

30th Sept Cross Part Group Meeting on Long Covid

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Rhun ap Iorwerth MS (Co-Chair)
Hefin David MS (Co-Chair)
Jayne Bryant MS
Lee David Bowen (Long-COVID Wales, Secretariat)
Dr Ian Frayling (Long-COVID Wales, Secretariat)
Siân Griffiths (Long-COVID Wales, Secretariat)
Georgia Walby (Long-COVID Wales, Secretariat)
Andrew Bettridge (Office of John Griffiths MS)
Heledd Roberts (Office of Rhun ap Iorwerth MS)
Alex Still (Office of Hefin David MS)
Joseph Carter (British Lung Foundation)
Sammie McFarland (Long-COVID Kids)
Nicolas Webb (Royal College of GPs)
Ceri Williams (Wales TUC)

Agenda

Sammie McFarland founder of Long Covid Kids to speak
Leanne Jagne, mother of a 16 year old with long covid to speak
TUC representative to give an Update on the TUC's work on Long Covid

Meeting

Sammie McFarland spoke about her personal experiences of herself and her children suffering long covid since early 2020. She described how long covid in many places is not recognised as affecting children. Services in England are only just being funded. Parents are still told they are being over-anxious or that their children are picking up on parental anxieties.

Sammie shared slides of resources available to parents on the LongCovidKids website.

Leanne Jagne gave a moving account of her daughter's struggles with Long Covid including how much school she has missed and the fact that her daughter has just tested positive again despite being re-assured by the family GP that this would not happen due to her daughter having antibodies. Leanne also told the meeting that she had recently had to pay £30 to the GP surgery for a letter detailing her daughter's illness as the school had demanded it.

Ceri Williams gave an update on the TUC's work to get Long Covid recognised as an Industrial Illness for key workers so that people exposed to it will be able to receive a higher rate of financial support. They are also working to get Long Covid recognised as a disability as this will help non key workers access financial support plus protections at work.

Actions

Co-Chairs to write to the Minister for Health and Social Services on the subjects discussed today – services for children and young people with long-COVID and the TUC campaign to have long-COVID recognised as an industrial disease and a disability.