

## **Government Response: The Adoption and Fostering (Wales) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020**

### **Merit Scrutiny point 1:**

A Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) was undertaken to support the initial administrative easements applied to the Adoption Agencies (Wales) Regulations 2005 from April 2020. This CRIA is publicly accessible via the Welsh Government's central CRIA list. At the time the CRIA was prepared it was not mandatory to publish all CRIAs. The Welsh Government is however in the process of publishing this CRIA and it will be available on the Welsh Government website in the next few weeks.

The Welsh Government undertook a full Integrated Impact Assessment when developing the Adoption and Fostering (Wales) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 which included a CRIA. This process confirmed that the assessment outlined in the above mentioned CRIA remained relevant. Again, the relevant sections of the Integrated Impact Assessment are in the process of being published.

### **Merit Scrutiny point 2:**

As stated in the Explanatory Memorandum, a 4 week consultation was undertaken between 27th July and 24th August 2020. This consultation informed the content of the Adoption and Fostering (Wales) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 in that the proposed change to the Fostering Panels (Establishment and Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2018, to include access to a self-declaration medical process during the pandemic, was removed in light of responses received from stakeholders during the consultation process.

As outlined in the Explanatory Memorandum, the Welsh Government is currently in the process of publishing the summary of the responses to the consultation.

### **Merit Scrutiny point 3:**

The Welsh Government considers that the amendment which extends the period that an agency may make a temporary approval of a connected person / kinship carer from 16 weeks to 24 weeks does not provide any additional risk to a child. This is because the placing authority will still need to adhere to the requirements of the 2015 Regulations and ensure arrangements which will safeguard and promote a child's well-being and meet the needs as set out in the care and support plan. All the remaining duties in respect of that temporary approval remain and are set out in regulation 26(2).

To support the Regulations, a full Integrated Impact Assessment was undertaken and is in the process of being published. The Welsh Government is currently in the process of publishing the summary of the responses to the consultation.