



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Removing profit from the care of children who are looked after – transition to a not-for-profit model

Report 3 – July 2026

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Introduction

- i. The former Health and Social Care Committee published its Stage 1 report on the then Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill on 11 October 2024. Recommendation 9 of that report stated:

The Minister should prepare and publish a report on progress with the transition to a not-for-profit model. This should include an update, by local authority, on the number of places leaving the market and the number of new places created and should reflect on the stability of existing places. It should also include details of the consultation with children and young people directly affected by the Bill and the numbers taking up the active offer of advocacy. This should be done at six monthly intervals, starting from the date of the Stage 1 debate.

- ii. The then Minister for Children and Social Care accepted this recommendation and committed to publishing a six-monthly progress report. The first six-monthly report [was published in May 2025](#) and, where available, set out the position as of 31 March 2025. A second report was subsequently [published in November 2025](#), setting out the position as of 30 September 2025, where updated data was available.
- iii. While these reports were initially published in response to the former Committee's recommendation, the information contained within them has also proved valuable in supporting wider sector awareness and scrutiny. In particular, the reports have enabled the identification of emerging patterns and trends in the market as the transition progresses. Accordingly, there has been broad support for the continuation of these publications, which has informed the decision to proceed with the production of this third report.

Report structure

- iv. Consistent with the structure of the first two reports, this report is divided into the same sections, beginning with a summary of the report's findings and setting out next steps. Where possible, children's home and fostering data is broken down into local and geographical footprints across the following types of provision:

Not-for-profit provision	For-profit provision
Local Authority (local authority run)	(this data is not broken down by specific type of for-profit provision)
Other not-for-profit (non-local authority run)	

- v. By 'other not-for-profit' we have determined this to be provision that operates under one of the four recognised operating models set out under the Health and Social Care (Wales) Act 2025 ("The 2025 Act"), specifically those that are either:

- a charitable company limited by guarantee without a share capital,
 - a charitable incorporated organisation,
 - a charitable community benefit society, or
 - a community interest company limited by guarantee without a share capital
- vi. Provision is measured in terms of the number of services and places (maximum capacity of each service) registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). Fostering data is also presented in terms of the number of households, where available.
- vii. Section 1 provides an overview of the sector in Wales as of 31 March 2026, including the number of children's home services, fostering services and secure accommodation services, broken down by provider type (not-for-profit local authority, other not-for-profit, or for-profit) and by regional partnership board and local authority area. These are the three types of services that will need to be provided by local authorities or other not-for-profit providers once implementation of the 2025 Act is complete.
- viii. Section 2 covers market entrants and exits for children's home services and section 3 covers this same data for fostering services. The report then reflects on the stability of placements of children who are looked after in section 4 concluding with data on the take up of the offer of statutory advocacy in section 5.

Data presentation- developments since Report 2

- ix. As with the first two reports, this report comprises data from CIW, the Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru (4C's), Foster Wales and the Welsh Government. A common reporting point of 31 March 2026 has been established for data provided by CIW, the 4Cs and Foster Wales. Welsh Government data, included in section 4, is presented as of 31 March 2025; and data relating to section 5 reflects the year ending 31 March 2025.
- x. As per the second report, local authority-level fostering data includes approved foster care households and places. This is set out within Table 1b. A further breakdown of local authority fostering households and places by mainstream and connected persons (kinship) provision is also included at Table 1c. Tables 3a to 3b show fostering market entrants and exits (by mainstream and connected persons households and places). Data for independent fostering agencies (IFAs) entering and leaving the market is currently only available at a household level, not by place as this would require tracking both beds added, and beds removed to calculate the net position at local authority level and additional quality assurance is needed. Household level data is provided in table 3c.
- xi. In a small number of cases data for children's homes places contains services which have large onsite Estyn registered schools. These settings are not

available to all children who are looked after and would be matched to a specific profile of children. Therefore, the registered capacity shown by the host local authority may appear slightly higher than the actual availability for commissioning purposes.

- xii. It is important to note that while the focus of this report is measuring movement in the market through quantitative data, the wider qualitative context of the right homes, available at the right time, to meet children's identified needs, both current and forecast, is essential to delivering not only sufficiency of numbers but sufficiency of child focused, outcome focused provision.
- xiii. As per the previous report there remains a mismatch of registered provision across all placement types to meet children and young people's needs. CIW's rated inspections demonstrate overall the quality of registered provision, by all provider types, is good, but there is too much provision which is not correctly targeted at meeting the presenting needs of children who are looked after. Local authorities continue to work with all providers to reduce this gap and improve sufficiency, this includes engaging with providers on the needs profile in Wales. The latest analysis of this by 4Cs in September 2025 can be found [here](#). This includes a range of case studies which illustrate the direct impact on children's care experiences.

Next Steps

- xiv. The next report is intended to be completed later this year and, where available, will contain data up to 30 September 2026.

Report summary

This report provides detailed information on the number of registered services, places and households for children's home services, fostering services and secure accommodation services in Wales. It also includes sections on the stability of places and the take-up of advocacy services. Key points from the data are set out below (throughout the report percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number).

1. As of 31 March 2026, there are 397 children's home services registered in Wales offering a maximum of 1,349 places. Both represent an increase on the figures in the previous report as of 30 September 2025. For-profit provision continues to account for over three-quarters of all children's home services and places.

- By region, the greatest number of children's home services are in North Wales and Gwent (89 or 22% of the national figure in each) with North Wales having the greatest number of registered places (317 or 23% of the national figure). The greatest regional proportion of for-profit children's home provision is found within West Glamorgan (48 of 50 services or 96%, and 181 of 185 places, or 98%).
- Within local authority areas, the greatest proportion of for-profit children's home services and places were recorded in Neath Port Talbot, Torfaen and Denbighshire. As of 31 March 2026, all residential provision in these areas is operated by for-profit providers.
- In contrast Ceredigion had no for-profit children's home services registered although it also contains the lowest overall number of services (2) and places (9) in Wales.

