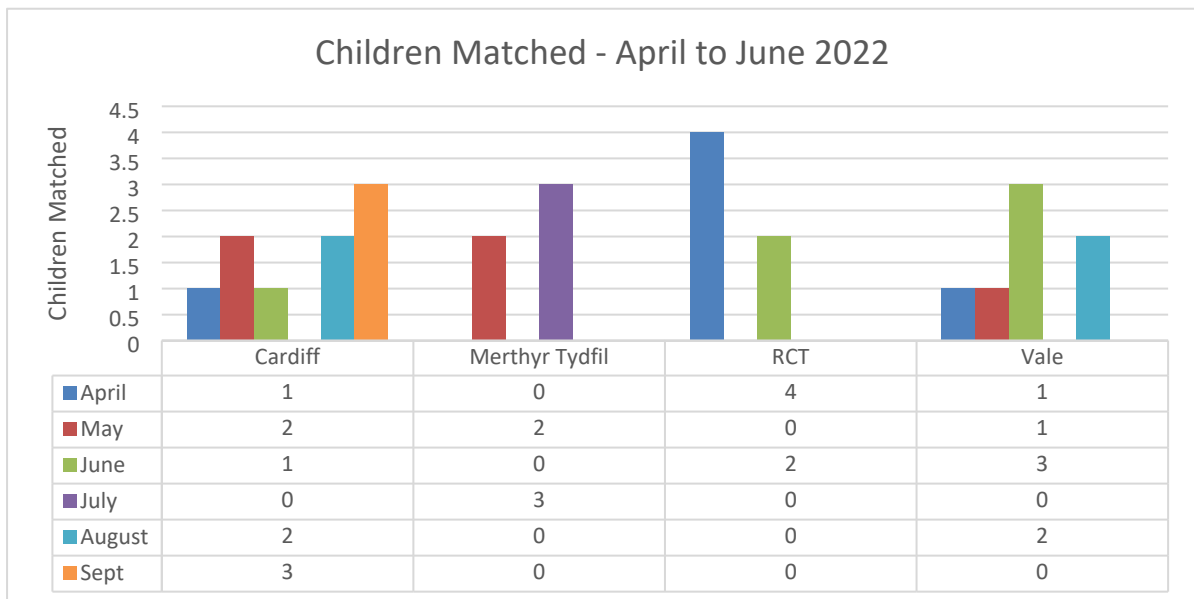
Comparative Data

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



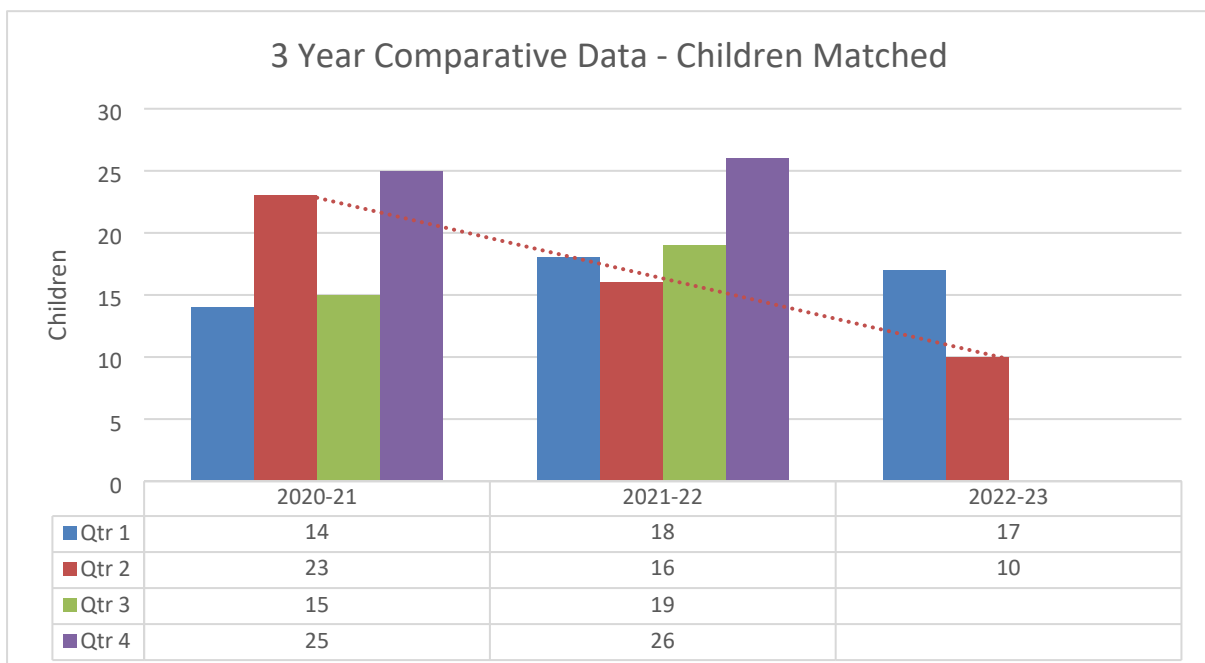
Children matched

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



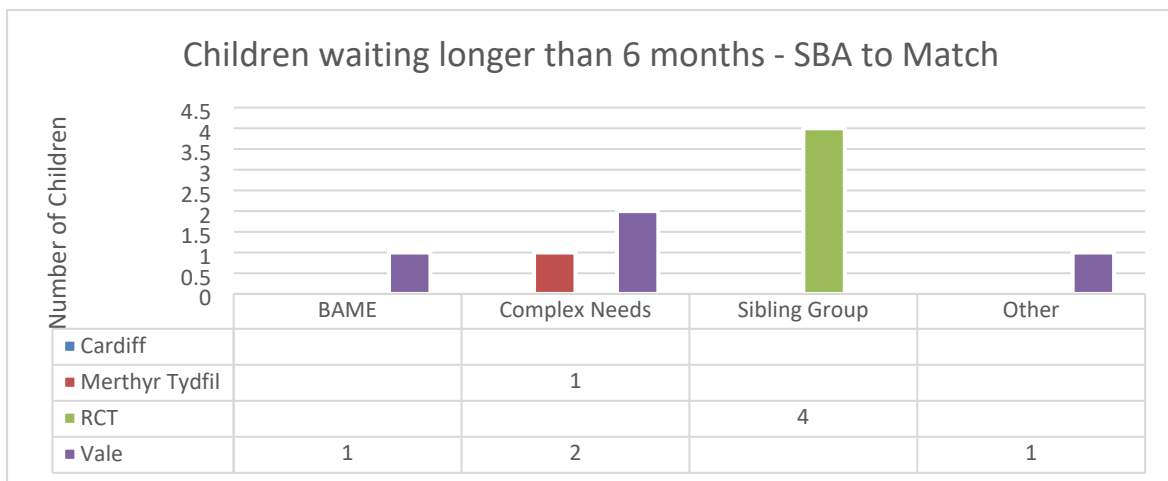
Comparative Data

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



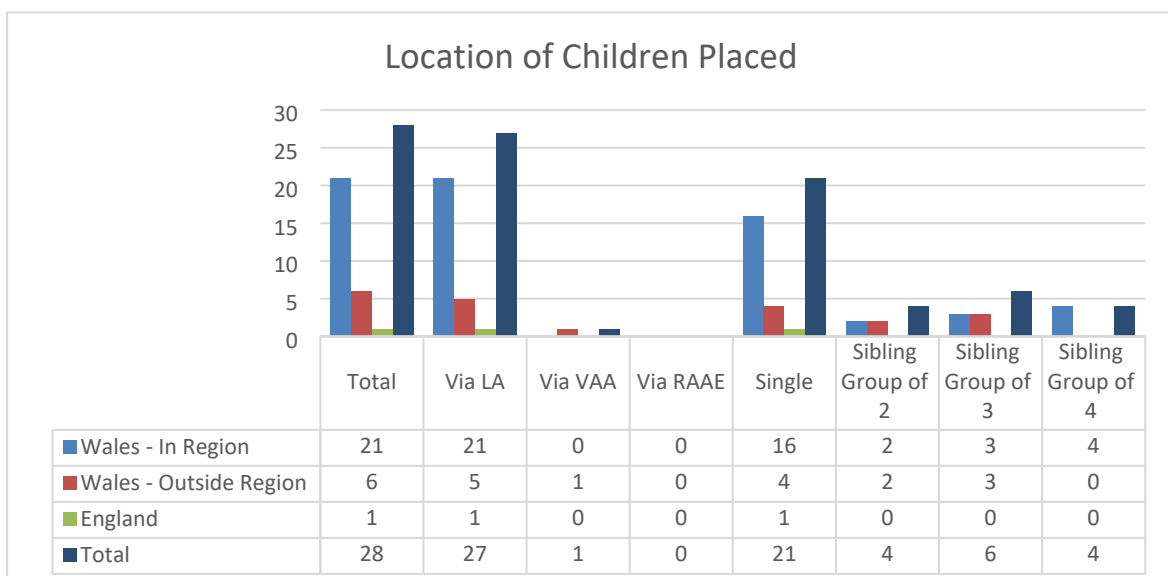
Number of children Matched since April 2021 who have waited longer than 6 months (or 3 months for a relinquished child under 6 months of age) to progress from "Should be placed for Adoption" decision to approve to Match

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.

