Agenda - Children, Young People and Education Committee

Meeting Venue: For further information contact:

Video Conference via ZoomLlinos MadeleyMeeting date: 7 July 2020Committee ClerkMeeting time: 12.300300 200 6565

SeneddCYPE@senedd.wales

Private pre-meeting

(12.30 - 13.00)

In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on www.senedd.tv.

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(13.00)

2 COVID-19: Evidence session with the Welsh Government

(13.00 – 14.00) (Pages 1 – 40)

Kirsty Williams MS, Minister for Education Steve Davies, Director, Education Directorate Huw Morris, Group Director, Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

Scrutiny of Covid-19 and its impact on children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds - Summary Note 2



Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public for items 4 and 5

(14.00)

Break

(14.00 - 14.10)

4 COVID-19 - consideration of the evidence

(14.10 - 14.30)

5 Welsh Government technical briefing on forthcoming legislation

$$(14.30 - 15.30)$$

(Pages 41 - 42)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-17-20 - Private paper 1

Break

(15.30 - 15.40)

6 Consideration of forthcoming legislation

(15.40 - 16.00)

7 COVID-19: Evidence session on the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people with Race Council Cymru representatives

Angel Ezeadum, Welsh Youth Parliament Member Ali Abdi. Lead Coordinator for National BAME Youth Forum

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-17-20 - Private paper 2

8 Papers to note

(16.30)

8.1 Letter from the Chair to the Healthcare Inspectorate Wales regarding the impact of Covid-19 on CAMHS in-patient units

(Pages 44 - 48)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-17-20 - Paper to note 1

8.2 Letter from the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services – response to the Committee's letter of 27 May requesting further information on the impact of Covid-19 on vulnerable children

(Page 49)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-17-20 - Paper to note 2

8.3 Additional information from the Royal College of Nursing following the Committee meeting on 9 June

(Pages 50 - 52)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-17-20 - Paper to note 3

- 9 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting (16.30)
- 10 COVID-19 consideration of the evidence (16.30 16.40)
- 11 Committee correspondence for consideration and agreement (16.40 16.50) (Pages 53 54)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-17-20 - Private paper 3

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

Agenda Item 2

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Scrutiny of Covid-19 and its impact on children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds Summary Note 2

July 2020

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 in Wales. The Committee is keen to hear from everyone involved in supporting children and young people across sectors, including – but not limited to – education, health, social care, and youth work. In April 2020, the Committee launched an open consultation to seek views on, and experiences of, the impact of the pandemic. A child friendly version of this call for views is also available.

With this in mind, it was of importance to the Children, Young People and Education Committee to ensure the voices of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are at the forefront of scrutiny. To support this, the citizen engagement team have focused on how to engage

specific audiences who could be considered as from disadvantaged backgrounds. This summary note includes the key findings to date.

The engagement approach includes working closely with partner organisations who communicate with young people regularly. By offering guidance and encouragement to these organisations, they have enabled the citizen engagement team to collate valuable experiences directly from young people and to bring these to the Committee's attention.

In addition, by adjusting the questioning used for the main Call for Views, a paper worksheet has been created for young people who may require a non-digital route to engage with the consultation. This has been distributed with the support of partner organisations and the initial findings are included in this summary note.

This is the second of several summary notes that will be presented periodically throughout the consultation. The summary note is divided into 2 parts:

- Part 1 Themes arising of relevance to the Committee's selected meeting topic in the coming week
- Part 2 General themes emerging from children and young peoples' views outside of the next meeting topic

The themes and quotes have been selected on the basis that they are reoccurring themes and poignant to the current situation. Where it's possible and appropriate general information has been linked to the quotes to add context within this summary note.



Part 1 - Education Themes

Comments collected to date from young people about their opinion on school closures and their education during the coronavirus pandemic have been both positive and negative. The general themes focused on; social interaction; access to support or information; adjustment to the new structure of learning; and concerns about returning linked with health.

