

# CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

## Schools Service

Date: 24 June 2020

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**REPORT TITLE:** Rationale on Decision for Childcare for Key Workers

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**REPORT FOR:** Information and Discussion

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### 1. Purpose

To provide detail of the rationale that informed the decision and approach for childcare for key workers from the 29 June 2020 until the 24 July 2020.

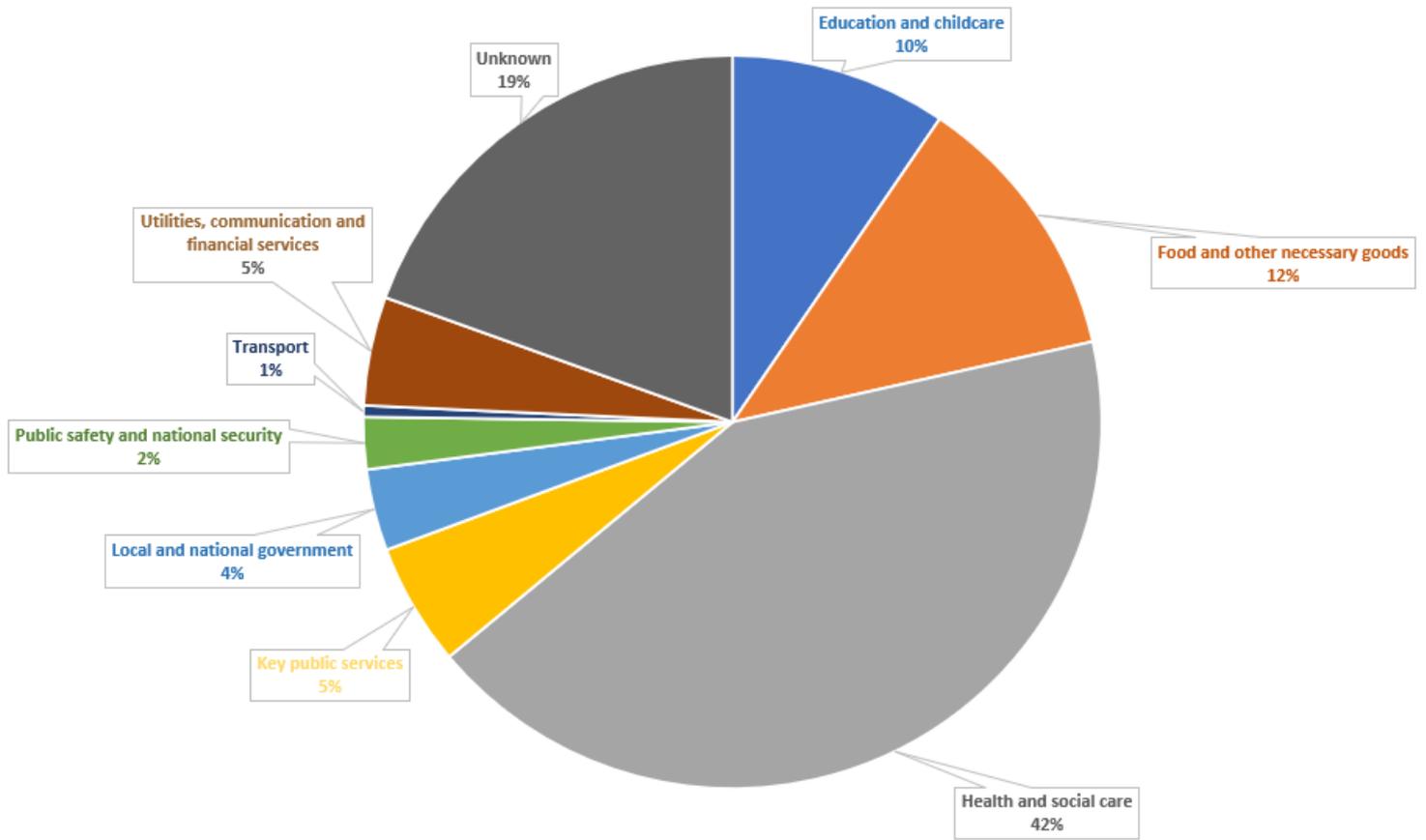
### 2. Background and Evidence

Schools will re-open on the 29 June 2020 in order to 'Check In, Catch Up and Prepare' for the summer. Childcare up to that point has been provided in Powys through 16 emergency childcare hubs which have been based in school buildings.