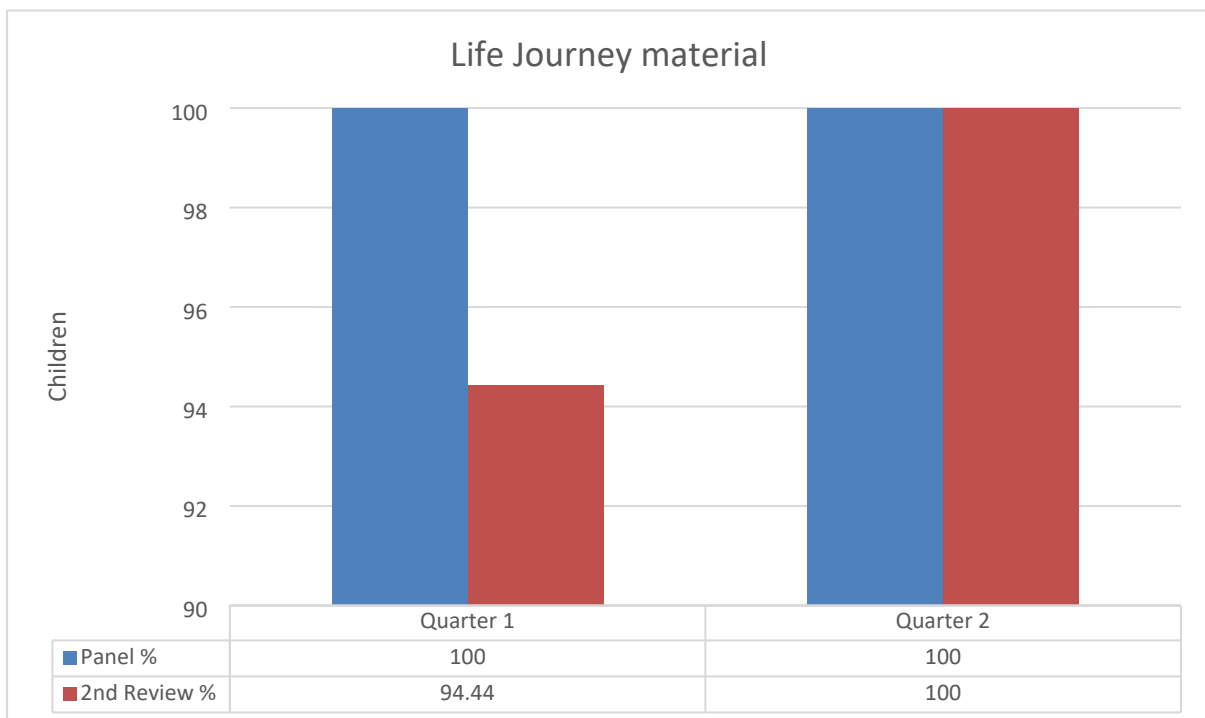


Life Journey

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

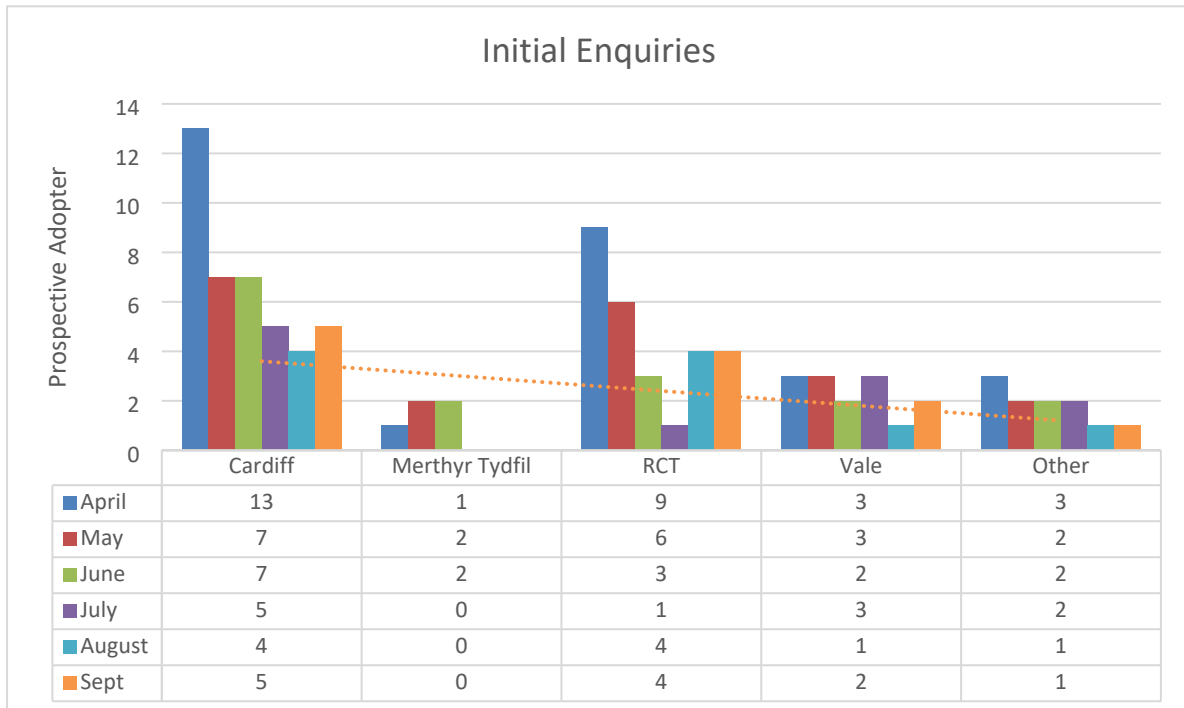
In Quarter 1, Merthyr Tydfil reported the delay in providing later life journey material at the point of 2nd Review because adopters were difficult to engage and needed prompting to approve the final draft of the life journey book.



