



PLANT YNG NGHYMRU
CHILDREN IN WALES

RE: Questionnaire UK COVID-19 Inquiry: Modules 2 and 2B - Rule 9 Request to Children in Wales Reference: M2/2B/CIW/01 Please provide the following information:

1. A brief overview of the history, legal status and aims of the organisation or body. Please explain whether the work of the organisation or body is UK wide, or is instead confined to Wales only.

Since 1992 Children in Wales has been the national umbrella organisation for voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals who work with children, young people and families in Wales.

<https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/about-us/>

Children in Wales published a Vision Statement in 2022

<https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/about-us/our-vision/vision-statement/>

Children in Wales is a registered charity (1020313) and company limited by guarantee (2805996.)

Our activity is predominantly confined to Wales, although we have working relationships with other organisations across the UK and in Europe

2. A brief description of the group(s) which the organisation or body supports or represents.

Our membership includes individuals and organisations from the voluntary, statutory and professional sectors. We also work directly with children and young people on a number of projects

Our membership directory can be accessed here -

<https://www.childreninwalesmembership.org.uk/pages/11-membership-directory-cyfeiriadur-aelodaeth>

We work in collaboration with our members for transformational change at a policy level in Wales and to provide opportunities for children and young people to participate in a range of projects to inform decision makers in Wales

3. A brief overview of the work of the organisation or body in supporting or representing the relevant group(s) between January 2020 and May 2022

as it relates to the response to Covid-19 of (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Welsh Government.

- (i) No relevant activities
- (ii) We were a member (advisory role) of the Welsh Government's Vulnerable Children, Young People and Safeguarding Advisory Group between May 2020 and June 2021. This group then became the Cross-Government Children and Young People's External Advisory Group from July 2021 until it ceased in April 2022. We also attended several meetings of the Welsh Government's Covid-19 Moral and Ethical Advisory Group

4. A list of any articles or reports the organisation or body has published or contributed to, and/or evidence it has given (for example to UK Parliament or Senedd Select Committees) regarding the impact on the group(s) which the organisation or body supports or represents of the response to Covid-19 by (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Welsh Government. Please include links to those documents where possible.

- (i) No articles or reports
- (ii) We produced and/or contributed to the following
 - Senedd Children, Young People and Education Committee Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on children and young people in Wales – written submission - May 2020
<https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s101475/CYPE%20COV%2043%20-%20Children%20in%20Wales%2011%20May%202020%20Published%2028%20May%202020.pdf>
 - Senedd Children, Young People and Education Committee Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on children and young people in Wales – written submission - June 2020
<https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s102066/CYPE%20COV%2078%20-%20Wales%20UNCRC%20Monitoring%20Group%2019%20May%202020%20Published%2011%20June%202020.pdf>
 - Statement on behalf of our End Child Poverty Network Cymru in response to school closures (March 2020)
https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/news/end_child_poverty_network_cymru_issue_statement_in_response_to_the_welsh_governments_school_closures_to_tackle_covid_19/
 - Members Survey results on Covid-19 (June 2020)
https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/news/children_in_wales_members_survey_on_covid_19_the_results_summary_report/
 - Covid-19 and the impact on low income and disadvantaged families (October 2020)
https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/news/new_report_launched_covid_19_and_the_impact_on_low_income_and_disadvantaged_families

[id 19 and the impact on low income and disadvantaged families/ \(Report sent as an Attachment\)](#)

