

CCfW matters arising 26/3/20 – 1/4/20

Health

- **NICE guidelines around clinical frailty** caused some alarm for parents of disabled children. These have since been amended to expressly exclude application to children, and we've added this to our FAQs on our information hub to reassure parents.
- Parent contacted us re. WG website; they felt UK Government (via their website) offers more support for **vulnerable groups particularly children and CYP with medical conditions**.
- We've also had separate contacts about shielding letters not being received for these groups; we've passed this information on to WG health officials already.

(we've since seen updated advice 31/3/20 stating *"All those identified as being at a very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus (due to a serious underlying health issue) will receive a letter from the Chief Medical Officer for Wales by no later than the end of this week."*)

Social Care

- SW contacted us concerned about **litigation around exposing children in foster care to risk** where the foster carer works in the NHS. We've advised SW it is for the LA to manage risk but they should follow the same guidelines for households as other families.
- **Plastic face visors** for Hillside due to spitting concerns – we've passed this request on to YCS and WG officials.
- Concerns from Leaving Care Forum network around **placement breakdowns** due to young people not following social distancing advice, and subsequent risk to carers, other children in the setting, and to workers transporting YP. LAs report a range of different PPE being available for this, but some have no access to any equipment.

Education

- Interpretation of **support for children of keyworkers** continues to be varied. One example this week - Mum is a key worker for social services. Single parent to a 9 year old who has a care and support plan due to historical domestic abuse between parents. School hub initially said that the child had a place for childcare but then this was withdrawn due to health and safety concerns (the child has some difficulties in school and risk assessment was carried out using issues that he has in classroom).

Other

- Charities –
 - **The Children's Society** have moved staff to home working. They are in discussions with all the other big charities about how to support children who are just below radar that schools usually pick up. They are concerned that some smaller charities will go to the wall. They have advised us that if any small charities in Wales are closing and good work with children will be lost, they may be in a position to step in.
 - **UNICEF** - their main UK programmes (Rights Respecting Schools and Baby-friendly maternity services) are mainly on hold and they are looking to redeploy people to help co-ordination, information giving etc. They offered to help amplify any messages we are trying to get across and also happy for us to pass their offer on to Government offering to help in any way.
- Police – we've written to the All Wales Policing Group to ask about trauma informed policing towards children and young people found out and about in their communities during this crisis.
- Lastly, we've been trying to find out how best to collate information on social services and education practice at a local level, particularly supporting vulnerable children and young people. We now understand WG are collating information, and putting together an FAQ document that covers questions on the support and provision available to vulnerable children and their families.