Adopters

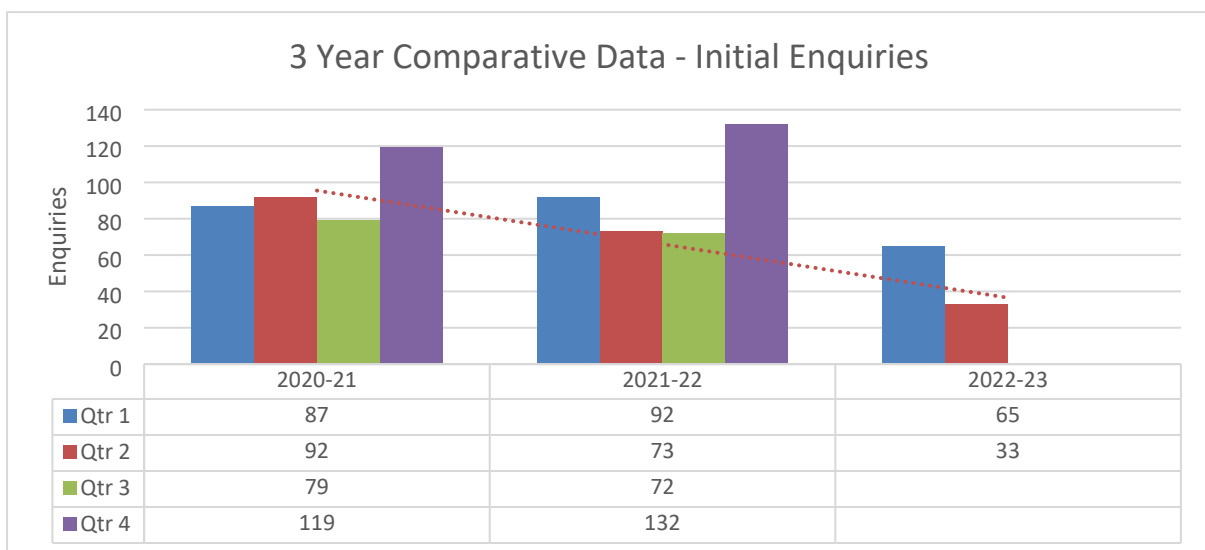
Initial Enquiries

98 enquiries over the six-month period.



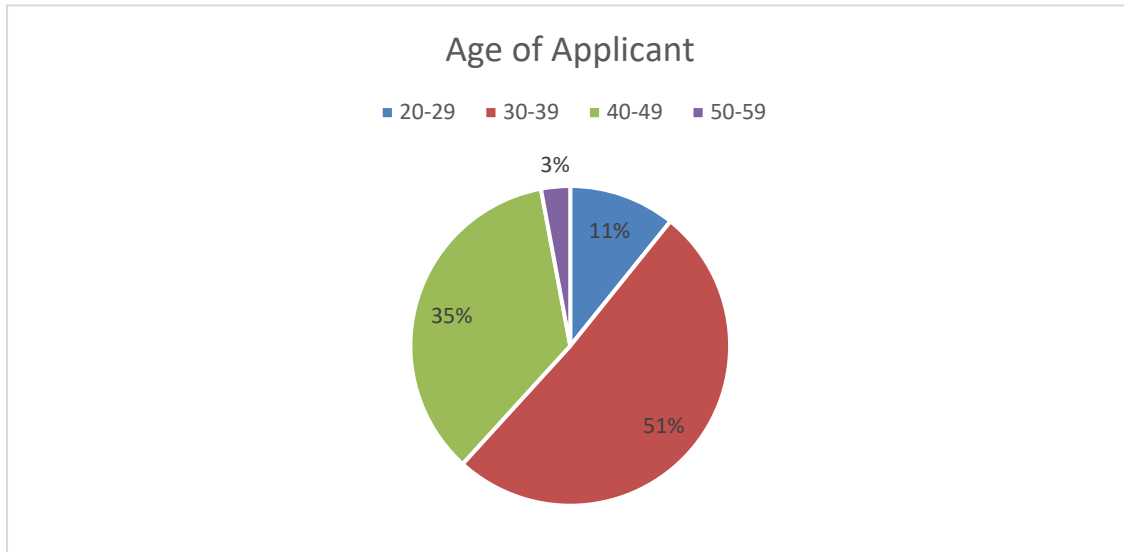
Comparative Data

A national trend has been observed over the past year in the number of enquiries for adoption. VVC however, are only just starting to see a reduction in the number of enquiries received.



