## ENYA 2021

"Let's Talk Young, Let's Talk about the impact of COVID-19 on children's rights"

Recommendations about Health:



1. During times where children and young people cannot attend appointments in person due to COVID19 ensure online consultations are provided. As the situation improves, and in the future, continue to allow children and young people to have the option to have online or face to face health care consultations.



2. There should be more resources to improve reducing wait times for all diagnoses including ALN, Mental Health & operations waiting since pre COVID. Take into consideration possible COVID changes that could affect waiting times and continuing efficient communication between CYP and health services.



3. Continue providing support for mental health - for those affected by COVID changes as well those dealing with 'normal' teenage problems such as bullying. Continue this even when things return to 'normal'. This support could include activities which help the mind and body e.g. yoga as well as opportunities for outdoor learning.



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## Recommendations about Education:



1. Give certain and fair information to children about education in learning environments. Give young people and education settings clear information well in advance and ensure fairness by monitoring changes and making sure they are consistent across the country.



2. Standardisation of remote learning and ensuring it is appropriate for all learning styles and backgrounds.



3. All children and young people have the right to education therefore during the times of remote learning they should have access to digital resources.



4. Ensure young people are still able to maintain their usual education routine regardless of COVID changes in all learning settings such as similar time table, access to all facilities, similar standards of learning, support areas affected by COVID such as the creative arts.



5. Put centralised systems in place in education & youth groups to avoid large discrepancies: all schools and lessons use the same online teaching platform, use of masks, dedicated free time, similar provision of support in both mental and physical health.



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Children's Commissioner for Wales Recommendations about Families:



1. More support for families and carers, including financial support for families affected by material poverty as a result of COVID19 & the economic effects. Continuation of provision for families struggling e.g. free school meals.



 Support for families affected by domestic violence, including emotional support as well as police support, and somewhere for families to go if they are abused.
Vulnerable families should have checks, when needed, from social services and mental health services to provide support.



3. Open up more spaces for young people to relax such as youth clubs and after school clubs.



4. Childcare and respite such as drop-in centres or community activities should be available to support families who need it and families with parents who work away.



5. Provide a timeline and international cooperation to ensure families who live in other countries are allowed to see each other.



Recommendations about Fake News:



1. News directed to young people should be definite, factual and accurate with no fake news relating to COVID changes.



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