From the 29 June, childcare in Powys will change from 8am to 6pm seven days a week, to 8.30am to 4.30pm based on the following evidence, which is based on the use of the hubs during the past 12 weeks.

#### 3.1 Professions of critical key workers using the Hubs

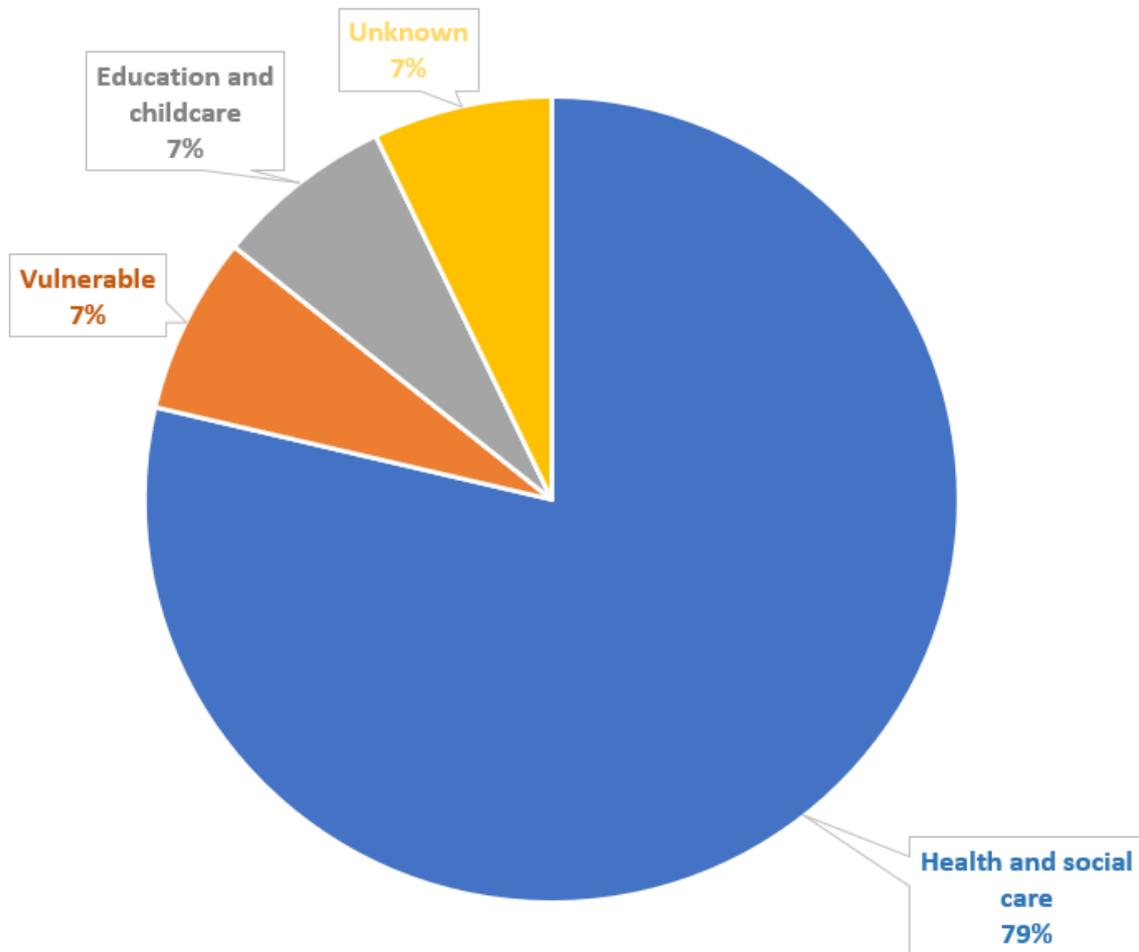
Education and childcare	42	9.5%
Food and other necessary goods	53	12.0%
Health and social care	188	42.5%
Key public services	24	5.4%
Local and national government	16	3.6%
Public safety and national security	10	2.3%
Transport	2	0.5%
Utilities, communication and financial services	21	4.8%
Unknown	86	19.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>100%</b>



### 3.2 Professions of critical key workers using the Hubs at weekends

The below figures are based on the four weekends between 16 May and 7 June 2020.