Age

Of the 98 enquiries, **51%** are aged between 30-39 and **35%** are aged between 40-49.



Ethnicity

84% of all applicants identify as WHITE. **6%** of applicants identify as BBAC, ASAB or MIXD.

Definitions are taken from Children looked after census 2021-22, Office for Statistics, Welsh Government as follows:

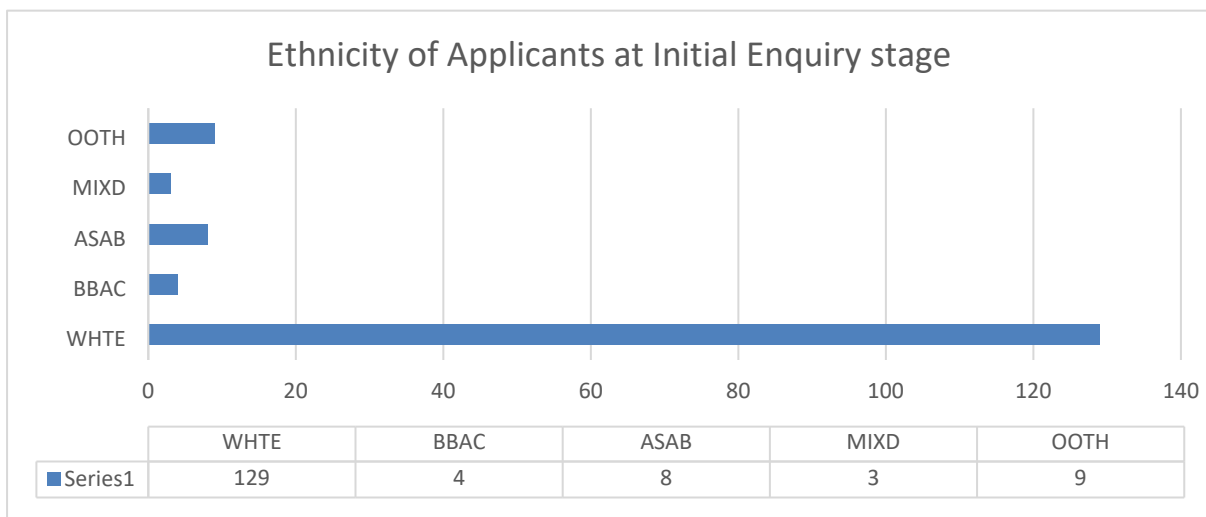
WHITE - White

MIXD - Mixed ethnic groups

ASAB – Asian or Asian British

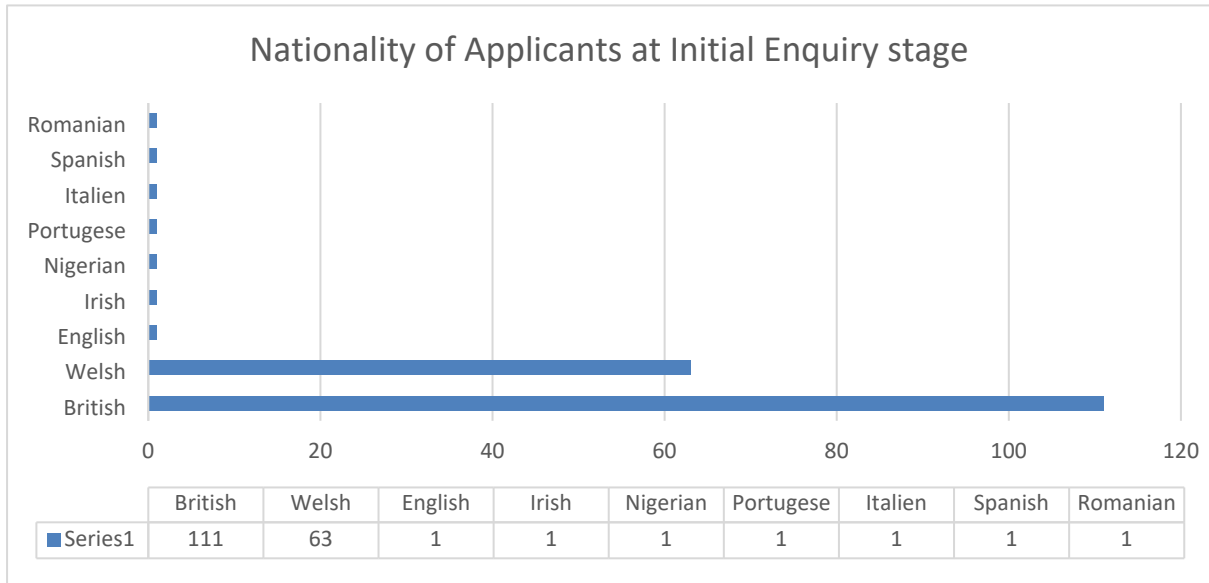
BBAC – Black, African, Caribbean or Black British

