



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Aneurin Bevan  
University Health Board

Our Ref: GJ/RM

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26<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Email: [SeneddChildren@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddChildren@senedd.wales)

Jayne Bryant AM  
Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
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Dear Jayne

## Response to Children, Young People and Education Committee - Health Visitor Visits

Thank you for your letter of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 regarding information on the proportion of standard Health Visitor Contacts that have been carried out by health visitors in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

As you are aware the latest data available on the Welsh Government site is for December 2020. I am happy to provide the data for the subsequent quarter, January-March 2021. The information is provided in the table below.

	10-14 days	6 weeks	8 weeks	12 weeks	16 weeks	6 months	15 months	27 months	3.5 yrs
<b>ABUHB</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>54%</b>
Blaenau Gwent	93%	91%	42%	50%	43%	79%	83%	61%	63%
Caerphilly	95%	85%	54%	35%	27%	88%	<b>84%</b>	79%	66%
Monmouthshire	92%	82%	77%	32%	32%	88%	87%	82%	50%
Newport	97%	66%	62%	45%	37%	90%	85%	80%	<b>44%</b>
Torfaen	95%	58%	60%	30%	28%	79%	85%	75%	47%

Cont/d

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Compliance has improved from the previously published report (December 2020) with the exception of the 8/12/16 week contacts which remain low.

These contacts are intended to take place in a clinic setting and a combination of parental reluctance to bring young babies to a clinic due to concerns regarding Covid-19 and the practical challenges of finding suitable Covid-19-safe settings has resulted in the contact being targeted at vulnerable families. The Health Board will continue to drive improvements regarding all contacts despite ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, recovery and workforce challenges.

The Health Board is planning for increased compliance during 2022, which is seen as an opportunity to improve efficiency and accessibility for all parents to attend clinics. We will be adopting an easily accessible booking system to provide flexible access for parents. This system can be used remotely via a secure digital platform. This is a new service that offers us another important way to increase compliance and early feedback indicates families feel this is a useful tool to enable them to access Health Visiting support without difficulty.

The Health Board will continue to deliver the core Healthy Child Wales Programme (HCWP) contacts throughout the current Covid-19 situation in line with the principles outlined in a letter from Sue Tranka, Chief Nursing Officer, and Professor Chris Jones, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Furthermore, the delivery model of our service continues to adapt to include Hub and Virtual contacts which enable safe and effective service delivery. The Health Board's Executive Team has supported the principle that no health visitors be deployed to support wider Health Board activities, including the Mass Vaccination programme.

The Health Board has workforce challenges regarding health visitors, with a significant number of vacancies running at 15%. This is a national issue and impacts on ability to deliver the HCWP. In mitigation of this, the Health Board has reviewed our workforce and is introducing, as a new development, registered nurse posts into the service. These nurses will support delivery of the HCWP core contacts and ensure health visitors focus of safeguarding activity.

In response to increasing safeguarding and child protection concerns in the post-Covid-19 recovery period, the health visiting service has developed and recruited a new senior clinical post, to provide supervision and governance to health visitors, aiming to ensure resources are focussed on the most vulnerable children and families. This will also assist with reduction of staff turnover.

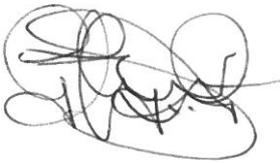
Additionally, the Health Board has developed and is implementing a revised assessment tool which supports the professional judgment of Health Visitors to assess and identify the needs of families, supporting the prioritisation and additional support for families throughout the health board area.

Strategically, we are working with the ABUHB Informatics Department to develop and roll-out the Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) with the aim of deploying this system in the 2022/23 financial year, which we believe will improve the recorded compliance and allow process efficiency to be able to increase Health Visiting Contacts (HCWP and additional visits). This is the agreed national system that, once roll-out is completed, will ensure we have Wales-wide means of recording and data collection.

We hope this will provide the assurance required to demonstrate our commitment to quality and patient safety in provision of our Health Visiting Services.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glyn Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Glyn Jones**  
**Prif Weithredwr Oros Oro/Interim Chief Executive**