2. A significant proportion of entrants to the children's home market continue to be 'for-profit'.

- Data between 30 September 2025 and 31 March 2026 shows 15 out of the 23 new children's home services (65%) and 36 of the 55 places (65%) registered by CIW were for-profit. The remaining 8 services (and 19 places) were registered to either local authority or other not-for-profit providers.
- Overall, fewer services and places were registered during this reporting period compared with the previous period. Data between 1 April 2025 and 30 September 2025 showed an increase of 32 services (21 for profit and 11 local authority or other not-for-profit providers), and 98 places (61 for profit and 37 local authority or other not-for-profit providers).

- During the reporting period 30 September 2025 to 31 March 2026, 1 for-profit children's home service left the market. This service was located in Bridgend and was registered to provide up to 4 places. This service did not deregister but transitioned from providing services for children to services for adults. This compares to the previous 6-month reporting period which saw 7 for-profit children's home services leave the market.
- Gwent and Cwm Taf Morgannwg recorded the highest regional growth in the number of registered children's home services and places, with 5 new services registered in each, providing a maximum of 12 places in both Gwent and Cwm Taf Morgannwg. In Gwent, 1 service was a local authority service, and the remaining 4 new services were for-profit services. In Cwm Taf Morgannwg, 2 of the 5 new services were local authority run and the remaining 3 were for-profit.
- With only 1 service leaving the market, an overall net gain in services (22), and maximum available places (51) was recorded across Wales.

3. As of 31 March 2026, there are 43 fostering services in Wales offering 3,480 fostering households and 6,138 fostering places. Most fostering households and places within Wales are operated by not-for-profit organisations, including local authorities.

- Of the 43 fostering services in Wales, 22 are operated by local authorities. The remainder are provided by Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs). Of those 5 are not-for-profit organisations and 16 are for-profit organisations.
- Of the 3,480 fostering households, 2,507 (or 72%) are provided by local authorities. Of the 6,138 fostering places, 4,085 (or 67%) are provided by local authorities.
- A significant proportion of the households (1,058 or 42%) and places (1,493 or 37%) provided by local authorities are within kinship or 'connected persons' foster care. The remaining 1,449 households and 2,592 places provide mainstream foster care.
- Regarding IFA households and places, 811 households (23% of all households) and 1,717 places (28% of all places) are provided by for-profit organisations, and 162 (5%) households and 336 (5%) places are provided by other not-for-profit organisations.
- By region, North Wales contains the greatest number of fostering households 736 (21%) in Wales. The greatest number of places are also found in North Wales, with 1,303 places (or 21% of all provision), this is closely followed however by Gwent, with 1,188 places (or 19% of all provision).

- Within a local authority footprint, the greatest concentration of fostering provision is within Cardiff. The area has 338 households (10% of the national figure) and 647 places (11% of the national figure). Cardiff also has the highest number of for-profit households (96, or 12% of all for profit households) and places (224, or 13% of all for profit places). Rhondda Cynon Taf recorded 337 households (10% of the national figure) and 621 places (10% of the national figure).
- Carmarthenshire also has a considerable amount of for-profit fostering provision, with 76, or 9% of all for profit households, and 165, or 10% of all for profit places.
- 3 local authorities (Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham) do not have any not-for-profit IFA provision in their areas.
- There has been a net fall in both for-profit fostering households (by 4), and not-for-profit IFA fostering households (by 16). In contrast there has been a net increase (of 25) in local authority fostering households over this reporting period. This includes a net increase of 29 connected persons households and a net decrease of 4 mainstream households.

Section 1 - Number of registered children's services, places and households for children's home, fostering and secure accommodation

Table 1a: Number of registered children's home services and registered maximum places (as of 31 March 2026)

Source: CIW

Regional and Local authority area	Number of registered children's home services				Number of registered maximum places in children's homes			
	Not for-Profit (Local Authority)	Not-For-Profit (Other)	For-Profit	Total	Not for-Profit (Local Authority)	Not-For-Profit (Other)	For-Profit	Total
Cardiff and Vale	10	2	29	41	27	4	118	149
Cardiff	10	0	16	26	27	0	70	97
Vale of Glamorgan	0	2	13	15	0	4	48	52
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	18	2	48	68	57	2	148	207
Bridgend	5	2	15	22	19	2	43	64
Merthyr Tydfil	4	0	10	14	8	0	29	37
Rhondda Cynon Taf	9	0	23	32	30	0	76	106
Gwent	20	0	69	89	73	0	194	267
Blaenau Gwent	2	0	18	20	6	0	47	53
Caerphilly	7	0	9	16	21	0	30	51
Monmouthshire	2	0	13	15	9	0	42	51
Newport	9	0	13	22	37	0	40	77
Torfaen	0	0	16	16	0	0	35	35
West Wales	6	1	29	36	23	6	102	131
Carmarthenshire	3	0	19	22	13	0	63	76
Ceredigion	1	1	0	2	3	6	0	9
Pembrokeshire	2	0	10	12	7	0	39	46
North Wales	20	0	69	89	61	0	256	317
Conwy	4	0	8	12	19	0	27	46
Denbighshire	0	0	10	10	0	0	47	47
Flintshire	5	0	21	26	12	0	68	80
Gwynedd	2	0	6	8	8	0	39	47
Isle of Anglesey	4	0	2	6	7	0	7	14
Wrexham	5	0	22	27	15	0	68	83
West Glamorgan	2	0	48	50	4	0	181	185
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	23	23	0	0	89	89
Swansea	2	0	25	27	4	0	92	96
Powys	5	3	16	24	13	10	70	93
TOTAL	81	8	308	397	258	22	1,069	1,349

Table 1a - Data explanation

- 1.1. Table 1a shows a total of 397 registered children's home services in Wales as of 31 March 2026. Collectively these provide up to 1,349 registered places. Most of the services (308 or 78% of all children's home services) and places (1,069 or 79% of all children's home places) are provided by for-profit providers.

