

Dear colleague,

Well we made it!

It's the last day of term for our schools and children - and what a term it has been. Lots of ups and downs along the way, but throughout it all, kindness, passion and professionalism has shone brightly through. I'd like to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation to teaching staff, support staff, pupils and parents. Their collective efforts have been amazing!

Over the last 4 days, since the Welsh Government guidance was issued, Keri along with her staff working closely with our team of head teachers, has been making sense of it all and astoundingly they are ready for a return to school in September.

Now is the time for a much earned rest over the next 6 weeks, as the batteries will need to be fully recharged in readiness for the Autumn term which is expected to be equally as challenging.

In my last update, I provided you with an overview of our immediate key priorities, which were lengthy and full of activity. For this message, I want to share with you a bit of the wider context in which we are operating. It will give you a feel of the significance of the challenges we are facing and responding to.

The focus over the last few months has very much been our response to the pandemic and this will remain our position for the foreseeable future. However, there are a number of issues that are emerging and equally as prevalent.

Our withdrawal from the European Union hasn't stopped and the devolved nations of the UK are now considering the new powers they will have and how they wish to shape them. The WG are considering 70 new powers that range from waste management to agriculture legislation. The following link sets them out and is probably worth a look.

<https://twitter.com/sionbarry/status/1283657115190595584?s=12>

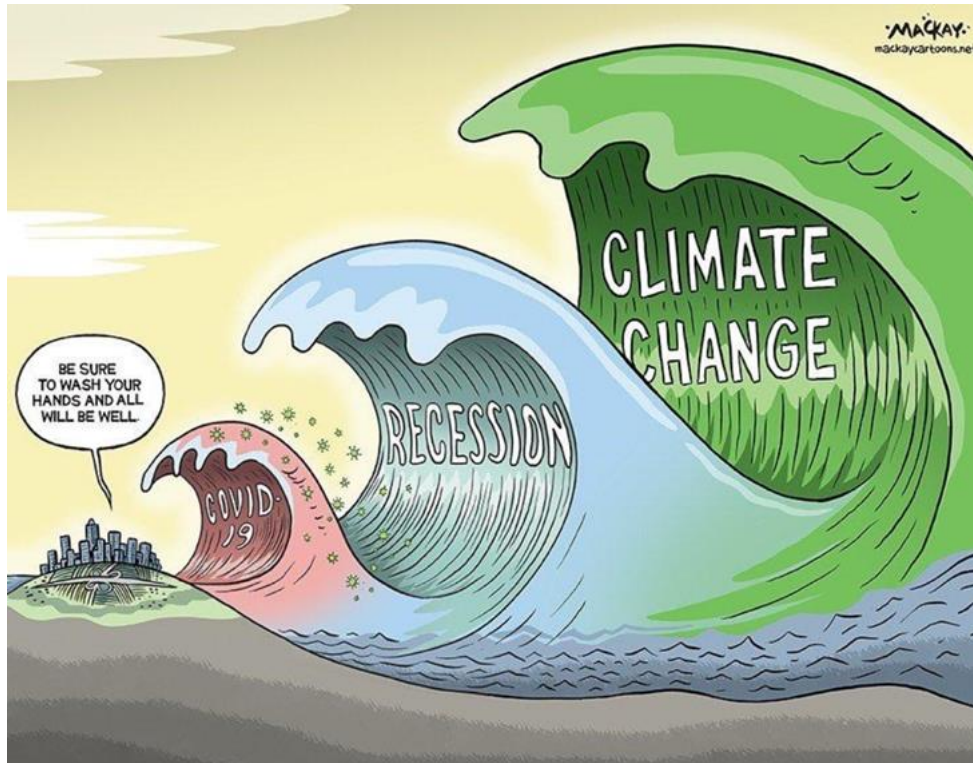
We are actively preparing for the impact of Brexit and one area that is of immediate concern to us across Wales is the potential shortage of pharmaceutical equipment, which we will certainly need if there is a second peak of the virus. Our procurement team are on the case, as part of a national team!

Another area that is focussing our minds, is the economy. We are already seeing significant job losses both nationally and locally. We are in recession and this is likely to hit us all hard. Public sector funding is likely to be squeezed even further. Our local businesses are going to need our support and our communities will definitely need our help. So we need to plan for all of this!

