



# Children in Wales

Bi-weekly e-briefing for Members

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Issue 23

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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

[Black Lives Matter: A Message from Owen Evans, Chief Executive, Children in Wales](#)

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.](#)

## 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.

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

[Coronavirus cases in Wales: How many people have died?](#)

[Reduced face-to-face contact among teenagers and their friends during the pandemic could have damaging long-term consequences, neuroscientists say.](#)

## Welsh Government and Public Health Wales

[Chief Medical Officer's advice on face masks](#)

[Chief Medical Officer's advice on face masks How to make a 3 layer face covering: Step by step guide to making a non-medical, 3 layer face covering at home.](#)

[Business support grants worth more than £680 million have reached businesses across Wales to help them respond to the financial challenges of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Ministers have announced.](#)

[Ministers call for UK government funding to reach charities in Wales](#)

[Public Health Wales - Black Lives Matter](#)

## Wellbeing

[People living alone at risk of loneliness](#)

[Child psychologists highlight mental health risks of lockdown](#)

[NSPCC: Protecting children from domestic abuse during coronavirus](#)

## Education

[The Education Minister, Kirsty Williams, has written an open letter to all school staff in Wales.](#)

[Information about school opening times and their services during the coronavirus pandemic.](#)

[Information for providers of counselling services for children and young people during the coronavirus pandemic.](#)

## 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

[Save the Children have published a new report on The Right of Children to Participate in Public Decision-Making Processes.](#) It brings together the research literature and the experience of civil society organisations working around the world to promote effective engagement with and participation by children and young people in decisions by national and local governments. [Download the report here.](#)

Information released by the ONS on 12th June reveal there have been nearly double the number of coronavirus deaths in the most deprived areas of Wales, between 1st March and 31st May: 109.5 per 100,000 in the most deprived areas, compared to 57.5 per 100,000 in the least deprived areas. The deprivation areas are based on the [Wales Index of Multiple Deprivation](#). See an article by the BBC on this subject [here](#).

To mark Learning Disability Week (15 to 21 June) NSPCC Learning has published a webpage providing information about safeguarding children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The webpage includes legislation and guidance on supporting children and young people with SEND.

[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.](#)