

<p>Senedd Cymru Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg</p> <p>Ymchwiliad i effaith argyfwng Covid-19 ar blant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru</p> <p>COV – 59 Ymateb gan: Penaethiaid Gwasanaethau Plant yng Nghymru</p>	<p>Welsh Parliament Children, Young People and Education Committee</p> <p>Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on children and young people in Wales</p> <p>COV - 59 Response from: Heads of Children Services in Wales</p>
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- We would like to extend our thanks and praise to all of our foster carers, social workers, residential workers, social care workers and support workers who have shown the strength of the social care workforce in Wales at its' best from the beginning of this challenging period. The commitment and integrity that we have seen to support, safeguard and care for children in Wales has been impressive.
- We would like to bring to attention concerns for disabled children during this period. We are aware that a number of families in our Local Authorities are under tremendous pressure. A high volume of disabled children have underlying health conditions which places them in the shielding category and therefore it is difficult for them to attend care provision during this time. We are concerned regarding the impact on disabled children and young people in the medium and longer term as the usual services that they would have received over the Summer holidays for example by way of Summer play schemes will be greatly reduced. They will also possibly be the last cohort of children who return to their schools due to the need to prioritise health issues.
- We are satisfied that there is synergy within Local Authorities Children's Services in relation to fulfilling statutory duties. We are confident that we are prioritising these duties across Wales. However, we have concerns regarding inconsistencies from other provision who would normally support the Local Authority in undertaking their statutory duties.
- Domestic Violence – some parts of Wales have seen an increase in the number of domestic violence referrals and we have concerns regarding the longer term impact on children in these circumstances during lockdown
- We are confident to say that Children's Services in Wales have coped and are coping well currently whilst we respond to the emergency situation. We are however concerned regarding the medium and longer term impact on children's services when we enter the recovery and the 'new normal' period.