

Response to Covid survey. I wish to say the top councillors of the Local Authorities in Caerphilly are overpaid and on vast wages out of touch with residents and pat themselves on the back with awards. Any complaints they pretend to listen but that is as far as it goes, and you are labelled a nuisance. The Covid crisis hit us hard as I care for two disabled family members who with medical conditions that would make them vulnerable to Covid, support before the crisis was patchy or non-existent if you are not in a care home. Anything offered during the crisis has been by volunteers, on the website for Caerphilly they stated that these volunteers were not vetted, and you feel it is not appropriate as there is a trust factor and like to keep my business private .

The crisis highlighted how difficult it is for disabled people and carers and the stress worry and constant upheaval and loneliness was much worst. I have lost all faith in the system and the wellbeing of me and my family are quite bad, one being so bad they no longer wish to be here. I have no faith in the Mental Health services as I have dealt with them before the crisis and they made matters worse, so god help what they like now.

Low income trying to sort out entitlements and the constant pressure is worst in this crisis and made to feel that if you asked for help you are scrounging I was stressed getting advice or got answer machines and nobody rang me back. If you must pay for services due to low income hard choices have to be made so I went without. I listened to news throughout this crisis and felt like I was not important as I do not work due to caring people in power would not do what I do for £67.25p a week.

Getting out and about was not possible for exercise as a carer I was stuck indoors most of the time. Access to food was a nightmare at first even though I always do shopping online, I did manage to get slots for shopping due to the customer services at Tesco who acknowledge my dire need so ever grateful to them.

I am aware only so much can be done and there are funding and issues with how things are implemented be it the NHS, care homes or how councils respond to the crisis. I had vulnerable people to look after as well as myself I did not feel supported but a starting point in this crisis is families who care for their disabled family members do not receive hardly any support like care homes, are 24/7 in constant demand and with a crisis as well to be aware of worry about what would happen if they get ill and how we would manage. And you read the praise of the top councillors of how well they are doing it is hard to digest, this crisis has created more division and uncertainty and we are not over it yet I fear for the future.

Due to the present local lockdown I am now having more problems and stress. I feel the council was made aware of issues with young people, pubs, nightclubs and the social distancing with a lot of residents as well as their own workers. They are blaming the rise on households and lack of social distancing but a lot of people who care, work or must rely on help from family members this is a bitter pill to swallow. No mention by council of the lack of support families are receiving or how poverty and help that they needed to reach out to other family members to help.

Covid has highlighted the lack of services years of cuts and the division in the way councils respond to residents and that people are showing lack of faith in the system.