Social interaction - The majority of young people shared comments about how much they missed friends, teachers and certain lessons. A large number of these young people said it was their friends that they missed the most. Some then went on to say they could manage the school work while others explained they were also struggling in a new learning environment;

- "I miss school because I don't get to see my friends anymore. It's hard to do schoolwork at home and I feel like I'm not learning" 13 year old from Merthyr Tydfil
- "I pretty much miss seeing my friends. I don't like it but I can do my work" 8 year old from Merthyr Tydfil
- "I miss being with my friends and receiving school work via email was strange to begin with but got used to it now. I set my own timetable now so that's different too" - Young person
- "I miss mixing with my friends and socialising out of school. I am still able to keep up with my school work but sometimes the volume that comes in at once can be overwhelming. Sometimes using the laptop can be difficult because we only have one in the house hold with 2 people needing to use it" 15 year old from Merthyr Tydfil
- "I miss having fun with my friend because we always had something to talk about but now we don't have anything" 11 year old from Merthyr Tydfil
- "I miss some lessons like Forest School and doing my Duke of Edinburgh. I can't do them now. I don't miss Maths or Science though" Young person
- "I am doing school work from home and I have regular emails from my subject teachers. I am completing work for all subjects. I have my parents at home to help me when I need it" Young person
- "The thing I miss the most about school is seeing our teachers and friends. Online school is much more confusing to me because my teacher can't explain work as much as she could before...Now that I am home I have been getting less help" 11 year old from Merthyr Tydfil

"I miss most about school the explaining that the teachers did before the pandemic was better than now. I also miss my friends, my teachers and I miss the topics we had to make and that there was a challenge between classes" - 11 year old from Cardiff

"I don't have many friends as I have just moved to a new house when all this began. I live in the middle or nowhere and there's no service or anything" - Young person

Access to support or information - Many young people expressed they were getting the support they needed however a few comments demonstrated that the provision was not the same as before lockdown or there may be a lack of access to information they required;

"My Mum, Dad, Grandparents and teachers listen to me. I don't really want to know what is happening but my Mum and Dad tell me important things" - Young person

"Being at home has been really stressful, not being able to go outside, isolating in the house, and not being able to do the school work because I don't have access to the school website. The school contacted me that they were going to bring the laptop since March, but they have 3 months that they haven't brought it yet and also they don't answer the messages and also my teacher doesn't help me with the school work I've missed" - 11 year old from Cardiff

"People have phoned mammy to check we have what we need. We have lots of fun learning" - 2 year old from Merthyr Tydfil (completed with the help of parent)

"In one family, mum has learning difficulties as do the two of her three eldest children. 3 children all at different schools. Mum had no idea how to access the online school work and neither did the children. The primary school teacher had shown mum on last day of school how to access an app. Mum couldn't do this and was very stressed by the thought that she couldn't support her daughter at this time. On first talking to the teacher she genuinely couldn't comprehend that a family was unable to download an app and access the work. Once I had broken it down for her she did become very understanding, sends out regular work packs and talks to mum regularly. I am not sure that this would have happened if she didn't have an advocate" - Staff member working with young people

"I can no longer see my counsellor so I speak to this other lady over the phone. I don't like to though as it's not the same lady and it's over the phone. My dad is always there for me if I need to talk" - 13 year old from Merthyr Tydfil

"I know there's teachers that will help and I get help from my Personal Support Workers that I can get help from at any time. I just think it's not the same now though" - Young person

"Young people are calling/texting Support Workers and asking them to google numbers when they would normally be able to go to libraries or ask friends they see" - Professional working with young people

"Staying home is boring. I can't do the homework as my mum can't find it on the Chromebook" - 7 year old from Cardiff

Adjustment to the new structure of learning - In several comments from young people they mentioned a lack of structure in their lives while they weren't attending their regular learning environment. Some of these comments demonstrated a negative impact on their motivation levels but others said that it was helping to them to try new ways of learning;

"I don't go to a school but I go to a special provision with a small group. This is all a big struggle for me. I haven't got a routine now. I'm stuck at home in my bedroom most of the time. All I seem to do is sleep. I've gone really lazy" - Young person

"One young person (15 years) also wanted me to pass on that they are glad there is a lock down as their family is safe, they have more time so are learning to cook meals and bake and normally they would be out with their friends" - Staff member working with young people

"Being at home is a lot easier because we don't have to finish the work in 1 hour we can come back to it later" - 11 year old from Merthyr Tydfil

Concerns about returning linked with health - There were a small number of comments from young people highlighting their concerns around returning to schools where they, or a family member, had a health issue;

"I am anxious about going back to school as I live with my elderly grandmother and I don't want to bring the virus into the house. We only go out for a small drive in the car as I am autistic and this is a way of calming me down" - 15 year old from Merthyr Tydfil

"Before this I didn't really enjoy going to school, it was a massive stress on me and I had hoped it was going to be cancelled initially because my sister is vulnerable. The day I left school the teachers were great, they made sure I picked up all my books, gave me documents and papers to work on at home and helped to make sure I had what I needed. But when they said about the predicted grades I was disappointed not to be given the chance to sit my exams" - Child asylum seeker

Please note, in addition to this summary note, a variety of education themes were highlighted in <u>Summary Note 1</u> including; a lack the of digital provision; access to food (including free school meals); and attachment issues as a result of limited social interaction.