Table 1b: Number of fostering services, foster care households and places (as of 31 March 2026)

Sources:

1 Registered Services – CIW

2 Local Authority households and places – Foster Wales

3 Non-local authority registered households and places - 4Cs

Region and local authority area	Number of foster care services			Number of foster care households			Maximum number of foster care places		
	Not-For-Profit (Local Authority)	Not-For-Profit (Other)	For-Profit	Not-For-Profit (Local Authority)	Not-For-Profit (Other)	For-Profit	Not-For-Profit (Local Authority)	Not-For-Profit (Other)	For-Profit
Cardiff and Vale	2	2	4	350	39	135	517	86	314
Cardiff	1	2	4	214	28	96	362	61	224
Vale of Glamorgan	1	0	0	136	11	39	155	25	90
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	3	0	1	408	40	135	711	86	283
Bridgend	1	0	0	127	7	58	211	14	127
Merthyr Tydfil	1	0	0	40	1	13	78	4	25
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1	0	1	241	32	64	422	68	131
Gwent	5	1	1	539	45	109	873	86	229
Blaenau Gwent	1	0	0	80	6	7	121	8	14
Caerphilly	1	1	0	127	13	36	221	23	80
Monmouthshire	1	0	0	57	4	18	91	10	40
Newport	1	0	1	144	17	33	245	35	65
Torfaen	1	0	0	131	5	15	195	10	30
West Wales	3	0	2	271	15	129	422	35	270
Carmarthenshire	1	0	2	115	5	76	162	10	165
Ceredigion	1	0	0	50	7	19	74	18	38
Pembrokeshire	1	0	0	106	3	34	186	7	67
North Wales	6	1	5	497	7	232	801	14	488
Conwy	1	1	2	87	3	57	133	6	125
Denbighshire	1	0	0	56	0	52	75	0	115
Flintshire	1	0	1	79	0	58	141	0	120
Gwynedd	1	0	0	118	2	9	191	3	17
Isle of Anglesey	1	0	0	69	2	22	121	5	47
Wrexham	1	0	2	88	0	34	140	0	64
West Glamorgan	2	0	0	353	15	57	609	27	104
Neath Port Talbot	1	0	0	137	10	30	233	18	55
Swansea	1	0	0	216	5	27	376	9	49
Powys	1	0	0	89	1	14	152	2	29
Outside of Wales	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	22	5	16	2,507	162	811	4,085	336	1,717

Table 1b - Data explanation

Notes on data gathering

Data Provided by CIW

- 1.2. CIW register IFAs (which can be provided by either for-profit or not-for-profit organisations) in Wales but not fostering services provided by local authorities. There are three for-profit fostering providers, and one not for profit fostering provider who are located outside of Wales but provide services in Wales and are therefore registered in Wales.

Data provided by the 4Cs

- 1.3. To obtain their data, the 4Cs asked all IFAs on their Children's Commissioning Support Resource (CCSR) system to provide information on the number of registered fostering households and maximum number of places. 18 out of the 21 registered IFAs provided data. Since the last report 1 foster provider has been de-registered. Data shows the number of fostering households by the local authority area in which they live. Data was not available for the remaining 3 IFAs as they are not registered on the CCSR system.

Data Provided by Foster Wales

- 1.4 The figures provided are for all approved local authority foster carers and places i.e. the total of both approved mainstream and approved connected persons (kinship)¹ foster carers. Figures are available on a local authority basis.
- 1.5 A full breakdown of Foster Wales households and placement data is explored more fully under table 1c and section 3.

Number of foster care services

- 1.6 Although each local authority has its own fostering service, all work together within the national network of Foster Wales. There are 43 foster care providers across Wales. Of these, the number of local authority fostering services will always remain at a maximum of 22, in line with the number of local authorities.
- 1.7 As of 31 March 2026, there were 5 not-for-profit IFAs (or 12% of the total number of services) and 16 for-profit IFAs (or 37% of the total number of services). In the

¹ Connected persons foster carers are generally court directed and provide places for specific children, usually part of the child's family / network, and are not available for general use.

previous report there were 5 not-for-profit IFAs and 17 for-profit IFAs were recorded. 1 for-profit IFA had deregistered during this reporting period.

- 1.8 By region North Wales has the highest number of for-profit fostering services, amounting to 5 or 31% of all services, across Conwy, Wrexham and Flintshire. 4 for-profit fostering services (25% of all services) were situated within the Cardiff local authority area. The local authority in which an IFA is registered is not necessarily the location in which foster carers reside.