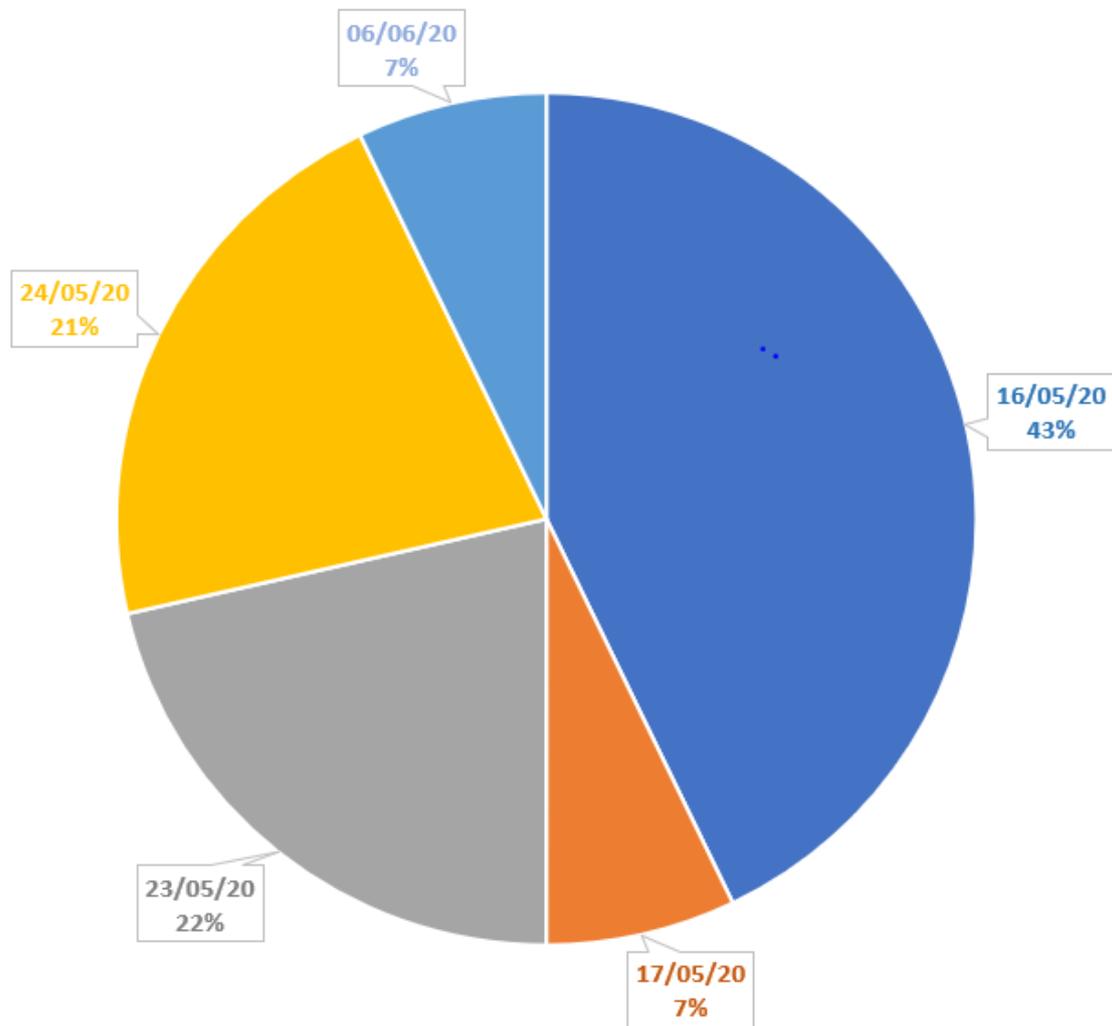
Health and social care	11	78.6%
Vulnerable	1	7.1%
Education and childcare	1	7.1%
Unknown	1	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



### 3.3 Bookings per weekend

The below figures are based on the four weekends between 16 May and 7 June 2020.