Part 2 - Additional Key Findings

Wellbeing - When young people were asked how they were feeling and who can they talk to about their feelings there were a range of responses including statements about being overwhelmed and scared, or in contrast, calm and relaxed. Most expressed that they had someone they could talk to;

"I try not to think about what is going on too much. I don't really understand it all" - Young person

"I'm not worried that anyone I know will get the virus but I am scared this will affect us financially and the impact it will have on our mental health. I talk to my father about my feelings" - 13 year old from Merthyr Tydfil

"I have lost connections with friends because I can no longer see them, I feel really lonely most of the time also. My Mother now has seizures every day due to stress" - 13 year old from Merthyr Tydfil

"I feel calm now. I talk to my Dad about them [feelings]" - 8 year old from Merthyr Tydfil

"We go for walks, different trails. I enjoy running and jumping. I'm happy" - 2 year old from Merthyr Tydfil (completed with the help of parent)

"My Mum and Dad listen to me, they are doing their best" - 7 year old from Cardiff

"I am feeling very worried at the moment because I am not sure if everything after the pandemic is going to be as it was before in the UK. Many people have died from coronavirus and I am afraid that every person in the world is going to die since covid is returning in some other countries" - 11 year old from Cardiff

"I think that everyone is keeping in contact with everyone, so nobody is feeling alone, and I think that it is good to see that the majority of the public are following the lockdown rules" - 17 year old living with foster carers

"I am sad as I can't go out as normal. I can't go to the parks or beach. I'm scarred and worried that this virus is not going to end" - 7 year old from Cardiff

"I feel relaxed because there isn't that much pressure. I don't talk to anyone I will find a quiet place in nature or at home and think. I'm doing a bit [of exercise] like walking and netball and I do go outside a bit" - 11 year old from Merthyr Tydfil

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Senedd Cymru

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Welsh Parliament

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Alun Jones, Interim Chief Executive, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales

Dyddiad | Date: 30 June 2020

Pwnc | Subject: Covid-19: CAMHS in-patient units

Dear Alun,

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Children, Young People and Education Committee has been scrutinising the steps taken to manage the impact on children and young people. As part of this scrutiny, we have taken a keen interest in the impact of the pandemic on children and young people's mental health.

One of our key concerns at the outset of the public health emergency was the impact of Covid-19 on CAMHS in-patient units. In response to questions about this, we have been given assurances that discharges have only happened when clinically appropriate.

We would be grateful if you could update us on the arrangements that are now in place for HIW to visit and inspect in-patient facilities, and provide a brief outline of the plans you have in place to respond to any future easing or tightening of the lockdown requirements.

Kind regards,

Lynne Neagle MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 8.2

CYPE(5)-17-20 - Paper to note 2

Julie Morgan AS/MS Y Dirprwy Weinidog lechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

Lynne Neagle Chair Children, Young People and Education Committee Welsh Parliament Cardiff Bay Cardiff CF99 1NA



30 June 2020

Dear Lynne

Thank you for your letter of 27 May in which the Committee asks for specific details on the steps Welsh Government is taking to ensure that children who may not be known to services but are vulnerable, or could become vulnerable, are provided with information on how to access support.

I am encouraged that the number of vulnerable children attending school has increased since lockdown. During the week of 15 June to 19 June just over 1,500 vulnerable children attended, representing 6.3% of all vulnerable children within the current definition. Local authorities have assured us they are prioritising support for vulnerable children whether that be in a hub or at home during this time.