Foster care households and maximum number of foster care places

- 1.9 There are 3,480 fostering households and 6,138 places in Wales. Local authorities comprise 2,507 (72%) of those households, and 4,085 (67%) of places. Of the remaining 973 IFA households, 811 (23% of total households) were for-profit households and 162 (5% of total households) were other not-for-profit. Similarly, of the remaining 2,053 IFA places, 1,717 (or 28% of total places) were for-profit and the remaining 336 (or 5% of total places) were other not-for-profit.
- 1.10 At the end of March 2026, local authority foster carers were providing placements for 4,085 children in 2,507 households.
- 1.11 The data shows a decrease in not-for-profit IFA households (by 16 or 9% of the previous figure). For-profit IFA provision has also decreased (by 4 or less than 1% of the previous figure). In contrast, the number of local authority fostering households has increased by 25.
- 1.12 On placements, it is not possible to draw direct comparisons between reporting periods as placements do not always follow the same pattern as households. Changes in approval status (the number of children able to be cared for by a household) can fluctuate for various reasons. Overall, however, the number of recorded placements available across Wales has increased from 6,123 as at 1 September 2025 to 6,138 as at 31 March 2026.

Local observations

- 1.13 By region Gwent provides the greatest number of local authority foster care households and places 539 (or 21% of all local authority foster care households), and 873 (or 21% of all local authority foster care places). It is followed by North Wales with 497 households (or 20% of the total number of local authority registered households) and 801 (or 20% of all local authority registered places).
- 1.14 On a local authority footprint, the most local authority foster care provision is situated in Rhondda Cynon Taf (241 households, 422 places), Swansea (216 households, 376 places) and Cardiff (214 households, 362 places). These areas

each represent between 9-10% of all local authority foster care households and between 9-10% of local authority foster care places across Wales.

- 1.15 The greatest proportion of for-profit foster care households, (232) and places (488) reside across North Wales. Collectively this region makes up 29% of all for-profit households and 28% of for-profit places, with concentrations occurring in Conwy with 57 households and 125 places, Denbighshire with 52 households and 115 places and Flintshire with 58 households and 120 places. Each of those areas account for 6-7% of the total number of for-profit households and 7% of for-profit places.
- 1.16 The greatest proportion of non-local authority foster care provision can be found in the Cardiff local authority area. 28 not-for-profit IFA households (offering a maximum of 61 places) are located in the Cardiff area (of a total of 162 households and 336 places). 96 for-profit households (offering a maximum of 224 places) are also located in the Cardiff local authority area (of a total of 811 households or 1,717 places).

Secure accommodation services

- 1.17 As of 31 March 2026, and in line with the observations in the previous two reports, there is one secure accommodation service registered in Wales. This is local authority operated and registered for a maximum of 14 places. However, this facility services both the secure estate in England and Wales and as such receives referrals and children from across both countries.

Table 1c: Local authority fostering households and places broken down by mainstream and connected persons provision (as of 31 March 2026).

Source: Foster Wales

Regional total and local authority area	Fostering Households			Fostering Places		
	Mainstream Fostering	Connected persons	Total Households (*see table 1b)	Mainstream Fostering	Connected Persons	Total Places (*see table 1b)
Cardiff and Vale	158	192	350	283	234	517
Cardiff	109	105	214	216	146	362
Vale of Glamorgan	49	87	136	67	88	155
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	207	201	408	401	310	711
Bridgend	62	65	127	124	87	211
Merthyr Tydfil	28	12	40	61	17	78
Rhondda Cynon Taf	117	124	241	216	206	422
Gwent	374	165	539	651	222	873
Blaenau Gwent	51	29	80	80	41	121
Caerphilly	80	47	127	160	61	221
Monmouthshire	43	14	57	75	16	91
Newport	114	30	144	204	41	245
Torfaen	86	45	131	132	63	195
West Wales	155	116	271	254	168	422
Carmarthenshire	87	28	115	119	43	162
Ceredigion	20	30	50	35	39	74
Pembrokeshire	48	58	106	100	86	186
North Wales	284	213	497	492	309	801
Conwy	51	36	87	80	53	133
Denbighshire	37	19	56	46	29	75
Flintshire	54	25	79	103	38	141
Gwynedd	65	53	118	119	72	191
Isle of Anglesey	40	29	69	83	38	121
Wrexham	37	51	88	61	79	140
West Glamorgan	211	142	353	398	211	609
Neath Port Talbot	98	39	137	177	56	233
Swansea	113	103	216	221	155	376
Powys	60	29	89	113	39	152
TOTAL	1,449	1,058	2,507	2,592	1,493	4,085

Table 1c - Data explanation

- 1.18 As per table 1b, as of 31 March 2026, local authorities were providing placements for 4,085 children in 2,507 households. 1,058 (or 42%) of those households and 1,493 (or 37%) of those places are within 'connected persons' foster care whereas all IFA provision is within mainstream fostering.
- 1.19 Foster Wales report that the numbers of mainstream foster carer approvals in 2025/26 decreased by 4% compared to the same period in 2024/25. They also noted that the net loss of mainstream foster carers has slowed considerably since Foster Wales was established; the net loss of mainstream households reduced from -19 in 2024/25 to -4 in 2025/26.
- 1.20 The level of assessment activity for connected persons foster carers remains significantly higher than for mainstream foster carers. These assessments are often afforded higher priority than mainstream assessments but do not provide places that are generally available to all children.
- 1.21 The analysis in Section 1 and data in Table 1b noted that Gwent contained the greatest amount of overall local authority foster care households and places. Table 1c notes that Gwent provides the greatest amount of local authority mainstream foster care, with 374 (26%) of those households and 651 (25%) of those places. There are also high concentrations of mainstream foster care across Cardiff (109 households, 216 places), Swansea (113 households, 221 places), Rhondda Cynon Taf (117 households, 216 places) and Newport (114 households, 204 places), with each area containing 8% of local authority mainstream household provision. Ceredigion retains the lowest amount of mainstream care (20 households, 35 places around 1% of the national totals).
- 1.22 Rhondda Cynon Taf provides the highest concentration of connected persons foster care (124 households, 206 places or 12% and 14% of the national figures respectively).