16/05/2020	6	42.85%
17/05/2020	1	7.14%
23/05/2020	3	21.42%
24/05/2020	3	21.42%
06/06/2020	1	7.14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100%</b>



### 3.3 Average pick-up times.

<b><u>Hub</u></b>	<b><u>Pupils Staying until 6.00 pm</u></b>	<b><u>Average Collection time for Children</u></b>
Priory C in W School, Brecon	21 children who stay late being picked up just before 6pm	between 5pm and 6pm for pick up.
Ysgol Bro Hyddgen – Primary campus	Currently no pupils stay until 6.00pm	4.00pm
Newbridge-on-Wye C. in W. School	On average, the latest tends to be 5.15pm although there have been exceptions	most collections occur between 3.30pm and 4.30pm
Cefnlllys C.P. School	On average, 12 children who attend every day week are picked up between 5.00pm and 6pm	On average between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm

Crickhowell C.P. School	approximately 2-3 children regularly stay until 6pm	The most popular pick up time is around 4.15-4.30
Archdeacon Griffiths C. in W. School	On average one child is collected at 6pm once a week	between 4.30pm and 5.30pm.
Llanidloes C.P. School	No children stay until 6pm	4.45pm
Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School	One pupil attends 3 days a week who stays until 5:30pm and 5:45pm at the latest	3.30pm but no later than 5.30pm
Llanfyllin C.P. School	1 very rarely	The average pick-up time is 4.00pm.
Ysgol Gymraeg Dyffryn y Glowyr	On average 4 pupils stay beyond 5.30pm	4.00 pm
Ysgol Dafydd Llwyd	Approximately 4 pupils stay until 6pm	3.30 pm
Llanfaes	Approximately 9 pupils	Between 3.30 pm and 4.30 pm
Presteigne Primary School	1 pupil	The majority have gone by 4.30pm
Welshpool C in W Primary School (Howell Drive site)	Approximately 4 or 5 stay until 5.00pm and one stays until between 5.30pm and 5.45pm dependent on shifts	The main bulk of children leave around 3.00pm and 3.30pm.

#### 4. Rationale

With the announcement of the re-opening of schools for 'Check In, Catch Up and Prepare', and the accompanying announcement that emergency childcare will be returning to individual schools, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in demand. In terms of numbers, it will be our primary schools that are most heavily affected. The majority of our primary heads are concerned that key worker children will now take up most of the places that they can accommodate, as the Welsh Government guidance states that pupil numbers should not exceed 30% of their normal capacity.

A case in point would be one of our schools where, to date, seven pupils from that school have accessed the emergency childcare hubs during the last 3 months. Now, with the relaxing of lockdown and the increase in workplaces opening, over fifty parents are registering their children as children of key workers and expect to access the emergency childcare provision in that school. This particular school has about 120 pupils. That means that if the school accommodates the fifty requests for emergency childcare, they will probably exceed capacity, and will not be able to offer any schooling for the other seventy pupils during the summer term. Other schools are reporting similar or greater pressure.

The main issue at the moment is with parents stating that, unless their child is guaranteed an emergency childcare place every day for the four weeks, they will not be able to fulfil their key worker role. We also have others parent who have not used the service in during the previous three months arguing that they now need to use it and should be prioritised. We need clarity on an allocation and rationing system.

Previous to the Welsh Government announcement about all pupils returning for 'Check In, Catch Up and Prepare', we had been exploring a model that focused on providing support for those pupils transitioning to High School or in a final year of exams. This had been our default model for several weeks and planning had been concerned with implementing it. Part of the challenge is around the numbers of teachers available, including those who teach across multiple year groups in our primary schools. If a Year 4,5 or 6 teacher goes with Year 6 to the secondary, the school is then a teacher down for the other pupils back at the school. We are currently awaiting information about how many teachers will actually be away from work because of shielding during the four-week period, and in some cases, this will restrict the ability of schools to function. For example, we have a primary school where the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher have serious health conditions which will keep them away from school. We are discussing whether that school will re-open at all before the summer term.

We can explore further the Year 6 transition model, but it might be a solution or part solution, once we have determined how we intend to play the other matters outlined, such as the rationing of places etc.

In respect of the question regarding the children currently attending the Emergency Childcare Hubs, we expect all of those children to be able to go back to their own school and spend every day there for the week period until the end of term, from 8:30am to 4:30pm. These children amount to about 450 regular users and should be able to be accommodated in their own school without any problem. The issue is the significant number parents / carers who now claim entitlement to a place for their child/ren, having not used the service during the previous three months; however we do acknowledge that this is sometimes for good reason, for example, the parent was furloughed.

## **5. Additional Emergency Childcare Capacity**

We have therefore worked with key partners such as Freedom Leisure and Children's Services to develop a model where Leisure facilities can reopen to offer additional emergency childcare capacity. This additional resource will release available space in schools so that they are able to deliver the required sessions of 'Check In, Catch Up and Prepare' for their pupils, as well free up teacher time to continue to provide Blended Learning.

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