

I have a son, he is 19 and he was in year 13 in the Marion Centre at bishop of landscape high school and was supposed to be going through his transition to adult services in the Cathays community centre with 1:1 support. He is going through terrible anxiety and confusion, desperate for some sort of normality. He has suffered so much and in turn we as his family have too. He has missed the most important part of his final year at school. I've pleaded with the learning authority to let him go back into school for an additional year, in order for him to re establish himself with some level of continuity again so he can have a planned transition into a new provision that he can continue his life skills learning successfully. With 1:1 support in place. I was told an immediate no, when I asked for this to be considered and I feel that the education authority are ignoring the huge impact that this has already had and will have on my sons mental health and well being and his future as a whole. He needs this, he is depressed and so lost. I have felt we are invisible. Asking for help and being left with nothing.. it's unacceptable. You must try to help us parents who know best What our children need and not abandon them in this time of great need. Allowing them to return to school for a year extra is the only way to ensure that they have a fair and decent opportunity to make a successful transition to their placement where ever that may be. The staff aren't apposed to the idea. It's definitely plausible and they need it. You can't just defer their needs to then say well sorry it's too late now. This situation needs to be addressed and clarified for their sakes and ours. We are in an impossible situation. If we at least had a goal ahead they may be able to cope better with the current crisis. I also have a 9 year old daughter who is undiagnosed but under assessment, she to has suffered greatly during this period of uncertainty. I'm unsure she will return to school at all. She has become withdrawn and is in her own world most of the time. Her way of coping. But a regression all the same. I'm finding home learning impossible to implement. As she is demand avoidant and has other health conditions which are worsening due to this despondency she's displaying. As a parent and Carer of 4 children trying to manage everything at home and make things work, without concise information to offer them about what will happen when the new normality begins, while keeping them all happy and well, it would benefit my whole family to have a plan in place for them all. The other 2, my daughters ages 5 and 13, the latter of which is also shielding due to a heart deformity. I'm in such a dilemma as to what will

come of the damage this has created to their education and wellbeing. Sending any of my children back would put her at risk. All in all, whatever plans can be arranged for them will benefit many more than just our family. As I'm sure we're not alone in our struggles. Please consider letting children resit a year in educational settings, let them have a chance to catch up and in my sons case, transition, as it's his only chance to do so.

I note that the national autistic society in Wales have also highlighted the massive impact this situation is having on our youngsters with autism in transition and also any child under this "umbrella". Please I explore you to do what's right. Regardless of a rule book or cost. Give them a fighting chance to overcome the damage this crisis has caused.