



# Children in Wales

Bi-weekly e-briefing for Members

Thursday, 9th July 2020

Issue 29

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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

Children and Wales have released a summary report of the survey undergone in April. The focus of our survey was to gain an insight into the challenges organisations were facing as a consequence of COVID 19, and to gather their input to inform our future priorities. [You can find the summary report here.](#)

[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 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 could cause 35,000 extra UK cancer deaths, experts warn

What do the latest lockdown rules say?

## Welsh Government and Public Health Wales

First Minister asks people to visit Wales safely

Stay local to be lifted in Wales

A parenting and family advice charity has been awarded funding to extend its helpline service to Welsh speakers as part of the Welsh Government's commitment to support parents during Covid-19 to stay safe and stay positive.

Together we'll keep children and young people safe as we rebuild from Covid-19: Non-statutory guide for practitioners

## Wellbeing

UK Government must urgently plan for recovery from coronavirus mental health crisis, says Mind

National PTSD screening programme 'urgently needed'

## Education

Written Statement: Changes to the publication of qualification awards data due to coronavirus

Learning providers across Wales to hold 'virtual open days' for year 11 pupils

COVID-19 Testing in Schools

Update on technology provision for digitally excluded learners in maintained schools in Wales to support remote education during the coronavirus outbreak.

HWB Keeping safe online Summer challenge

Children and measures to ease Covid-19 restrictions: Commissioner writes to First Minister, Education Minister and teaching unions

Extra funding to support children over the summer holidays in Wales

## Finance

Extra £59m for Wales from new arts support package

Tourism hopes in Wales as five-mile travel limit ends

## Policy, Research and Information

Impact of COVID-19 on the BAME Community and Voluntary Sector in Wales – New Survey Launched. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis has had a significant impact on BAME individuals, and we are also starting to acknowledge the impact on the community and voluntary sector in the UK, including here in Wales. The recent report by [The Ubele Initiative](#) showed that close on 9 out of 10 BAME micro and small community and voluntary organisations could close within three months as a result of the pandemic.

The Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team Wales (EYST), working with partners, has commissioned a study to help better understand the impact of the pandemic on BAME community and voluntary organisations in Wales. If you're working in a BAME community and voluntary organisation<sup>[1]</sup> in Wales, we would like to hear from you. Your participation will help us to:

- build a more accurate picture of the concerns and impact of the pandemic during, and as lock down measures begin to ease;
- capture the ways in which BAME community groups and organisations are working innovatively, and seeking to provide services and support to Wales' BAME residents during this period of crisis;
- inform key funders and policy-makers on how they respond to the crisis with respect to the impact on BAME communities and organisations.

The survey is being supported by and disseminated via Race Alliance Wales, a coalition of individuals and organisations working towards Race Equality in Wales. To participate in the survey and help us build this evidence base, [click here](#). The survey opens on 16TH June 2020 and closes 31ST July 2020.

[Children's Commissioner for Wales – No Wrong Door](#): This report is about how children and their families who seek support for a range of needs often find that they have to navigate a very complex system, may fall through gaps where there are no services to meet their needs, or be on a waiting list for a long time only to be told that they were waiting in the wrong queue, or have been knocking on the wrong door all along. The Commissioner and her team believe that services should wrap around families, rather than them having to fit into what is

out there, and that help should be provided as early as possible to prevent more serious problems developing. [You can find the full report and an accessible version of the report here.](#)

**Lessons from Lockdown:** A survey carried out by the two largest children's charities in Wales has revealed that 85% of school staff fear their pupils' mental health has been affected by lockdown. More than 70% of those surveyed called for extra training for staff and the same proportion said they would need help with their own mental health and well-being. Some teachers said they had found supporting children at home on the phone each day emotionally draining and expected to return to school feeling exhausted. Barnardo's Cymru and Action for Children Cymru are calling for a stronger frontline response. [Lessons from lockdown can be read in full here.](#)

**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.](#)

**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.](#)