

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

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

COV 114
Ymateb gan: Sharon Thomas, Gweithiwr
cymdeithasol

Welsh Parliament
Children, Young People and Education Committee

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

COV 114
Response from: Sharon Thomas, Social Worker

I read with some interest your role in regards to chairing the committee looking at the impact of Covid 19 on to the mental health of our children.

Perhaps during these discussions some consideration could be given to the impact onto children in foster care who still aren't allowed face to face supervised contact with their parents after 3months in isolation.

The significant emotional impact this is having on our most vulnerable children is without doubt really concerning and will be long lasting, especially if the child will be returning back to that parents care.

The bond and relationship will have been negatively impacted upon. Some of these children went from seeing their parents daily, weekly etc in a supervised setting to nothing but a phone call or meeting via virtual means. I'm sure you will agree this isn't much benefit for most children but especially young children and babies.

It's my view that these children are being treated completely differently from children who live with separated parents outside of the care system and can still see, hug and spend time with their absent parent not having to adhere to the 2 metre rule or being considered as 2 separate households.

The children in foster care haven't been given the same opportunity during this crisis which in my view is wrong and discriminating against them due to their circumstances. It's not in the child's best interest. These children are allowed to go to hub schools, meet with teachers, youth workers and their peers but can't see their absent parent under current Welsh Government guidelines.

I would be interested to know what thoughts have been given to these children and how this is moving forward.