The big one is Climate change! Some of you may have seen some alarming facts this week about the changing climate in the Arctic circle with the highest temperatures having recently been recorded. The associated negative impacts are far reaching. The increased melting rate of the ice caps and rising sea levels, will

affect the jet streams in the northern hemisphere, so we can expect longer, hotter summers and longer, colder, wetter winters. Remember, it was only a few months ago we were dealing with major floods!

The diagram below puts this into some sort of order for you!



So, it is these challenges the Welsh Government are dealing with on a national stage and locally we are developing our own plan. We are in a good place, with our 'TeamCaerphilly – Better Together' plan which provides a good foundation upon which we can build. But we still have a bit of work to do in this space.

So that's the big strategic stuff but there are lots of operational stuff we are dealing with. So here goes!

- We are still responding to the Covid virus which is slowing, but still very much with us.
- We are preparing for a possible second wave in the Autumn.
- We are reintroducing our services, and reframing them to ensure they are safe for our staff and the public.
- We are transforming our organisation based upon the learning of the past few months and embedding it into our TeamCaerphilly plans.

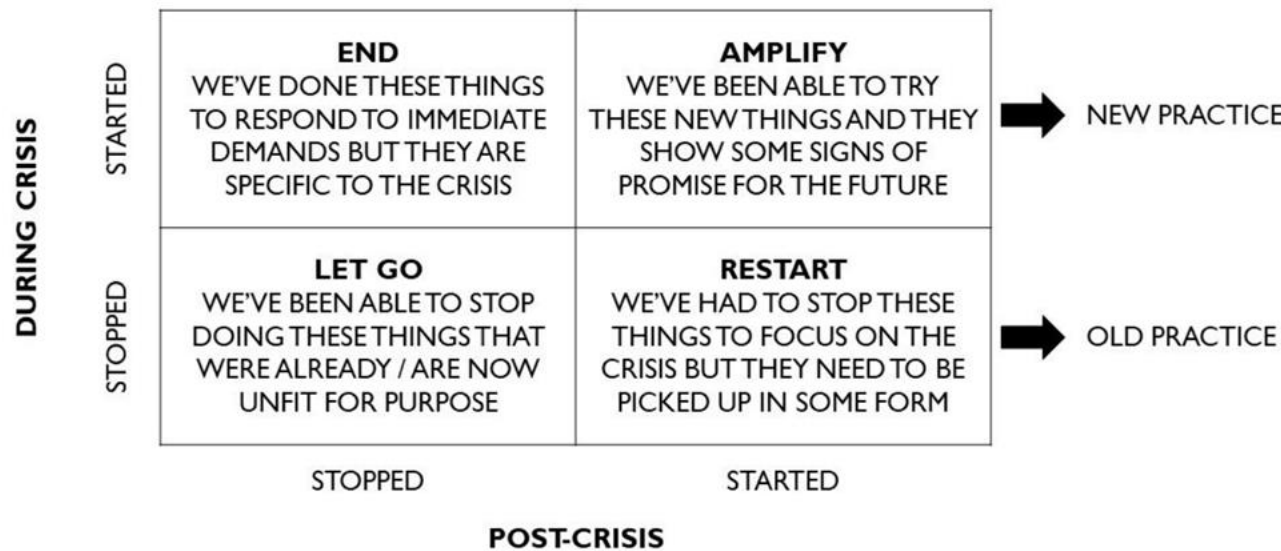
Many of you will know that I like a plan, especially if it's a cunning plan! We certainly need a plan that brings all of this together. Over the summer, my attention will be focussed upon this and I intend to present a report that will set out how we will tackle all of these issues in a proactive manner, which builds very much upon what we already have in place – and there is a lot!

Watch this space – I'll update you further over the next few weeks, but I will be using this diagram below to help frame my thinking.

WHAT PRACTICE
ARE WE SEEING IN
COMMUNITIES,
INSTITUTIONS,
POLICIES?

Understanding crisis-response measures

Collective Sense-making



That's quite enough for a Friday – have a great weekend and for those of you who are taking a holiday – have a lovely time.

Take care
Christina