

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Ymchwiliad i effaith argyfwng Covid-19 ar
blant a phobl ifanc yng Nghymru

COV 04

Ymateb gan: Cydlynnydd y Blynyddoedd
Cynnar a Dechrau'n Deg ar gyfer Cyngor
Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful

Welsh Parliament
Children, Young People and Education
Committee

Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak
on children and young people in Wales

COV 04

Response from: Early Years and Flying Start Co-
ordinator for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough
Council

I have worked in the early years and childcare sector managing services for over 20 years and it has always been viewed as a busy, fast moving sector that never stands still and is always responsive to new programmes, policies and ways of working. This pandemic has taken that way of working to a whole new level, in just over 5 weeks most of what we had in place has been blown out of the water and a multitude of new policies, guidance and a whole new vocabulary has filled its place. Re-purposing, social distancing and furloughing are words that we didn't even know existed and now form part of our everyday conversation, conference calls were few and far between and working from home not encouraged and now these are the norm. Things have moved at breakneck speed but with close collaboration with the Welsh Government, the early years sector and a passionate workforce we can proudly say that we have childcare hubs that are providing an important service to parents of keyworkers and hubs that offer a safe nurturing sanctuary for our most vulnerable children. When the stress and strains of working at such speed are a distant memory we will look back and remember that the early years sector was an important part in supporting the country to get through this pandemic