

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 - 13
Ymateb gan: Dr Cath Norton,
Pediategydd ymgynghorol

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Response from: Dr Cath Norton, Consultant
paediatrician

A few brief thoughts

In general families have been amazing and stoical when I have spoken with them

Practical issues predominate

Children with neurodevelopmental variation have had variable responses- some have loved lockdown as it has removed the thing that they fear the most- the transition to school-my concern would be the transition out of lockdown

Those whose life experience may have reflected trauma relating to family functioning may have had a very different experience- some have shown distressed behaviours, some have absconded

Poverty is a huge factor

Barriers due to language are a concern even with good access to interpreters- this may reflect professionals anxiety in part as adapting to new ways of working is one thing- doing so via an interpreter adds another layer of stress

Referrals to safeguarding have been low- worrying

We have developed a multiagency advice line and weekly virtual Multi agency meeting to prioritise access to support and where appropriate school HWB access- this has built steadily- it has removed barriers to access to advice and support and allowed us to work as a more efficient team- worth considering retention of this post covid- it would be good to review and get feedback once feasible