OOH - Other ethnic group



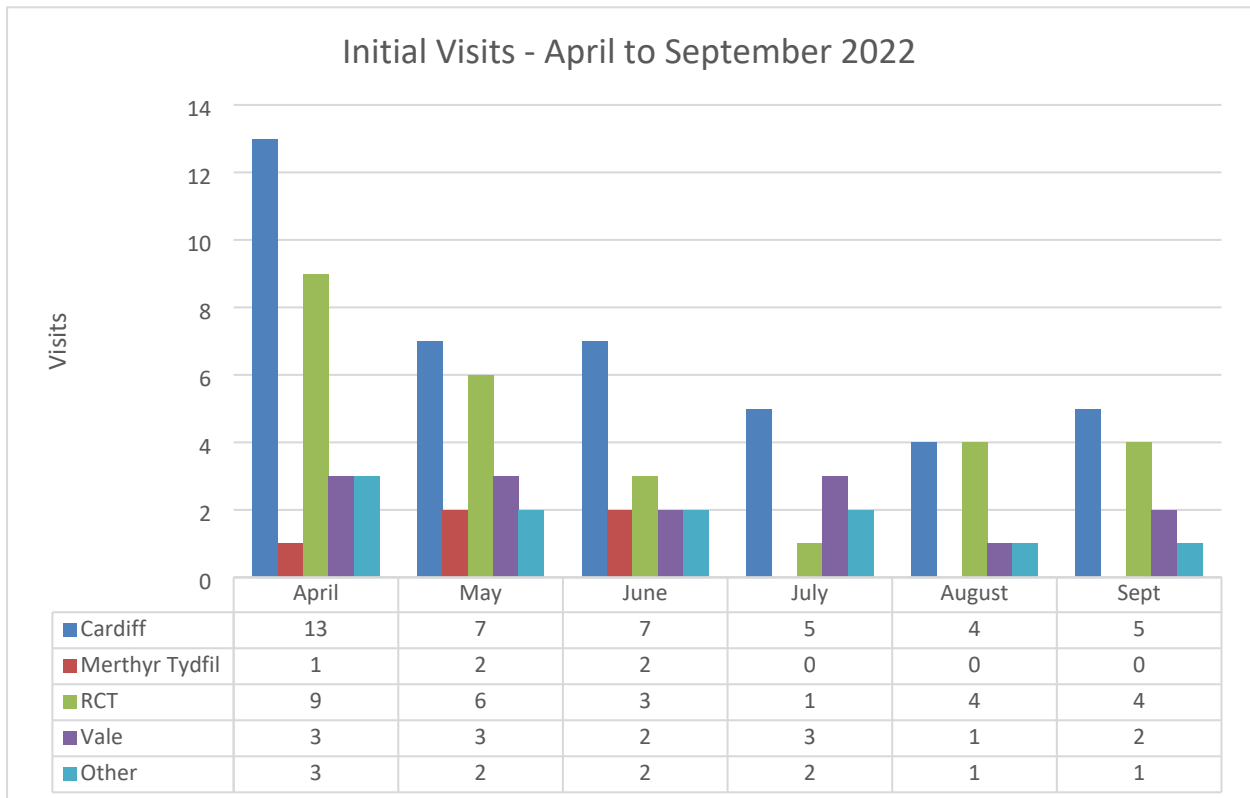
Nationality

61% of applicants disclose they are British, **35%** disclosed they are Welsh and **4%** disclosed other nationalities.



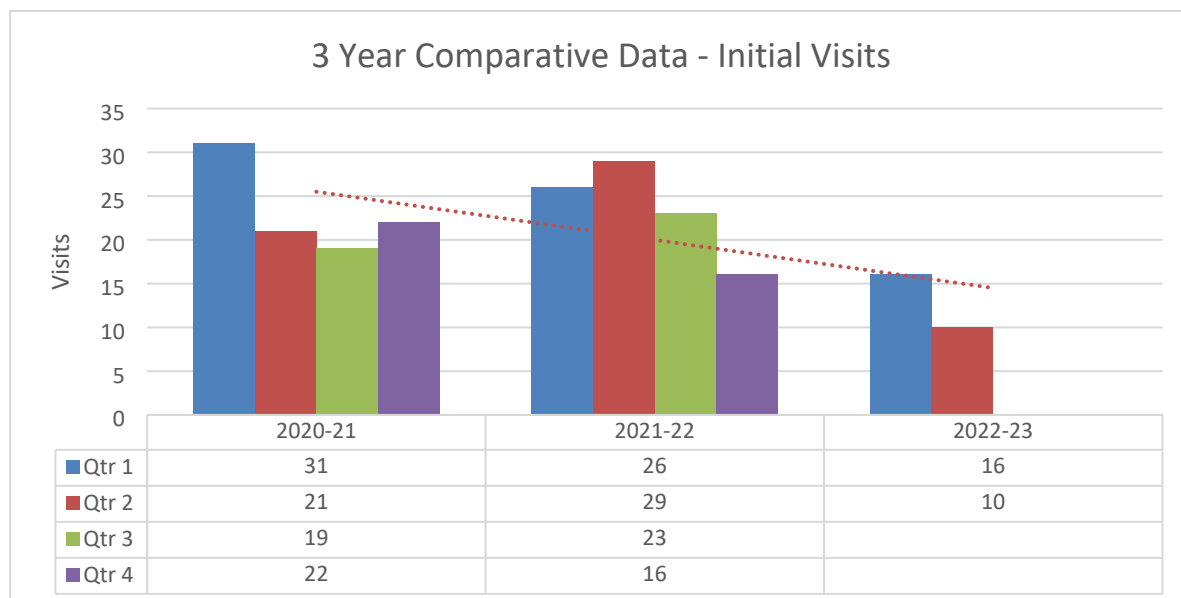
Initial Visits

26 initial visits were carried out during the reporting period.



Comparative Data

Comparison of data held over the three years at the mid-year point indicate a year-on-year decrease (**50%**) in the number of initial visits being carried out. This is, however, consistent with the number of enquiries being received.

