



# Children in Wales

Bi-weekly e-briefing for Members

Tuesday, 5 May 2020

Issue 12

[@Childreninwales](#)

[www.childreninwales.org.uk](http://www.childreninwales.org.uk)

[/childreninwales](#)

## Introduction

To keep our members up to date with the ever changing circumstances, our members' e-briefing will now be released twice a week rather than weekly. Through this we hope to distribute relevant updates on the impact of Covid-19, as well as other relevant news.

## Children in Wales News

<https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/news/news-archive/joint-statement-five-ways-help-children-young-people-stay-safe-coronavirus-lockdown/>

A joint statement has been issued today between Welsh Government, NSPCC, Children in Wales and the Youth Work Board affirming that we must all take responsibility for keeping our children safe. Sean O'Neill, Policy Director at Children in Wales, said:

“Our message is clear. If you need help, seek help. If you know someone who needs help, or are concerned about someone, then seek help today. So many incredible services have responded with energy and determination to help ensure that children remain safe from harm at this crucial time. They are there, ready and willing to provide advice, care, comfort and support. We must all be extra vigilant and aim to make sure that no child suffers under this pandemic.”

## Useful Links

[A daily statement](#) by Public Health Wales on the Covid-19 outbreak can be found on their website. They have also released a number of useful resources and guidance that can be found here: <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

Welsh Government have a dedicated webpage for advice, news and resources on the Covid-19 outbreak that can be found here: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

The Children's Commissioner for Wales website now has an information hub for information and advice and can be found here: <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/coronavirus/>

NHS Direct have launched an online symptom checker that can be found on their website: <https://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/SelfAssessments/symptomcheckers/>

[Money Saving Expert](#) is producing financial advice guides online on subject matters including Mortgages & other debts, rental help, energy top-ups & more.

[COVID-19 Safeguarding Children - Bi-lingual-Information for display](#)

[Welsh Government safeguarding information for practitioners](#)

Support for victims of Domestic Abuse - The Live Fear Free helpline is available 24 hours a day – call free on 0808 8010 800 any time, if you can do it safely. You can also text 0786 007 7333, email [info@livefearfreehelpline.wales](mailto:info@livefearfreehelpline.wales) or webchat - <https://gov.wales/live-fear-free/contact-live-fear-free>. If you can't talk in safety, but you need help immediately, police forces across Wales will respond to a silent 999 call – dial 999 followed by 55 to indicate that you can't talk, but need help.

Citizen's Advice: [What coronavirus means for you](#)

[Information from the Welsh Government about vulnerable children and safeguarding during the coronavirus pandemic.](#)

# Health Updates

[Testing expanded for care home residents and staff](#)

[World must 'pull together' to find and fund vaccine](#)

## Welsh Government and Public Health Wales

[An extra £248,000 will be available to local authorities across Wales to help strengthen their cyber resilience in response to the coronavirus crisis, Finance Minister Rebecca Evans has announced.](#)

[Welsh Government press release on supporting students and universities dealing with the impact of coronavirus.](#)

[Coronavirus testing: your questions.](#)

[Written statement from Vaughan Gething AM, Minister for Health and Social Services: COVID and BAME – measures to protect the Health and Social Care workforce.](#)

[First Minister of Wales announces £500 extra payment for care staff.](#)

[Public Health Wales' public health survey reveals impact of Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) on Welsh public's wellbeing](#)

## Mental Well-being Updates

[Place2Be Coronavirus updates, advice and support](#)

MIND Coronavirus (COVID-19) survey: Do you know or work with young people aged 13 and over? Mind want to know how young people are managing their mental health and wellbeing during Coronavirus. We've launched a survey to understand how they have been affected, and what they're doing to stay well. If possible, please encourage any young people you know or work with to take part in this important research, so we can provide more informed and useful advice and support to young people across Wales and England. There is one survey for anyone 13 – 17 years old, and another survey for anyone aged 18 years old and over. The current closing date is mid-May, though this may be subject to change. Please click [here](#) to complete the survey in English.

[Children's Commissioner - Information Hub for Families and Children.](#)

## Education Updates

The Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, has announced up to £3 million to support 'digitally excluded' learners during the coronavirus pandemic. <https://gov.wales/extra-3-million-pounds-support-digitally-excluded-learners-wales>

The implications of the coronavirus pandemic for the education sector and the impact on children and young people will be examined in a [wide-ranging inquiry](#) by the Education Committee. The inquiry will look at how the outbreak of COVID-19 is affecting all aspects of the education sector and children's social care system and will scrutinise how the Department for Education is dealing with the situation. [Find out more here.](#)

[Schools would need about three weeks to prepare for a phased return, according to First Minister Mark Drakeford.](#)

[Families still waiting for free school meal vouchers.](#)

[Qualifications Wales Consultation: arrangements for summer 2020 exam series](#)

[Coronavirus resources for wellbeing and mental health in schools.](#)

# Policy, Research and Information

The [Playful Childhoods | Plentyndod Chwareus](#) website is a practical and useful resource to support parents to provide good and varied play opportunities in and around the home as part of the current guidance relating to social distancing and self-isolation. We have added timely and relevant content to the website, such as a new indoor play section, blog posts and several Top Tips for a range of wide-range of issues and ideas. Parents can follow Playful Childhoods via [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) for daily ideas for playing at home.