- Report to the United Nations on behalf of our Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group highlighting children's rights priorities in Wales, including reference to impact of Covid-19 (December 2020)
<https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/professionals/our-work/state-childrens-rights/>
- Key findings from the impact of Covid-19 on early childhood education and care provision (March 2021)
<https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/news/ECECKeyfindings/>
- Annual Child and Family Poverty Survey Report (Sept 2021)
<https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/news/children-wales-annual-child-and-family-poverty-survey-report-launched/>
- The Impact and legacy of Covid-19 report (May 2022)
<https://www.childreninwales.org.uk/news/children-wales-members-report-2022-impact-and-legacy-covid-19/>
- Children in Wales Quarterly Magazines - The themes relevant to Covid-19 were as follows: Summer 2020 - Wellbeing during the Coronavirus Pandemic, including an article from CiW on Supporting Families through Lockdown; Winter 2020 - The Emotional Health and Wellbeing of our children and young people during lockdown and Covid-19
- We supported the Welsh Government and Children's Commissioner for Wales (as lead organisations) in respect of the Coronavirus and me study <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/coronavirusandme/>
- We also completed a number of consultation/focus group sessions with young people during this period on behalf of Welsh Government. These included the following
 - Consultation on the Ministerial Play Review (attached)
 - Face coverings in schools (attached)
 - Review of Covid-19 restrictions in schools from September 2021 (attached)
 - Access to health services by children and young people during the covid-19 pandemic (attached)
 - Review of Self-isolation rules (attached)
 - Face coverings in schools and education settings 2021 (attached)
 - Covid-19 Vaccinations for 16 and 17 year olds (attached)
 - Digital Covi-19 pass for international travel for 12-15 year olds (attached)
 - A small group of young people met with the First Minister (28th Oct 2020) to share their opinions on the current firebreak, previous lockdown restrictions and what they see as priorities in relation to COVID-19 restrictions going forward.

5. The view of the organisation or body as to whether the group(s) it supports or represents was adequately considered when decisions about the response to Covid-19 were made by (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Welsh Government. Please also explain the reasons for the view expressed by the organisation or body in this respect.

- (i) No activities
- (ii) Children in Wales does not provide direct frontline services to the public. As an umbrella body, our views are based on the information which has been provided to us to inform our reports and publications referenced above. In particular, we would wish to draw your attention to our two joint responses to the Senedd Committee inquiry, and our two reports on the impact and legacy of COVID published in June 2020 and May 2022
- (iii) **Whether the organisation or body raised any concerns about the consideration being given to the group(s) which it supports or represents with (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Welsh Government, when those governments were making decisions about their response to Covid-19. Please provide a list of any such correspondence or meetings with (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Welsh Government, including the dates on which the body or organisation wrote or such meetings were held, to whom the correspondence was addressed or with whom the meeting was held, and any response received from the UK Government or the Welsh Government addressing such concerns.**
 - (i) No activities
 - (ii) Our advisory role to Welsh Government's external stakeholder groups (question 3) involved giving consideration to the steps they were taking in response to the pandemic and ensuring that any the issues emerging from our service or research were shared through the meetings. Each of the meetings were coordinated and led by Welsh Government and minutes from those meetings will be available from the relevant officials.

The issues we would have drawn the Welsh Governments attention to are captured in our response to the Senedd Committee inquiry and our two reports on the impact and legacy of COVID, and would have included

- Additional pressures on children and young people due to their experience of schools, childcare settings, youth clubs, primary health care and family support services experiencing periods of closure or had their services severely disrupted

- How pre-existing inequalities had been exacerbated, and raised particular fears around children's mental health, wellbeing and education; of children being exposed to violence in the home and increased poverty, and of the effects of experiencing trauma and distress due to isolation, separation and possible loss
- Barriers for some children in respect of digital exclusion and associated costs
- Impact of the pandemic on public and third sector services

As Children in Wales does not provide direct frontline services to the public, much of our evidence was drawn from correspondence with member organisations, some of whom, were also members of these Groups.

- (iv) **A brief summary of the views of the organisation or body as to any lessons, if any, that can be learned from any consideration which was given to the group(s) that the organisation or body supports or represents by (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Welsh Government when they were making decisions about their response to Covid-19**

We would wish to draw your attention to our report on the impact and legacy of COVID published May 2022 (listed above)

Sean O'Neill

Policy Director Children in Wales