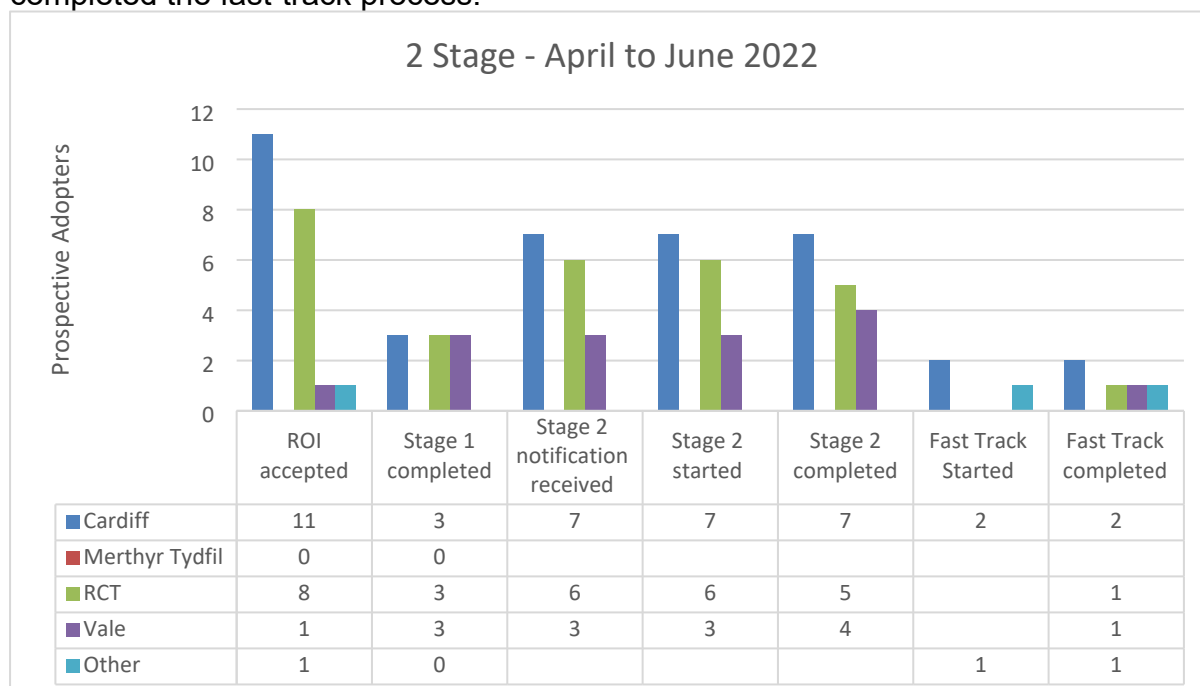


2 stage model

21 Registrations of Interest were received during the reporting period.

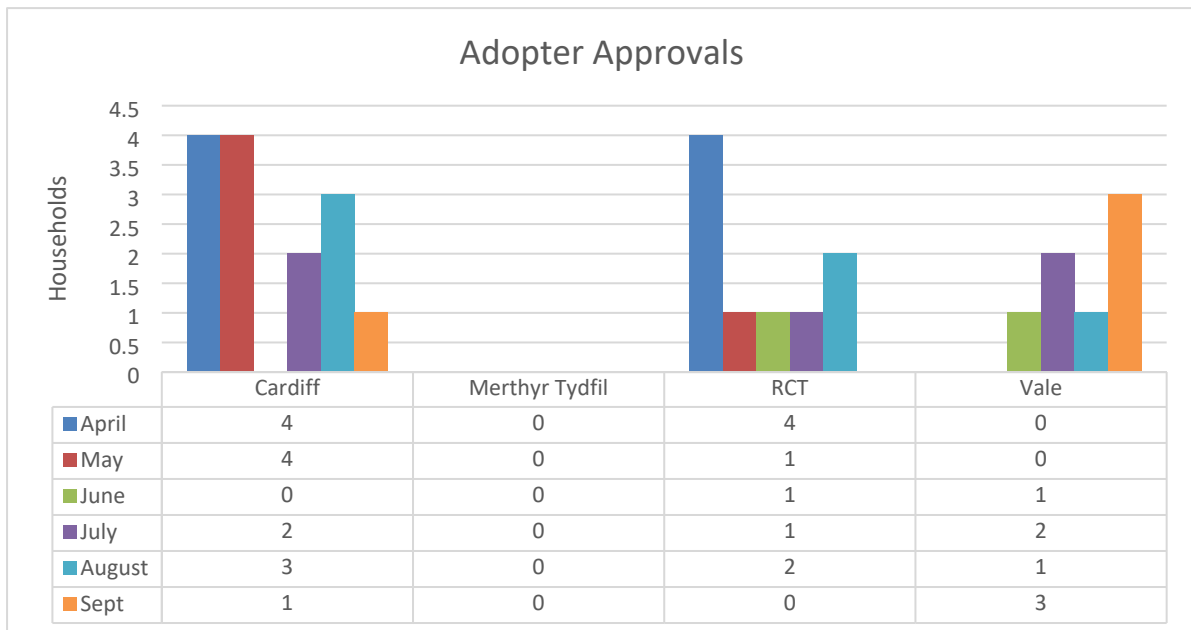
9 prospective adopters completed Stage 1 of the process and progressed to Stage 2.

3 prospective adopters fast-tracked their application, and **5** prospective adopters completed the fast-track process.