Section 2 – Market entrants and exits - children’s homes

Table 2a: Registered children’s home services entering and leaving the market between 1 October 2025 and 31 March 2026.

Source: CIW

Regional total and local authority area	Number of registered services entering the market			Number of registered services leaving the market		
	Not-for-profit - local authority	Not-for-profit - other	For-profit	Not-for-profit - local authority	Not-for-profit - other	For-profit
Cardiff and Vale	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cardiff	0	0	1	0	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	2	0	3	0	0	1
Bridgend	0	0	1	0	0	1
Merthyr Tydfil	2	0	1	0	0	0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	0	1	0	0	0
Gwent	1	0	4	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	1	0	1	0	0	0
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouthshire	0	0	1	0	0	0
Newport	0	0	1	0	0	0
Torfaen	0	0	1	0	0	0
West Wales	0	0	3	0	0	0
Cardiganshire	0	0	2	0	0	0
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire	0	0	1	0	0	0
North Wales	4	0	0	0	0	0
Conwy	1	0	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd	1	0	0	0	0	0
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wrexham	2	0	0	0	0	0
West Glamorgan	0	0	3	0	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	2	0	0	0
Swansea	0	0	1	0	0	0
Powys	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	7	1	15	0	0	1

Table 2a - Data explanation

- 2.1. Table 2a shows the number of registered children's home services entering and leaving the market in Wales between 1 October 2025 and 31 March 2026.

Number of registered children's home services entering the market

- 2.2. The table shows a total of 23 children's home services entering the market, with 15 (or 65%) being for-profit and 8 (or 35%) not-for profit. Of those not-for-profit services, 7 were local authority services and 1 was a not-for-profit provider.
- 2.3. The Gwent and Cwm Taf Morgannwg regions saw the greatest number of registered services entering the market with 5 new services registered in each of these regions. In Gwent, 1 service was a local authority not-for-profit service and the remaining 4 were for-profit services. In Cwm Taf Morgannwg, 2 services were local authority not-for-profit services and the remaining 3 were for-profit services.
- 2.4. Only 1 non-local authority not-for-profit service was registered during the reporting period, within the Vale of Glamorgan local authority area.
- 2.5. This data contrasts with the previous reporting period, which saw slightly more services (32) entering the market. At the time, 21 of those entrants were for-profit, 9 were local authority registered and the remaining 2 were non local authority not for profit services.

Number of registered children's home services leaving the market

- 2.6. As detailed in section 1, 1 for profit children's home service left the market. This service was located in Bridgend and was registered to provide up to 4 places. This service did not deregister but had previously been classified as providing services to adults and children and changed this to providing services for adults and so has been classified as leaving the market in this area.
- 2.7. This is in contrast to the previous reporting period which saw 7 children's home services (all for profit services) leaving the market.

Table 2b: Registered children's home places added to and removed from the market between 30 September 2025 and 31 March 2026

Source: CIW

Regional total and local authority area	Number of registered children's home places added to the market			Number of registered children's home places removed from the market		
	<i>Not-for-profit - local authority</i>	<i>Not-for-profit - other</i>	<i>For-profit</i>	<i>Not-for-profit - local authority</i>	<i>Not-for-profit - other</i>	<i>For-profit</i>
Cardiff and Vale	0	2	2	0	0	0
Cardiff	0	0	2	0	0	0
Vale of Glamorgan	0	2	0	0	0	0
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	5	0	7	0	0	4
Bridgend	0	0	2	0	0	4
Merthyr Tydfil	5	0	3	0	0	0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	0	2	0	0	0
Gwent	2	0	10	0	0	0
Blaenau Gwent	2	0	3	0	0	0
Caerphilly	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouthshire	0	0	3	0	0	0
Newport	0	0	1	0	0	0
Torfaen	0	0	3	0	0	0
West Wales	0	0	8	0	0	0
Carmarthenshire	0	0	6	0	0	0
Ceredigion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pembrokeshire	0	0	2	0	0	0
North Wales	10	0	0	0	0	0
Conwy	4	0	0	0	0	0
Denbighshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Flintshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwynedd	2	0	0	0	0	0
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wrexham	4	0	0	0	0	0
West Glamorgan	0	0	8	0	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	0	0	6	0	0	0
Swansea	0	0	2	0	0	0
Powys	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	17	2	36	0	0	4

Tables 2b - Data explanation

- 2.8. Table 2b shows the number of registered children's home places added to and removed from the market in Wales
- 2.9. In previous reports a Table 2c was included to show the net gain/loss of services and places across Wales. With only 1 service leaving the market during this reporting period, Table 2c has not been included in this report and net totals are provided below.
- 2.10. 55 places were added and 4 removed from the market. Of those new places 36 (65%) were for-profit. 17 (31%) were local authority places and 2 (4%) were other not-for-profit places. All 4 places removed from the market were for-profit places.

New Children's home places entering the market

- 2.11. By region Gwent and Cwm Taf Morgannwg contain the greatest proportion of new children's home places with 12 places registered in both regions. In Gwent, 2 were local authority places, and the remaining 10 were for-profit. In Cwm Taf Morgannwg, 5 of the places registered were local authority, and the remaining 7 for profit.
- 2.12. North Wales saw 10 new local authority children's home places (18% of all new places in Wales) during this reporting period. These were concentrated in Conwy and Wrexham where 4 local authority places were registered in each area, and in Gwynedd, which saw 2 new local authority places.
- 2.13. Overall, the 55 additional children's home places added to the market in this period represent a 44% decrease on the 98 places added across Wales over the previous 6 months. Collectively, the 19 new not for profit places registered to either a local authority or other not-for-profit service represent a 49% decrease from the 37 registered in the previous 6-month reporting period.

