

Message

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Sent: 12/05/2020 11:59:38 AM
To: Sally Holland [sally.holland@childcomwales.org.uk]; **Name Redacted** @childcomwales.org.uk; **NR** **Name Redacted** @childcomwales.org.uk]
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Subject: FYI - WG use of CRIA

Hi all

I've just had a discussion with some WG education/childcare officials re. CRIA.

In a nutshell, they've been asked to do CRIA on the decisions already taken at the outset of the lockdown. I've strongly emphasised that this cannot be about retro fitting children's rights considerations into decisions that never had this in mind, and that it is important to own the fact that decisions had to be taken in light of the declared public health emergency, and then note who is affected by those decisions and how, and how positive reach can be maximised and negative impact can be mitigated for future decisions that flow from those initial moves.

I've also encouraged them to be transparent and to publish info – it doesn't sound like much is coming out until end of May however. I made it clear that lack of published info is creating worries in the sector and that WG need to be clearer on some of their messaging. I've suggested they should be making clearer statements on how children's rights are influencing the decisions that are coming now rather than looking back. For example any announcements now around school reopening plans (some info expected later this week) will need to show how children's rights and needs have been taken into consideration.

I've reiterated the offer of reviewing draft CRIA and draft guidance in a critical friend role at this time.

They asked for areas of particular concern at present, I flagged vulnerable children generally and suggestions around easements in education/SEN legislation that are being hinted at but lack of detail is leading to growing worry in the sector. Neither of these fall to the officials on today's call and these things are apparently being considered separately!! I also suggested that childcare opening and school opening decisions need to link up, particularly where provision took place on school sites previously, as this is confusing for parents.

On easements to education legislation, they spoke about how concerns from LAs and Governing Bodies are influencing this work (what they feel unable to comply with) but I highlighted that nobody spoke about what families are feeling and the support they most value at this time for example – this should also be a factor in those decisions! I know we have future opportunities to feed into this and it's not these particular officials, but still wanted to make this clear so it can be passed on.

They are using social media monitoring and records of contacts/initial complaints to feed into this work, which I thought was a positive. They are also a) aware of the survey and b) looking forward to seeing results so that's also good!

They said they'd be keeping impact assessments under 'constant review'. I emphasised the importance of WG being more directive/issuing instructions if their data and monitoring work shows that not all schools are keeping in contact with pupils, or setting sufficient work/resources to work on etc. and they accepted this was important, particularly as this is now going on longer than perhaps originally envisaged.

Thanks

NR