



Children in Wales

Bi-weekly e-briefing for Members

Thursday, 4 June 2020

Issue 20

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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

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 Cyrmu](#) 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

[Opposition parties are calling for an independent inquiry into the Welsh Government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic to report before the 2021 Senedd election.](#)

[Some lockdown measures may have to be reintroduced in the winter, Health Minister Vaughan Gething has warned.](#)

Welsh Government and Public Health Wales

[Childcare assistance scheme, loans, grants and support for childcare providers.](#)

[Leaving home to exercise](#)

[How to be safe when walking, cycling, and travelling in vehicles or on public transport during the coronavirus pandemic.](#)

[How you can get food and essential supplies if you are shielding, self-isolating or a critical worker](#)

[Public Health Wales statement on Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Wellbeing

[The Hwb has released a Young Person's Mental Health Toolkit, which links young people, aged 11 to 25, to websites, apps, helplines, and more to build resilience and support them through the Coronavirus pandemic and beyond.](#)

[Mental health patients feel they are not being given a fair chance to challenge being held in hospital because of lockdown decisions, a charity has claimed](#)

Education

[All children will have the opportunity to "Check in, Catch Up, Prepare for summer and September", the Education Minister Kirsty Williams announced today as she published details of the next phase for schools in Wales](#)

[Learning Welsh online in lockdown surprisingly popular](#)

Finance

[65,000 care workers in Wales will have to pay tax and National Insurance contributions on a £500 payment given to them for their coronavirus pandemic response.](#)

Policy, Research and Information

[Bevan Foundation - Holly Taylor, Executive Director of Policy and Communications at the Welsh Refugee Council, explains the ways in which they have had to adapt their service provision during lock down and how it is has highlighted existing issues in the asylum and refugee system](#)

[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](#)

[Senedd Research: Coronavirus - comparing UK exit strategies](#)

[National Academy for Education Leadership - How can we support your well-being? Survey: The Leadership Academy is working to produce a well-being strategy that will seek to influence the well-being development of leaders within the system who will directly impact well-being within their own institutions and hence the nation as a whole. NAEL would really appreciate your thoughts on these few questions. The survey can be accessed here and will close on Friday 5 June at 5pm.](#)

[Consultation: Inquiry into the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on culture, creative industries, heritage, communications and sport:](#)
The [Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee](#) is undertaking an inquiry into the Covid-19 outbreak in Wales. The inquiry will consider the impact of the outbreak, and its management on sectors under the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee's remit, including: culture and the creative industries, heritage, national and community media, including community radio. The Committee is keen to hear from anyone with an interest in this inquiry. In addition to inviting views in writing, we will also be undertaking a programme of virtual oral evidence gathering. Full details of these sessions will be published on our website as and when they are finalised. [Find out more, and how to submit your views here.](#)

[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.](#)