Children's home places leaving the market

- 2.14. As detailed under Table 2a, 1 for profit children's home service left the market during this reporting period, this children's home was in Bridgend and provided up to 4 places.

Section 3 – Market entrants and exits - fostering

Fostering services entering and leaving the market

Source: CIW between 1 April 2025 and 30 September 2025

- 3.1 During this reporting period, no new fostering services entered the market and 1 for profit service left the market

Fostering households entering and leaving the market

- 3.2 Data for this report includes the placement activity for local authority mainstream and connected persons (also known as kinship) foster carers. Both elements are reported separately. Since the previous report, several local authorities have transitioned to new data systems, which has identified some discrepancies in earlier data reporting.

Table 3a: Local authority fostering households (by type of provision) entering and leaving the market between 1 October 2025 and 31 March 2026.

Source: Foster Wales

	Mainstream Fostering Households			Connected Persons Households		
Regional total and local authority area	entering the market	leaving the market	net changes	entering the market	leaving the market	net changes
Cardiff and Vale	16	14	2	24	28	-4
Cardiff	12	12	0	13	17	-4
Vale of Glamorgan	4	2	2	11	11	0
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	6	11	-5	17	18	-1
Bridgend	2	3	-1	6	7	-1
Merthyr Tydfil	0	3	-3	1	2	-1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	4	5	-1	10	9	1
Gwent	19	20	-1	36	40	-4
Blaenau Gwent	2	1	1	8	5	3
Caerphilly	6	5	1	8	8	0
Monmouthshire	2	2	0	7	6	1
Newport	2	3	-1	7	5	2
Torfaen	7	9	-2	6	16	-10
West Wales	14	12	2	29	11	18
Carmarthenshire	3	4	-1	12	3	9
Ceredigion	3	3	0	7	4	3
Pembrokeshire	8	5	3	10	4	6
North Wales	24	11	13	44	31	13
Conwy	6	1	5	7	4	3
Denbighshire	1	0	1	7	8	-1
Flintshire	6	3	3	3	3	0
Gwynedd	1	0	1	8	3	5
Isle of Anglesey	8	5	3	4	4	0
Wrexham	2	2	0	15	9	6
West Glamorgan	1	20	-19	27	20	7
Neath Port Talbot	0	6	-6	13	12	1
Swansea	1	14	-13	14	8	6
Powys	8	4	4	3	3	0
TOTAL	88	92	-4	180	151	29

Table 3b: Local authority fostering places (by type of provision) entering and leaving the market between 1 October 2025 and 31 March 2026.

Source: Foster Wales

	Mainstream Fostering Places			Connected Persons Places		
Regional total and local authority area	entering the market	leaving the market	net changes	entering the market	leaving the market	net changes
Cardiff and Vale	23	19	4	40	40	0
Cardiff	19	17	2	23	25	-2
Vale of Glamorgan	4	2	2	17	15	2
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	7	14	-7	25	27	-2
Bridgend	2	3	-1	7	9	-2
Merthyr Tydfil	0	4	-4	1	5	-4
Rhondda Cynon Taf	5	7	-2	17	13	4
Gwent	26	26	-2	47	51	-4
Blaenau Gwent	4	2	2	10	8	2
Caerphilly	10	6	4	8	9	-1
Monmouthshire	2	4	-2	12	7	5
Newport	2	6	-4	10	6	4
Torfaen	8	10	-2	7	21	-14
West Wales	19	21	-2	37	16	21
Carmarthenshire	5	8	-3	16	5	11
Ceredigion	5	4	1	8	4	4
Pembrokeshire	9	9	0	13	7	6
North Wales	35	14	21	69	38	31
Conwy	6	1	5	11	4	7
Denbighshire	2	0	2	10	10	0
Flintshire	8	3	5	5	3	2
Gwynedd	2	0	2	15	4	11
Isle of Anglesey	15	7	8	4	4	0
Wrexham	2	3	-1	24	13	11
West Glamorgan	1	29	-28	38	29	9
Neath Port Talbot	0	9	-9	17	19	-2
Swansea	1	20	-19	21	10	11
Powys	11	4	7	3	3	0
TOTAL	122	129	-7	259	204	55

Tables 3a and 3b - Data explanation

Mainstream Fostering

- 3.3 This reporting period saw a total net fall in mainstream local authority registered fostering provision of 4 households and 7 places. The provision of connected persons fostering meanwhile saw a net increase of 29 households and 55 places.
- 3.4 The West Glamorgan region saw the greatest net fall in mainstream fostering with a decrease of 19 households and 28 places. In contrast the North Wales region saw the greatest net gain in mainstream fostering with an increase of 13 households and 21 places.

Connected Persons

- 3.5 At a household level, West Wales saw the greatest increase in connected person households (18 households and 21 places). Meanwhile at a placement level North Wales saw the greatest increase in connected persons placements (13 households and 31 places).
- 3.6 Gwent, Cwm Taf Morgannwg, and Cardiff and Vale all reported a net loss in the number of connected person households (a loss of 4, 1 and 4 households respectively). This translated to a net loss of connected person places of 4 in Gwent and 2 in Cwm Taf Morgannwg.
- 3.7 Torfaen experienced the biggest fall within a local area (by 10 households and 14 places) in provision related to connected person's care. Conversely the biggest local increases were seen in Carmarthenshire (by 9 households, 11 places), Pembrokeshire (by 6 households, 6 places), Wrexham (by 6 households, 11 places) and Swansea (by 6 households, 11 places).

Table 3c: IFA fostering households entering and leaving the market between 1 October 2025 and 31 March 2026.