Officials are working with the Children's Commissioner for Wales and the National Independent Safeguarding Board, in consultation with external stakeholders, to develop a range of information and resources to support the identification of hidden harm or abuse, to promote the reporting of concerns and support disclosure by children and young people as lockdown is eased. This will include a public facing campaign, advice to practitioners across agencies and information and advice for children and young people themselves. Further details are set out below: -

On 6th July the "Together We Can Keep People Safe" campaign will launch. The campaign will encourage people to contact their local social services or call 101 if they are concerned that a family member, friend or neighbour is at risk of abuse, neglect or harm. The campaign will run until 16th August and use social media, radio advertising, and digital advertising to spread the message. Comedian Rhod Gilbert is lending his support to the campaign by voicing the radio ads and filming himself talking about the importance of making a call to social services if you have a concern about child, young person or adult.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre: 0300 0604400

<u>Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru</u> Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@gov.wales

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay Caerdydd • Cardiff CF99 1SN

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

- A multi-agency practice guide has been developed to support practitioners in identifying harm, abuse and neglect; report safeguarding concerns and manage disclosures by children and young people. The guide links directly to the national Wales Safeguarding Procedures, which promote evidence based and consistent safeguarding practice. This guide is due for publication on 6 July subject to Ministerial approval and will be widely promoted by the regional Safeguarding Boards and through sector specific networks. As we move into recovery we will respond to evidence in relation to the need for any further support for safeguarding practice as new ways of working are agreed.
- In addition we aim to produce information for children and young people to let them know that it is 'safe to tell', what will happen if they disclose harm, abuse or neglect and to assure them that they and their families will get help and support. This information will be age appropriate, with information designed to engage children and young people of different ages. This work is being developed directly with the office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales, the National Independent Safeguarding Board and with Cardiff University. We have engaged a range of external stakeholders to inform this work. We are identifying opportunities to directly involve children and young people in the production of materials and decisions about how best to communicate messages. We are working to complete these resources for issue on 7 September. A communications plan will be agreed with partners to ensure that this information reaches as many children and young people as possible.

With regards to your request for ongoing access to data; the document 'COVID-19 -Social Care Checkpoint - Children and Families Checkpoint 8- 24th June 2020' is attached at annex 1. I will ensure that the Committee is added to the circulation list for the checkpoint data document. The conditions related to the Welsh Government request for this data means that the information is shared for the purpose of the Committee scrutiny of measures being taken to manage the impact of Covid-19 on vulnerable children only. The data should not be used for any other purpose without prior permission from the data owner. This means that the data must not be shared, or published in any way without prior permission. If additional people need access to the data, please email We;sh Government to obtain consent. For all enquiries and consents to use the data outside of the original stated purpose, please contact owen.davies005@gov.wales.

I trust you have found this further information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Julie Morgan AS/MS

Tule

Y Dirprwy Weinidog lechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

COVID-19 Weekly Social Care Checkpoint - Children and Families Checkpoint 8 - 24th June 2020

Total Number of Respondents - 22

1. As of today, how would you class your ability to operate:		
GREEN	We have some staff absence, but are managing to provide cover for most services.	100%
AMBER	We have staff absent and some services are being moderately affected, but we are still able to provide cover.	0%
RED	We have significant numbers of staff absent and are only able to cover critical services.	0%

2. How many contacts have you received in children's services in the last 7 days?	3,791 ↑
Is this an increase, about the same, or a decrease in what you would usually expect at this time of year?	n 36% reported an increase 50% reported a decrease 14% reported no change 0% unable to answer
How many of the above related to a safeguarding issue?	887 ↑
Is this an increase, about the same, or a decrease in what you would usually expect at this time of year?	27% reported an increase 41% reported a decrease 23% reported no change 9% unable to answer

3. As of today, how many children looked after are there in your local authority?	7,264↔
Has this increased, stayed the same, or decreased in the last 7 days?	45% reported an increase 41% reported a decrease 14% reported no change

4. As of today, how many children are there in your local authority placed on the child protection register?	3,100 ↔
	59% reported an
Has this increased, stayed the same, or decreased in	increase 36% reported
the last 7 days?	a decrease
	5% reported no change

5. How many placements for children looked after have broken down due to suspected or confirmed Covid-19 in the last 7 days?	
How many of these were in a foster placement?	0
How many of these were in a residential placement?	0
How many of these were with family or friends?	0

6. Are you able to continue to make contact with those children requiring care and support at this time?		
GREEN	Yes, we have arrangements to contact all children who require care and support, either in person or through the use of technology.	86%
AMBER	We are not meeting any children face to face unless absolutely necessary and conduct all of our business electronically where possible. Because of this, some things have been affected.	14%
RED	We have made arrangements to contact only the most vulnerable children and families at this time.	0

