

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Welsh Parliament
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Ymchwiliad i effaith argyfwng Covid-19
ar blant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru

Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on
children and young people in Wales

COV - 07
Ymateb gan: Unigolyn

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Response from: Individual

I have two children with SEND. Both are statemented and are currently at home (in a single parent household) due to current guidelines.

My eldest son is in the first year of his A levels. He had already been struggling at school this year due to the increased pace of the lessons and I was about to approach school regarding the significant change in his support needs when the lockdown occurred. He requires a very high level of support at his SRB attached to Mainstream provision. He is, and always has, struggling to work at home. We have limited space (a small home with one shared living area that has the table), and one laptop between the household. I am not a teacher but feel that I am being called to be one (and a specialist one at that) as the school continues its curriculum regardless. My eldest is increasingly anxious about the current work, worried that he was struggling anyway and is losing the little bit of confidence he had (he did very well at GCSE's). For example, this morning we tried to work on his A level maths that we had watched a recorded zoom presentation on (he is unable to join in live), but he became so frustrated and anxious trying to work out a question that he broke his writing equipment. We are falling further and further behind each week as anxiety and frustration trip him up.

In my mind, he has been unable to access the curriculum all this year due to processing difficulties (the pace of A levels is so much faster) and he is not ready to go into year 13. How can he continue to the next year with such a poor first year foundation? I feel strongly that he is at a disadvantage and at such a crucial place in his education.

My other son is in year 9. He missed most of years 7 and 8 due to anxiety and the time it took to complete assessments and get a statement of SEN to cover his needs and the attached funding. Now he is also missing a chunk of year 9. He has no contact from his SEN teaching staff and is struggling to do any learning at home due to the change of routine and loss of specialist educational support. He has missed so much high school education.

Both my sons are going to be severely disadvantaged by the combination of special educational needs along with no access to effective learning support due to the Covid-19 pandemic, that could potentially significantly effect and

limit their life choices. I do not say that lightly, and I genuinely believe this to be the case.