Source: 4Cs

	Not-for-profit fostering households			For-profit fostering households		
Regional total and local authority area	entering the market	leaving the market	net changes	entering the market	leaving the market	net changes
Cardiff and Vale	3	4	-1	5	17	-12
Cardiff	2	2	0	2	11	-9
Vale of Glamorgan	1	2	-1	3	6	-3
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	3	6	-3	7	10	-3
Bridgend	0	2	-2	1	6	-5
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	4	1	3
Rhondda Cynon Taf	3	4	-1	2	3	-1
Gwent	6	6	0	6	15	-9
Blaenau Gwent	0	1	-1	0	4	-4
Caerphilly	2	2	0	2	4	-2
Monmouthshire	1	0	1	2	4	-2
Newport	3	3	0	1	2	-1
Torfaen	0	0	0	1	1	0
West Wales	0	0	0	24	12	12
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	9	8	1
Ceredigion	0	0	0	5	1	4
Pembrokeshire	0	0	0	10	3	7
North Wales	1	8	-7	26	17	9
Conwy	1	6	-5	7	6	1
Denbighshire	0	2	-2	3	6	-3
Flintshire	0	0	0	6	3	3
Gwynedd	0	0	0	0	0	0
Isle of Anglesey	0	0	0	1	0	1
Wrexham	0	0	0	9	2	7
West Glamorgan	0	3	-3	2	3	-1
Neath Port Talbot	0	2	-2	1	2	-1
Swansea	0	1	-1	1	1	0
Powys	0	2	-2	1	1	0
TOTAL	13	29	-16	71	75	-4

Table 3c - Data explanation

- 3.8 All IFA placements are mainstream fostering, and do not relate to connected persons. The data collected here is not part of a formal or regulated process, but part of intelligence gathered by the 4Cs in their interactions with IFAs and which informs their CCSR database.
- 3.9 The data in this table is based on a cross-referencing exercise between 1 October 2025 and 31 March 2026 to identify entrants and exits on CCSR. Whilst the table identifies the number of households that have exited and entered the market, it does not account for any changes to the number of places within those households during the period.

IFA Fostering households entering and leaving the market

- 3.10 Across Wales, 13 not-for-profit fostering households entered the market in the reporting period and 29 left. By contrast 71 for-profit fostering households entered the market and 75 left.
- 3.11 All regions except Gwent and West Wales saw a net loss in terms of not-for-profit fostering households; these two regions had zero net change. The largest decrease in not-for-profit IFA households was seen in North Wales, where a net loss of 7 not for profit IFA households was recorded.
- 3.12 The West Wales region recorded the greatest net gain (12) of for-profit fostering households, with 24 households entering the market and 12 leaving. North Wales recorded the second-highest net gain of this type of provision, with 26 entrants and 17 leavers, resulting in a net gain of 9 for-profit households over the same period. The greatest net loss (12) of for-profit fostering households was seen in Cardiff and Vale, with 5 for-profit entrants overall and 17 households leaving the market over the same period.

Section 4 – Stability of Placements

Table 4a: Number of placements experienced during the year by children who are looked after on 31 March 2025 (as a number and percentage) *

Source: Welsh Government (via StatsWales)

Regional total and local authority area	Number of children with 1 placement	Number of children with 2 placements	Number of children with 3+ placements	Percentage of children with 1 placement	Percentage of children with 2 placements	Percentage of children with 3+ placements
Cardiff and Vale	1,070	215	90	78	16	7
Cardiff	810	145	65	79	14	6
Vale of Glamorgan	260	70	25	73	20	7
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	870	165	80	78	15	7
Bridgend	245	55	30	74	17	10
Merthyr Tydfil	120	35	15	72	20	8
Rhondda Cynon Taf	505	75	35	82	12	6
Gwent	1,095	250	170	72	17	11
Blaenau Gwent	160	35	10	79	16	5
Caerphilly	325	75	45	73	17	10
Monmouthshire	125	35	25	67	19	14
Newport	250	60	35	73	17	10
Torfaen	235	45	55	71	13	16
West Wales	485	170	50	69	24	7
Carmarthenshire	170	70	25	64	27	10
Ceredigion	105	20	10	77	15	8
Pembrokeshire	210	80	15	69	25	5
North Wales	1,035	245	145	73	17	10
Conwy	150	40	30	67	18	14
Denbighshire	130	40	15	70	23	7
Flintshire	180	55	35	66	21	13
Gwynedd	230	40	10	82	15	3
Isle of Anglesey	125	25	15	77	14	9
Wrexham	220	45	40	72	15	13
West Glamorgan	545	125	55	75	17	8
Neath Port Talbot	190	45	15	77	18	5
Swansea	355	80	40	74	17	9
Powys	155	45	10	74	21	6
TOTAL	5,260	1,210	600	74	17	8

*Individual local authority numbers are rounded to the nearest 5. Regional totals and percentages are calculated based on rounded local authority figures whilst the Wales total is based on unrounded numbers. To note the total percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding to the nearest whole number.

Notes:

- 4.1. Since the previous iteration of this report, new data has become available relating to placements of children who are looked after. The updated figures are reported in Table 4a.
- 4.2 The data comparisons focus on 2 key measures related to children who are looked after in Wales. The first measure tracks the total number of children who are looked after on 31 March 2025 who have experienced either 1, 2 or 3 or more placements during the year. The second measure is the percentage compared to the total number of children who are looked after in the locality. At local authority level, numbers of children (but not percentages) are rounded to the nearest 5 for disclosure purposes whilst percentages are calculated from unrounded data.
- 4.3 This metric is crucial for understanding placement and market stability. Children who experience multiple places often face exacerbated feelings of separation and loss, making it harder for them to form meaningful relationships with their carers. The ability to monitor these moves is vital for improving outcomes, as research suggests that children with a high number of placement moves are less likely to achieve academically and fare worse in terms of their psychological, social and health outcomes.
- 4.4 Having a range of options for the appropriate placement of a child is key to stability and permanence. Children who become looked after suffer from feelings of separation and loss, even if they have been maltreated prior to being looked after. Children who go on to have multiple placements can find these feelings exacerbated.
- 4.5 However, not all moves within the system are negative. Some moves are necessary to meet the needs of the child and when considering their own wishes and feelings. In some cases, a movement of 2 or more placements is considered a healthy sign of timely care planning rather than drift. A very low proportion of moves can, conversely, indicate a lack of placement choice to allow children to move positively as set out in their care plans and to meet their needs.

