

Julie Morgan MS, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

Dyddiad | Date: 27 May 2020

Pwnc | Subject: **Impact of Covid-19 on vulnerable children**

Dear Julie,

You will be aware from our [letter to the Welsh Government dated 12 May](#) that the impact of Covid-19 on vulnerable children is a priority area of scrutiny for us.

On 18 May we took evidence from representatives of the NSPCC, Barnardo's, the Heads of Children's Services in Wales and the National Independent Safeguarding Board. During the meeting, the Chair of the All Wales Heads of Children's Services Group (AWHOCS) explained that local authorities have been collecting and submitting data to the Welsh Government to "summarise the situation within the local authorities". The AWHOCS Chair went on to explain that the data:

"looks at our ability to operate within the current arrangements, the number of referrals, the number of safeguarding referrals, the number of looked-after children, the number of children on the child protection register, the number of placements affected because of COVID-19, and then there are also questions about the cohort after care, and how many of those young people have difficult experiences financially or experiences that lead to homelessness."

CYPE Committee, [Record of Proceedings \[para 230\]](#), 18 May 2020

The Committee requests ongoing access to this data to inform its scrutiny of the measures being taken to manage the impact of Covid-19 on our most vulnerable children.

During the meeting, witnesses also referred to the importance of considering the impact of Covid-19 on children not previously considered vulnerable but who may have become vulnerable (or will become vulnerable) due to the current pandemic. This has also been a concern raised consistently by the Committee. **As such, the Committee would be particularly grateful if your response to our letter of 12 May could give specific details on the steps you are taking ensure that children who may not be known to services but are vulnerable/could become vulnerable are provided with information on how to access support.**

I have copied this letter to the Minister for Education given the impact that steps to care for vulnerable children has on the work underway to support our children and young people's education and wellbeing.



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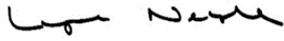
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Kind regards,



Lynne Neagle MS
Chair

Cc. Kirsty Williams MS, Minister for Education

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

