

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 21-164	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
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**Under the Freedom of Information Act I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions in relation to Health Visiting during the COVID 19 pandemic.**

**1. Just taking into consideration the borough of Caerphilly how many families live in a Flying Start area?**

There are 2,356 children aged 0-4 yrs living in a Flying Start area in Caerphilly.

**2. Just taking into consideration the borough of Caerphilly how often do Health Visitors visit or make contact with families living in a Flying Start area?**

The needs of a family determine the level of contact and visiting required, however, the COVID-19 pandemic meant different ways of contacting and working with families. During the response to the COVID pandemic initial contacts were virtual over the internet and concentrated on new births and those families classified as requiring intensive support. As protective equipment became available face to face contacts were restarted, initially in hubs and for new births and safeguarding in the clients home. As things have changed we were able to deliver a blended approach of contacts via telephone, virtually, face to face in hubs and at families homes; all in-line with the Healthy Child Wales Programme.

**3. Just taking into consideration the borough of Caerphilly how many families do not live in a Flying Start area?**

There are 5,634 children aged 0-4 years and 1,200 children aged 4-5 years not living in a Flying Start area.

**4. Just taking into consideration the borough of Caerphilly how often do you visit or make contact with families not living in a Flying Start area?**

Similarly to those families living in a Flying Start area, contact and visiting is dependent upon an assessment of need.

**5. Whether a family lives in a Flying Start area or not what support mechanisms are in place for a family who have a child who is non-verbal?**

The support offered would depend on the assessment of need and the reason for non-verbal delay and support will include a range of options, such as:

- Speech and Language 1 to 1
- Speech and Language Support Groups
- Health Visiting Team advice and support
- Supportive nursery or playgroups places
- Verbal, leaflet, and virtual resources

In addition, within Caerphilly Borough, support can be provided by Community Nursery Nurses using Elklan and PAFT programmes and language and play and Join-in and play groups are available. These are facilitated by Local Authority Nursery Nurses with supervision from Speech and Language Therapists.

Health Visitors may also assess children and potentially refer to ISCAN or Speech and Language Therapy as necessary.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Health Board provided virtual contacts for children and families, however, face to face services are now restarting.