Section 5 – Offers of Advocacy

Table 5a: Numbers of active offers of advocacy made and offer taken up by children aged five and over during the year April 2024 to March 2025

Source: Welsh Government (via StatsWales)

Regional total and local authority area	<i>Active Offers made during the year</i>	<i>Active Offers made and where an Independent Professional Advocate was provided</i>
Cardiff and Vale	394	180
Cardiff	332	133
Vale of Glamorgan	62	47
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	264	169
Bridgend	54	39
Merthyr Tydfil	41	25
Rhondda Cynon Taf	169	105
Gwent	578	311
Blaenau Gwent	87	40
Caerphilly	107	64
Monmouthshire	69	29
Newport	152	97
Torfaen	163	81
West Wales	154	101
Carmarthenshire	104	58
Ceredigion	..	..
Pembrokeshire	50	43
North Wales	1,112	149
Conwy	573	48
Denbighshire	133	26
Flintshire	149	11
Gwynedd	64	15
Isle of Anglesey	17	5
Wrexham	176	44
West Glamorgan	129	102
Neath Port Talbot	31	28
Swansea	98	74
Powys	515	233
TOTAL	3,146	1,245

*Data for Ceredigion is unavailable for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Table 5b: Changes in numbers of active offers of advocacy made and offers taken up during April 2024 to March 2025 compared to April 2023 to March 2024.

Source: Welsh Government (via StatsWales)

Regional total and local authority area	<i>Active Offers made during the year</i>	<i>Active Offers made and where an Independent Professional Advocate was provided</i>
Cardiff and Vale	53	-25
Cardiff	67	-39
Vale of Glamorgan	-14	14
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	-11	-45
Bridgend	-17	-25
Merthyr Tydfil	-19	-29
Rhondda Cynon Taf	25	9
Gwent	-156	-56
Blaenau Gwent	-10	-5
Caerphilly	-95	-85
Monmouthshire	-29	5
Newport	-19	-12
Torfaen	-3	41
West Wales	13	7
Carmarthenshire	8	-1
Ceredigion	..	..
Pembrokeshire	5	8
North Wales	190	34
Conwy	79	10
Denbighshire	15	-1
Flintshire	-7	7
Gwynedd	43	9
Isle of Anglesey	2	-5
Wrexham	58	14
West Glamorgan	-24	-25
Neath Port Talbot	-31	-27
Swansea	7	2
Powys	30	10
TOTAL	95	-100

Notes:

- 5.1 Since the previous iteration of this report, new data has become available relating to offers of advocacy. The updated figures are reported in Table 5a. Table 5b shows the difference between the figures as reported for 2024-25 and 2023-24.
- 5.2 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 stipulates that an active offer of advocacy is made to all children and young people who become looked after and all children subject to child protection enquiries that lead to a child protection conference. This would also include those children subject to active Section 47 child protection enquiries. Even where those enquiries do not lead to a Child Protection Conference, the child should still be offered advocacy under the Advocacy Order Framework.
- 5.3. Children who are in care are also entitled to access independent professional advocacy throughout the time they are cared for. The child, social worker or Independent Reviewing Officer can request a referral be made to an independent professional advocacy service to support the child to have their voice heard as part of the care planning process. This is referred to as 'issue-based advocacy'.

"Active Offers" during the year

- 5.4. The first measure in the above table is defined as the sharing of information about the statutory right and entitlement of a child or young person to access an independent professional advocacy service.

"Active Offers" made and where an Independent Professional Advocate was provided

- 5.5. The second measure in this table focuses on the total number of "Active Offers" of advocacy during the year where an independent professional advocate was provided. This metric also enables local authorities to assess the take-up of advocacy services and helps Welsh Government monitor the provision of advocacy to entitled children.
- 5.6. These measures provide valuable insights into the stability and support provided to children who are looked after in Wales, highlighting the importance of monitoring placement moves and the take-up of advocacy services to improve outcomes for these children.
- 5.7. The information provided only refers to where an active offer is made and an independent advocate is provided. Children who were not given an active offer are not included even if they were subsequently provided with an

independent professional advocate. Equally children in care who have been referred for independent advocacy as a part of the care planning process (issue-based advocacy/independent visitor) will not be included in these figures.

- 5.8. At this time, we are unable to disaggregate the data collected by Welsh Government to separate out active offers made to children who are looked after from active offers made to children who are subject to child protection inquiries.
- 5.9. The data only collates information on the active offer which is specific and takes place at the point a child becomes looked after or subject to a child protection inquiry. It does not include information about how many children who are looked after may have been offered an independent visitor, residential visiting advocacy service or issue-based advocacy.
- 5.10. The National Forum that oversees the Active Offer comprises local authorities and advocacy providers and work continues under this forum to further refine and mature data that will provide more in-depth knowledge about the take up of the active offer. This work aims to increase our understanding as to why children may not take up the active offer and identify where awareness raising work may need to be undertaken in local authorities to increase referral rates.