



Easy Read

The Index Annual Report 2025-26



How to use this document



This is an easy read version of
The Index Annual Report 2025-26



You may still need support to read
it. Ask someone you know to help
you.



Words in **bold blue** writing may be
hard to understand. You can check
what the words in blue mean on
pages 4 and 5.



The Index Officer made this
document into Easy Read. To tell us
what you think, click here



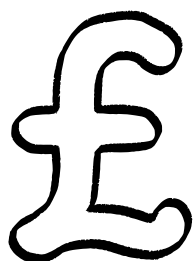
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Important words and terms



A **voluntary register** is a list that families can choose to join. It's not required, but it helps services understand and support children with extra needs.



The **Families First Grant** is money given by the **Welsh Government** to local councils. It helps them run services that support children, young people, and families especially those who need extra help.



Data is information we collect to help us understand something.

For example:

- A list of children who joined The Index
- The number of families who asked for support
- What kind of help children need.



Accessible - Information that is designed to meet different people's needs. This may include larger text, good colour contrast, image descriptions and different formats.



The **Index Inclusive Services Guide** is an online guide with links to services and support for different needs. It can be used on a phone, tablet or computer.



A **referral pathway** is a clear way for organisations to send families to The Index. This helps more families get the support and information they need.



Neurodiversity means everyone's brain is different. Some people think and learn in different ways. These people may be called **neurodivergent**. A group of people with different ways of thinking may be called **neurodiverse**. People whose brains work in a typical way may be called **neurotypical**.



Carer Friendly and **Dementia Friends**

We have learned how to better support carers and people affected by dementia.



Vale Family Compass is used by the Vale of Glamorgan Council to describe joining three services together. This helps teams work better and make it easier for families to get the right help at the right time.

About The Index and the importance of our data



The Index is a **voluntary register** held by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. It includes children and young people (aged 0–18) who have a disability or extra needs.



The Index is funded by **Welsh Government's Families First Grant** and run by the **Vale Family Information Service**.



The Index provides families with information on local services, clubs and activities.



Our **data** helps service providers understand what children and young people need, so they can plan better support.



Most children on The Index have **neurodiverse** needs, such as Autism or ADHD. [Click here for a list of neurodiverse conditions.](#)

Key Achievements 2025-26

7



133 new children registered on The Index **voluntary register**. A total of 925 children now on The Index and accessing support and information.



Barry has the highest number of children registered with The Index. The lowest number of registrations came from Rhoose.



Launched a new **referral pathway** between The Index and Flying Start.



Shared information with families through 165 email updates and 3,660 copies of newsletters issues by email or in print.



Launched a new online directory, called **The Index Inclusive Services Guide**, to help families find services and support at their leisure.



FIS achieved **Carer Friendly** status and became **Dementia Friends**.



What we will do next



Create a new **referral pathway** for schools to connect families with The Index.



Review information on the **Vale Family Compass** website so it is clear, helpful and up to date.



Work with more organisations and help more people learn about The Index through events, visits and information sharing.



Work with **The Index Consultation Group** to review information to make sure it is **accessible** and right for families.



Improve how we view **data** from The Index **voluntary register** about children and families, so we can work with partners to help them plan support and services based on need.

Contact Information



familycompass@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



0808 281 6727 option 2



www.valefamilycompass.co.uk/information/children-with-additional-needs/



[@valefamilycompass](https://www.facebook.com/valefamilycompass)

