

Flintshire County Council statement to explain access to emergency childcare provision for key workers classified as 'vital' workers, provision of free school meals, and support for vulnerable learners.

To limit the spread of COVID-19 **it is important that, as far as possible, social contact is minimised.**

Parents need to keep their children at home **wherever possible** and schools/settings should be open only **for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

Only children whose parents are **critical to the Covid-19 response** should be offered places in schools/settings when there is no safe, alternative provision.

FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING 23rd MARCH Flintshire Headteachers have been advised to **prioritise the allocation of places** to children of parents who meet the following criteria:-

- **Category 1 - a single parent with a role on the list defined as critical to the Covid-19 response from Welsh Government**
- **Category 2 - where both parents have roles on this list**
- Category 3 - a parent from a family unit who does not qualify under categories 1 and 2 above, and has a role on this list, and where there is an explicable and genuine reason why they need to access provision.

Headteachers may use their discretion for this third category - provided that they have sufficient provision - as they know their families' circumstances best.

Should there be insufficient provision due to the requirements of social distancing, Headteachers have been advised by the Council to **refuse admittance** to the children of the **third category above** and **liaise with their neighbouring headteachers to offer a place close by where this is possible.**

Alternative provision is in being made for children entitled to free school meals and will be introduced shortly. This group **SHOULD NOT** attend their local schools this week unless their parent(s) fall under the above categories 1-3. Further communication will follow.

Provision for children classed as vulnerable is also being planned. When this is ready to start further communications will be issued.

Updated Welsh Government List

Health and social care – this includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare – this includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the Covid-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services - this includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government - this only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods - this includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security - this includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the Covid-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport - this includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services - this includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

The Government has confirmed that Youth Offending Teams are among those who will be classed as key workers as part of the response to COVID-19. Details of these roles are listed below for your information if someone presents at your school next week.

The key worker roles include:

- Youth offending teams
- All staff working in prisons (including the Youth Custody Service)
- Probation staff including:
 - NPS and CRC staff (all grades)
 - Probation staff in Courts
- Approved Premises and Bail Accommodation & Support Service (BASS) staff including:
 - Double Waking Night Cover (DWNC)
 - Contracted services
- Electronic Monitoring staff
- Prisoner/ immigration detainee transportation
- Victim support providers – contract or grant-funded
- Third sector employees working in prison or probation, whose work is **key** to frontline delivery

Cofion cynnes/Kind regards
Claire Homard