7. Are your social workers and personal advisers able to continue to make contact to care experienced children and young people at this time?		
GREEN	Yes, we have arrangements to contact all care experienced children and young people, either in person or through the use of technology.	91%
AMBER	We are not meeting any young people face to face unless absolutely necessary and conduct all of our business electronically where possible. Because of this, some things have been affected.	9%
RED	We have made arrangements to contact only the most vulnerable young people at this time.	0

8. How many care experienced young people have reported financial hardship over the last 7 days?	32 ↓
Has this increased, stayed the same, or decreased in the last 7 days?	23% reported an increase 36% reported a decrease 41% reported no change

9. How many care experienced young people ha reported issues with housing or accommodat over the last 7 days?	
Has this increased, stayed the same, or decrease in the last 7 days?	14% reported an increase 27% reported a decrease
	59% reported no change

Agenda Item 8.3

CYPE(5)-17-20 - Paper to note 3



2 June 2020

Royal College of Nursing

Tŷ Maeth King George V Drive East Cardiff CF14 4XZ **Ms L Turnbull** Policy and Public Affairs Adviser, RCN Wales

Telephone: 029 2068 0738

Fax: 029 2068 0750

Email:

lisa.turnbull@rcn.org.uk

Lynne Neagle MS
Chair of the Children, Young people and Education Committee
Senedd Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SA

Dear Lynne,

I wish to express my thanks for allowing the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Wales to present oral evidence to the Children, Young People and Education committee on the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people. Following your request, I am writing to your regarding the progress of the Healthy Child Wales Programme (HCWP) during COVID-19 pandemic.

At the beginning of the pandemic, health visitors were initially called into acute practice. This consequently depleted the numbers of available health visitors at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the unknown nature of the pandemic in the early stages and the challenges the NHS faced the RCN is understanding of the need to redeploy nursing staff. Nevertheless, this did have an adverse effect on the health visiting service, the HCWP and in particular home visits. Not all scheduled visits have been delivered during the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, RCN Wales members' have expressed concern regarding the monitoring of children's health and

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Llywydd/ President Dr Cecilia Akrise Anim CBE, RGN, DPSN

Prif Weithredwr Dros Dro ac Ysgrifennydd Cyffredinol/ Acting Chief Executive & General Secretary Dame Donna Kinnair

Cyfarwyddwr Dros Dro, Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol Cymru Interim Director, RCN Wales Helen Whyley RN, MA Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol Cymru/
Royal College of Nursing Wales
Tŷ Maeth
Rhodfa Ddwyreiniol King George V
Brenin George V
Caerdydd
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Mae'r RCN yn cynrychioli nyrsys a nyrsio, gan hyrwyddo rhagoriaeth mewn arfer a llunio polisïau iechyd

The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice and shapes health policies

Mae'r Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol yn Goleg Brenhinol a sefydlwyd drwy Siarter Frenhinol ac Undeb Llafur Cofrestr Arbennig a sefydlwyd o dan Ddeddf Undebau Llafur a Chysylltiadau Llafur (Cydgrynhoi) 1992 The RCN is a Royal College set up by Royal Charter and a Special Register Trade Union established under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.





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development as well as access to support when domestic abuse and child abuse occurs.

Thankfully, it is our understanding that most, if not all health visitors have returned back to practice and are re-establishing as much of the HCWP as possible following social distancing measure, for example, contact has been adapted and visits are being undertaken on an individual need basis.

Simply put, the HCWP is currently varied across Wales, however arranging contact remains a priority to every Health Board. RCN Wales members have expressed that contact is primarily undertaken virtually using WhatsApp and phone call, however there are arrangements in place for home visits providing there is appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in place.

Many health boards have chosen to deliver the initial family assessment by phone, this allows the health visitor to obtain family history, discuss baby feeding, sleep patterns and provide useful information. This is followed by a home visit in PPE to weigh the baby. If further visits are required, they will be carried out in appropriate PPE.

General Practitioners (GPs) have expressed that the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly increased the use of remote consultations and has seen an improvement of technology in general, within their setting. Whilst COVID-19 has presented a lot of challenges, it is important to note that the roll out of technology and innovation has

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been extremely beneficial to GP surgeries and this should be extended to health visitors and school nurses. With discussions of what the new normal will look like, it is important to establish that health visitors and school nurses urgently require an expansion of technology.

If you require a more detailed account of the impact of COVID-19 on the HCWP please do let me know.

Kind regards,

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RCN Direct 0345 772 6100

www.rcn.org.uk

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By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

Agenda Item 11

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