

Elin Jones AM

Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee

15 April 2020

Annwyl Lywydd,

In advance of the Business Committee's next meeting, I wanted to inform you of the Children, Young People and Education Committee's desire to meet as soon as possible after the short Easter recess.

As a Committee, we fully understand and support the pause to committee work to enable all available resources to be focused on preparing frontline services for the peak of the current public health emergency. We also applaud the work undertaken to enable the Emergency Senedd to hold the Welsh Government to account and represent the people of Wales throughout the period to date.

Given the impact of the virus and current public health measures on children, young people and education, we believe our committee scrutiny function has an important role to play in confronting the challenging weeks and months that lie ahead. We recognise that the Welsh Ministers, Government officials and frontline staff are under significant pressure at this point, and intend, as always, to adopt a proportionate and responsible approach to our work programme.

For the moment, we have paused all non-Covid related work and intend to focus our attention on monitoring the impact of – and response to – Covid-19 on areas such as:

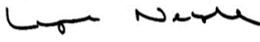
- the physical and mental health of our children and young people; social care and children's services (including child protection);
- pre-16 education (including early childhood education and care);
- post-16 education (including further and higher education); and
- all other areas of relevance.



We will also take a keen interest in the use within our remit of any of the emergency powers granted to the Welsh Ministers. As time progresses, we will review our paused work, and await further details of timescales for the Welsh Government's legislative priorities.

This is an uncertain and worrying time for all of us, not least our children and young people. As a Committee, we are very keen to ensure that the people of Wales feel reassured that our legislature's scrutiny functions are operating at the most important of times, and that matters affecting our children and young people are at the forefront of our minds.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AM
Chair

