

CYPE(5)-28-20 - Paper to note 4

Senedd Cymru

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Welsh Parliament

Children, Young People and Education Committee

At|To: All NHS Wales health board Chief Executives

Dyddiad | Date: 10 November 2020

Pwnc | Subject: **COVID-19 and children and young people's mental health**

Dear Chief Executives,

The Senedd's Children, Young People and Education Committee is undertaking ongoing scrutiny of the steps being taken to manage the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people.

The mental health and well-being of our children and young people is a key priority for us. Since the beginning of the public health emergency, we have heard a wide range of concerns that suggest the unintended consequences from the restrictions due to the COVID-19 epidemic could be having more of an impact on children and young people than the infection itself. We stated in our interim report on the impact of the virus on children and young people, published in July 2020, that we believe that steps to support our children's mental health and well-being are more important now than ever.

We are aware of some of the actions being taken across Wales' health service to help address the mental health needs of children and young people that have arisen as a result of the pandemic, such as moving provision to online and over the phone.

However, I write to seek assurances about the steps being taken by your health board to support young people and their families with access to services at this difficult time. I would be grateful if you could confirm that there is appropriate information clearly and readily available online on your webpages for children, young people, their parents and carers about the pathways for help and support with their mental health, and information for families on how to self-refer if its needed. It would be helpful if you could provide relevant hyperlinks as evidence of this.

Given the important nature of this information, and our ongoing work in this area, I would appreciate an individual response from each health board by **noon on Wednesday 18 November 2020**.

Yours sincerely,



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