



Children in Wales

Bi-weekly e-briefing for Members

Thursday, 18 June 2020

Issue 24

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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 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

The number of weekly deaths involving coronavirus in Wales has fallen to the lowest number since the end of March.

New campaign urges people to see their GPs if they think they have cancer symptoms

Welsh Government and Public Health Wales

Written Statement: Celebrating Refugee Week 2020

Action to help people who will be hardest hit by the economic impact of coronavirus will be vital for Wales' recovery, Economy Minister Ken Skates has said.

Latest data and analysis on the effect of coronavirus on society in Wales.

Guidance on help for parents who are key workers and childcare providers during the coronavirus pandemic.

Information on the advice informing the decisions on the Covid-19 lockdown.

Public Health Wales: Public health survey reveals gradual increases in public support for opening shops, workplaces, pubs and schools in next three week as fears over infection with virus fall

Wellbeing

Meic Cymru: Advice For Under 18's If You Can't Stay At Home

Meic Cymru: Tips For Living Together Peacefully During Covid-19

Education

The vast majority of teachers (90%) say their pupils are doing less or much less work than they would normally at this time of the year, a study finds.

Information about school staff and their employment during the coronavirus pandemic.

Finance

The First Minister has insisted the Welsh economy is "not falling behind", as shops reopen over the border in England.

Policy, Research and Information

Meet the Funder: Children in Need - Following on from the success of the Big Night In and match funding from the UK Government, Children in Need have launched the Covid-19 Next Steps Grant. The Next Steps programme is BBC Children in Need's response programme designed to deliver support for children and young people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible organisations will be able to apply for up to £80,000 for projects commencing in September 2020. These grants can last up to 18 months. It is designed for established organisations who are already delivering work in their communities and further afield. WCVA are pleased to host James Bird, National Officer for BBC Children in Need Wales, for an online Meet the Funder event. James will present on the Next Steps Grant and take part in a Q&A session with attendees. Attendance is free.

Save the Children and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation have released a new report called A lifeline for our children: Strengthening the social security system for families with children during this pandemic. This is a joint mission to ensure families are supported through the lockdown and beyond it, and to prevent increasing numbers of children being pulled into poverty. JRF and Save the Children are calling for an urgent increase of £20 per week to the child element of Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit to help families stay afloat during this crisis. [Find out more and see the action here.](#)

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.](#)