



Children in Wales

Bi-weekly e-briefing for Members

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Issue 21

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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

The Price of Pupil Poverty Mini Guide now available: As part of the support for schools and children during COVID-19, Children in Wales have released a mini guide to support The Price of Pupil Poverty guides for Schools in Wales. The mini guide is relevant to the current situation and is essentially a reminder for schools in how they can continue to help pupils from low income and disadvantaged families during Covid -19 in line with the main price of pupil poverty guides released by Welsh government. [You can access the mini guide here.](#) With current school closure in place and recent announcement of schools reopening, the need for the guides will be even more relevant with higher percentage of children falling into poverty as a result of the pandemic. We encourage schools to consider the mini guides and how they can be applied now and in the future. As part of this, we are asking schools to provide us with information on innovative ways they are working to respond to the current situation to help pupils from disadvantaged and low income families during this time. We know there are some great methods in place and we would like to [capture these.](#)

Children in Wales has released a briefing with the Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group examining what progress has been made in delivering children's rights to play. In 2016, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child issued their Concluding Observations in respect of the UK and devolved governments progress in achieving compliance with the principles and standards as set out in the UNCRC. Informed by the State Party report and the shadow report submitted by the Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group, the Concluding Observations provide a series of actions that governments should take to advance children's rights in their country. In advance of the next reporting round, the Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group identified a number of thematic areas and considered the extent to which law, policy and practice in Wales has progressed since 2016 in line with the UNs recommendations. The following [Thematic Briefing Paper provides this in respect of Play and Leisure.](#)

Children in Wales is now providing short on-line courses on topics like Safeguarding, LGBT and Knife Crime. Why not use this time to make sure that you and all your staff are up-to-date with your training needs? Visit our [website](#) for more information, and remember, you can access our courses at a cheaper rate if you are a [member.](#)

Your Community, Your Say: This is a Welsh Government consultation by Children in Wales. All information will go to Welsh Government so that children and young people's voices are heard by Welsh Government about how they think funding should be governed and invested in their communities and across Wales. You can access the survey here: <https://wh.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=159050374146>

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 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.

Meic Cymru is the advocacy, information and advice helpline for children in Wales, helping the children of Wales through the coronavirus pandemic. They are contactable through their Freephone helpline on 080880 23456, free text service on 84001, and their online chat service via their website.

Health

Dentistry and coronavirus: [Statement by the Chief Dental Officer for Wales](#)

Welsh Government and Public Health Wales

Coronavirus regulations: [frequently asked questions](#)

The laws and guidance on these laws passed in Wales in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Care, Julie Morgan marks the start of National Carers Week by announcing an additional £50,000 funding to Carers Wales.

New digital technology fast-tracked to support non-contact consultations in NHS Wales during the coronavirus pandemic, is here to stay, Health Minister, Vaughan Gething has said.

Public Health Wales: Survey reveals people think stronger relationships between people in communities will be a positive long-term impact of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions

Wellbeing

Hwb have released a [young person's mental health toolkit for 11 to 25-year-olds](#). Here you will find six playlists to direct you to a wide range of online resources to help you through the lockdown and beyond. In each of the playlists you'll find self-help websites, apps, help-lines, and more that are here to support your mental health and well-being

Meic Cymru: [How can I distract myself from the negative stuff?](#)

Education

Coronavirus and Me Survey – Results: [More than half of children questioned in Wales are worried about falling behind with schoolwork due to the coronavirus lockdown, a survey suggests.](#)

Teenagers describe the struggle of learning from home while schools are shut

Finance

Wales' housing minister says she is "absolutely determined" homeless people will not have to go back on to the streets after the coronavirus pandemic.

Policy, Research and Information

Coronavirus and Me: The Results – Sally Holland, The Children's Commissioner for Wales has published an overview of the main results from the Coronavirus and Me survey, which over 23,700 young people aged 3-18 took part in. The survey will be used by the Welsh Government to help aid their decision making. The results show children's thoughts and feelings on feeling safe, home learning, what's been impacted the most, their mental health and wellbeing, and any benefits of the Coronavirus crisis. [Find out more here.](#)

National Children's Bureau: [Mental health of under-5s at risk - warns new research published in Infant Mental Health Awareness Week](#)

The Senedd's Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee outlines early findings from its COVID-19 inquiry

The What Works Centre for Children's Social Care is running free webinars for social care practitioners on topics including Coming out of Lockdown and Digital and Emotional Wellbeing. [Find out more and how to book your place here.](#)

As part of National Volunteers Week, NYAS Cymru are launching the National Standards and Guidance for Independent Visiting in Wales. This piece of work was commissioned by Welsh Government as part of the Ministerial Advisory Group's programme for improving outcomes for children. [Download this guide here.](#)

[New research from Trussel Trust:](#) UK food banks report busiest month ever, as coalition urgently calls for funding to get money into people's pockets quickly during pandemic

[Consultation: Scrutiny of Covid-19 and its impact on children and young people \(including students in further and higher education\)](#): The Children, Young People and Education Committee is exploring how the outbreak of COVID-19 is affecting all aspects of life for children and young people (including students in further and higher education). [A child-friendly version of this call for views is available](#). Given current circumstances there is no fixed deadline by which to submit your views – we asked you to share them with us as soon as you're able so that we can follow things up in as timely a way as possible. [Find out more, and how to submit your views here](#).

[Consultation: Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak, and its management, on health and social care in Wales](#) - The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak, and its management, on health and social care in Wales. The inquiry will consider the impact of the outbreak, and its management, on health and social care services in Wales. As part of this, the Committee will examine the response by the Welsh Government and relevant public bodies, as well as considering the impact on staff, patients and others receiving care or treatment in both clinical settings and the community. It will also consider the Wales response in the wider, UK context. [The Committee is keen to hear from anyone with an interest in this inquiry. Find out more, and how to submit your views here](#).