

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 63a  
Ymateb gan: Unigolyn

COV 63a  
Response from: Individual

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As an update, after 8 weeks of no face to face contact or home leave from XX XXXXX 2020 onwards, home leave was resumed in XXX 2020 in response to the tribunal direction & our son was discharged on XX XXXXXX 2020 after a period of 2 consecutive weeks successful home leave. When his leave was reinstated he then had to have a swab to check if he was infected by coronavirus every time before he was allowed home leave - to make sure he was not infected & would not infect us- then a 2 n d coronavirus swab when he went back to the hospital - even though he & we were was symptomless - so that he would not infect the staff or patients.

On returning to hospital he had to stay in his bedroom in isolation until his test was returned negative & he was only allowed out of his room for 45 minutes a day of exercise. He was alone in his small bedroom with a t v & d v d s for up to 6 or 7 nights on some occasions until the negative test was returned but as time progressed the tests could be returned after 2 or 3 nights of isolation. Staff talked to him through a hatch in his door & one designated staff member called a hot nurse could go into his room to talk to him face to face, usually once a day. Occasionally kind staff such as his named nurse would go into his room to talk to him more directly.

When I complained, he was allowed to come out of his room for 15 minutes for fresh air in the morning & 45 minutes in the afternoon or evening for football. However, the delay caused by the interpretation of Coronavirus guidance by the hospital meant that we were at least 8 weeks behind where we should be in terms of discharge, & we feel strongly that it should not have taken the decision of a tribunal judge to get his home leave reinstated.

I think XXXXX will want to explain how staff were coming in & out of hospital without having to change clothes or have isolation or swabs after being with their families or shopping in the community & how he felt he should be allowed on the ward wearing protective clothing & keeping a distance from staff & peers if he was symptomless, but this was not permitted.

Please see the letter attached which shows what he had to go through. We are happy for this to be anonymised & shared.

**XX XXX 2020**

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Firstly we would like to apologise again for the misunderstanding regarding the infection control policy around the COVID-19 Pandemic and facilitating home leave. We are currently the only service within the trust at the moment that is operating a home leave policy so this is all new and will continue to be reviewed and updated throughout the pandemic.

As discussed on the phone we have spoken with XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX (CPN/ Care Co-ordinator) and informed her of the current policy that is in place to support XXX accessing home leave during the current global pandemic. With XXXXXXXX we have agreed the current plan which has extended his leave a further night. This plan will start from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June when XXX will be collected from XXXXXXXXXXXXX at 4pm to commence his overnight leave -

Week 1						
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
4.00pm onwards Leave	Leave	Leave	Leave return by 8pm	Isolation 1	Isolation2	Isolation 3

Week 2						
Mon 2	Tues 2	Wed 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2	Sat 2	Sun 2
Isolation 4	Isolation 5 – swabbed for COVID-19	Isolation 6 - end earlier if Negative result is received	Isolation 7	Assessment on the ward – swabbed for COVID-19	Assessment on the ward	Assessment on the ward

The current policy has been attached for commencing section 17 home leave during the current global pandemic but the paragraph that has aided our decision making around the current leave plan is as follows -

- *On returning from Section 17 Home Leave young person is to have physical observation taken on return from leave. Young person is to searched on return in the search room and then to be taken to room 34 where they are to change into a clean set of clothing (which they prepared before going on leave) which has not been taken on leave. Clothing removed need to be put into a red washing bag and*

*clothing is to be washed as per IPPC guidance. Young person is to wear a surgical mask to walk to their bedroom. Young person is to be isolated on return from leave for 7 days. If the young person is Asymptomatic and refusing to isolate then isolation cannot be enforced but staff are to be vigilantly looking out for symptoms and taking physical observations daily and to be tested on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of returning from home leave. However if they are Symptomatic then isolation can be enforced to protect others. If the young person is only on leave for a short period of time 1 - 5 nights then they are to be encouraged to isolate for 7 days on their return and then to be tested on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of isolation. If the young person is on leave for more than 5 nights on return they are to encouraged to isolate for 7 days and to be swabbed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of isolation. On receipt of a negative result isolation can be ended.*

The Occupational Therapy will be meeting with XXX on Saturday XX XXX, to develop a bedroom timetable to help keep XXX occupied and simulated throughout his isolation period. Infection Control Procedures allow for service users to access fresh air breaks while in isolation, this has been discussed with the Matron and it has been agreed that he will be able to wear a surgical face mask, gloves and apron and attend the astroturf once per day. The astroturf is one of the nearest and largest outdoor areas to XXXXXX ward. While on the astroturf XXX will be able to have access to one football however staff will not be able to play with him but he will be able to practice his skills. This is also a large area where he will be able to walk around and engage aerobic activities.

It has been explained to XXX that he will be swabbed on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of isolation which falls on a Tuesday, the Matron has agreed that she will perform the swabbing during the morning every week so that this sample is received by midday at the laboratory. Once a negative result is received isolation will be ended XXX is also required to be swabbed 3 days prior to going on leave to ensure that he is also not leaving the site potentially infected and therefore he will be swabbed again on the Friday. The Trust infection control team are currently reviewing this guidance and therefore there may be changes imminently around when swabbing is required and we will ensure that XXX care plans are updated as and when changes are made.

The ward has purchased a smart phone to be able to set up Zoom, so that a Zoom call can be made whilst XXX is in isolation. We are awaiting this to be set up and we are hoping to have this completed by Sunday XXXXX and once this is completed senior staff on site have agreed to help facilitate the call.

Kind Regards

FCAMHS Clinical Team