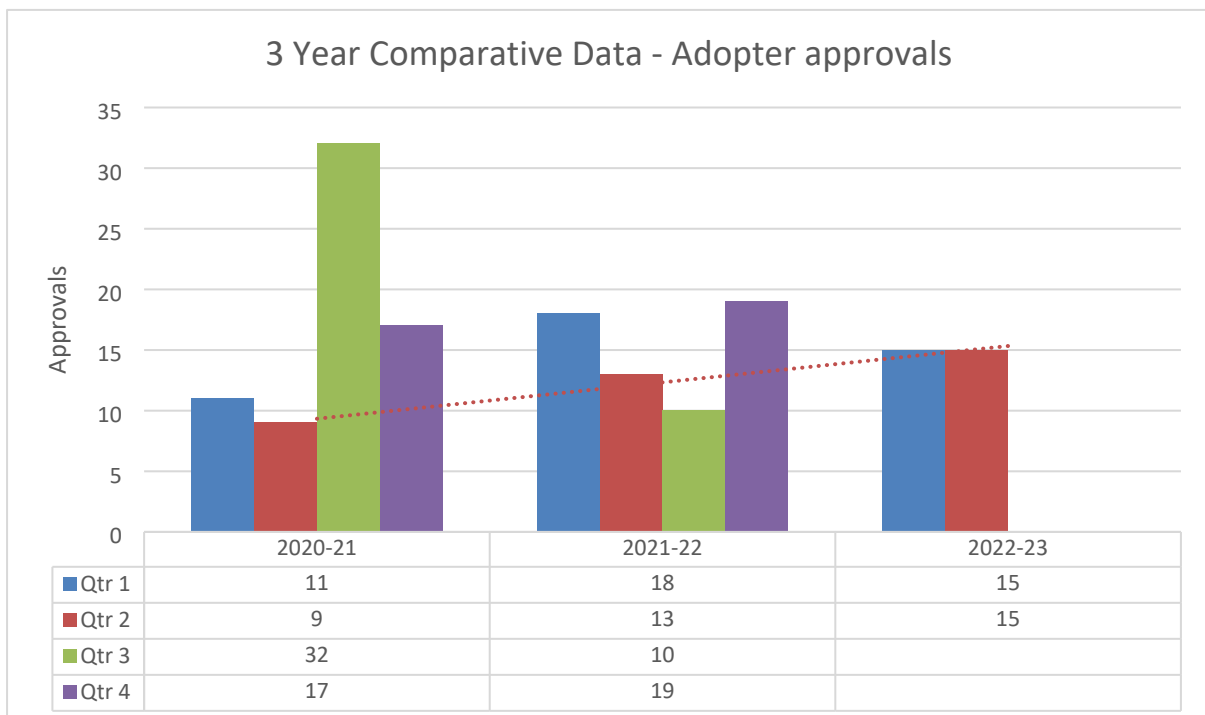
Adopter Approvals

30 adopters have been approved during the reporting period.



Comparative Data

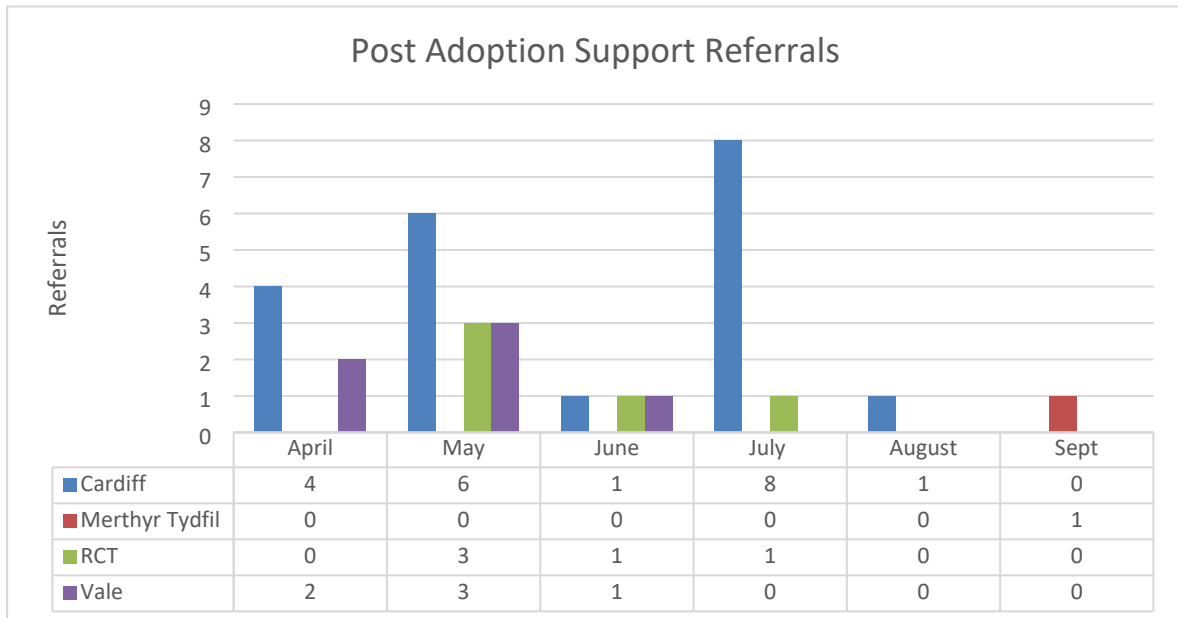
Adopter approvals for the first half of year remain stable when compared to 2021-22, with an increase in approval when compared to the same period in 2020-21.



Adoption Support

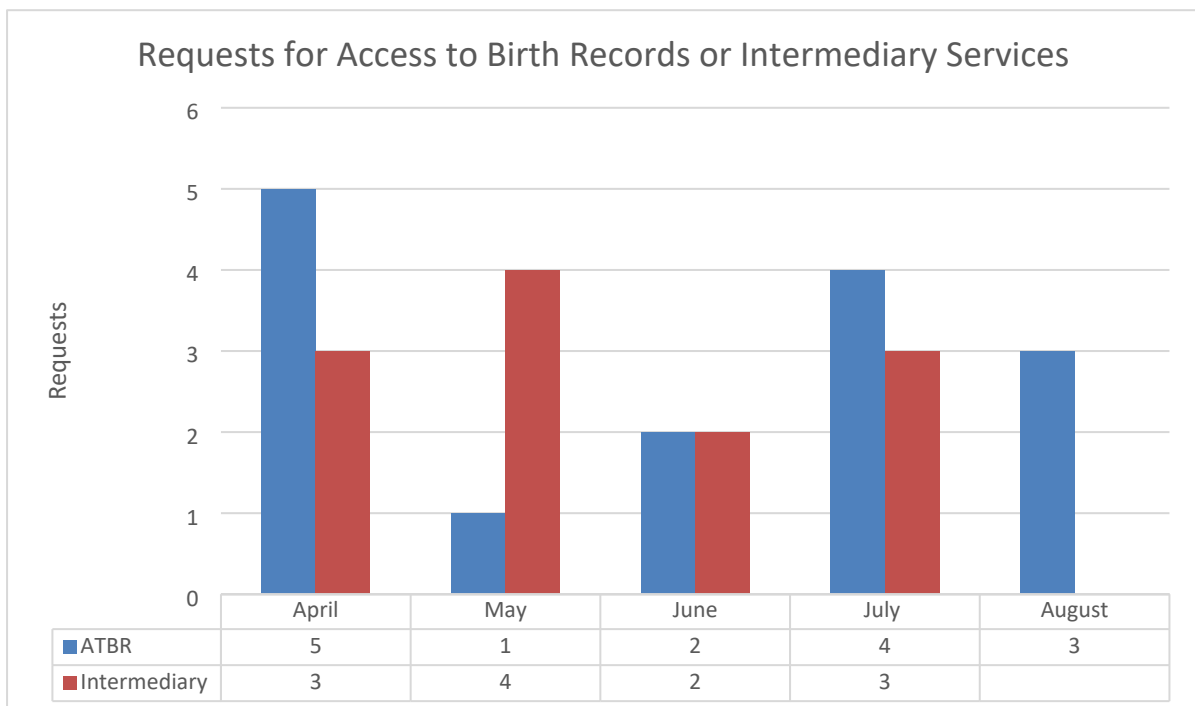
Referrals

32 new referrals for Post Adoption Support were received during the reporting period.



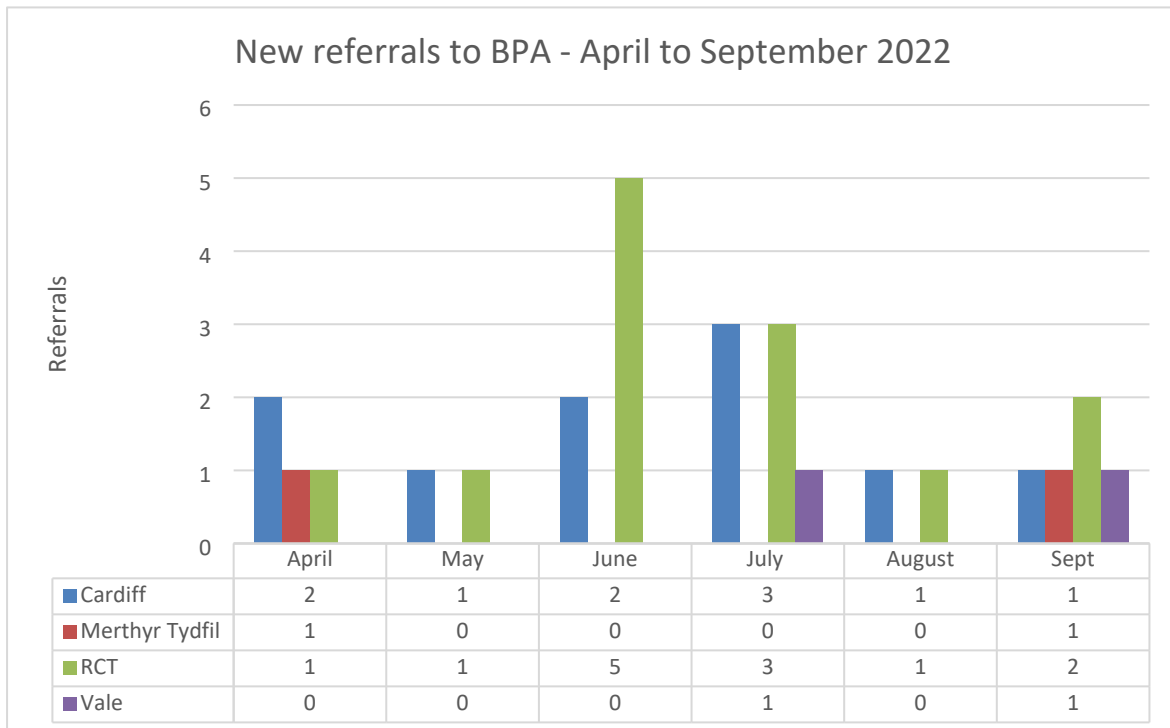
Access to Birth Records and Intermediary Services

27 referrals were received for Access to Birth Records and Intermediary Services.



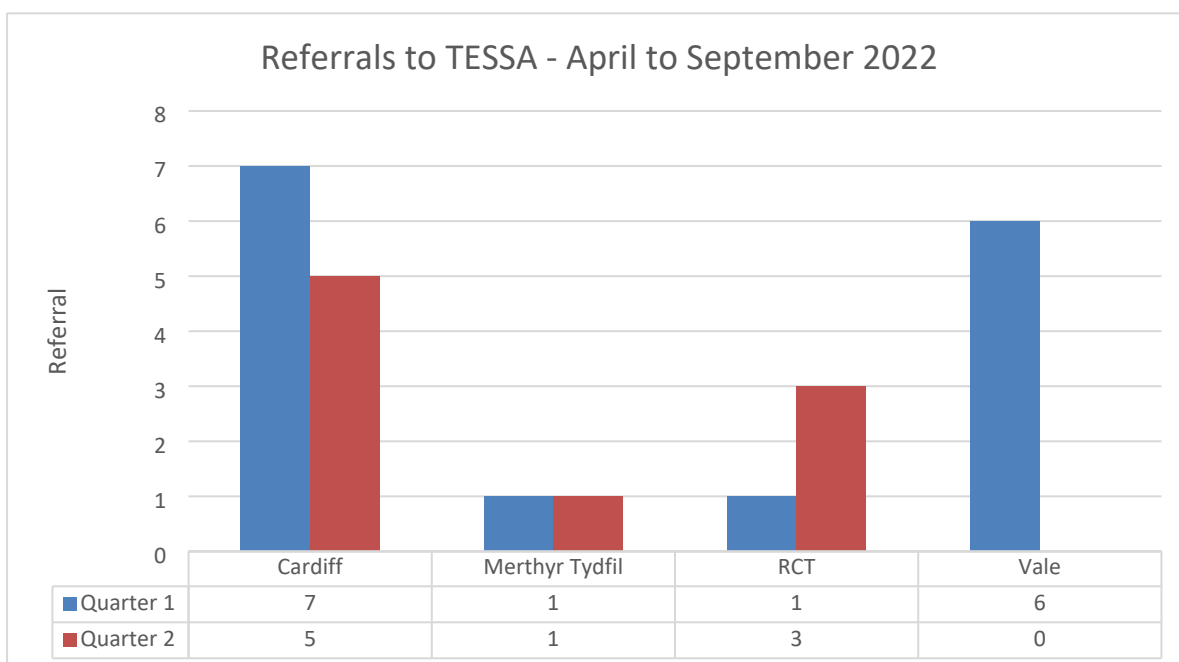
Birth Parent Adviser

27 new referrals to the Birth Parent Adviser were received during the reporting period.



TESSA

15 new referrals to TESSA were made during the period April to September 2022.



Financial Expenditure

26 children were approved by local authority for therapeutic packages.

