

### Important Information Regarding Key Workers

I know many of you are already starting to think about how the Council is planning to support those in our communities who are key workers and will need childcare, those who may be vulnerable because of poverty and those for whom safeguarding would be a concern if we face a long shut down of the schools network.

We have just received assurance that Flintshire County Council is intending to set up 'resilience hubs' in key locations across the authority, using a number of strategically located secondary and primary schools and early years settings. This is now the top priority in terms of emergency planning.

A FCC Tactical Group under their Emergency Planning procedures has now been established and are currently reviewing which schools and settings would be best utilised as the base for a hub based on factors such as geography, transport infrastructure and early years provision. There will be challenges for the more rural areas but this is currently under consideration. Provision is also being planned for pupils in FCC specialist schools with the highest levels of need.

Even if specific secondary and primary schools are identified as the hub base, the expectation is that the whole cluster will be integral to its leadership/staffing and delivery and there will be a need to work together. This will obviously become more refined over time as things develop but the aim is to have some sort of provision up and running from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Schools who are considered as the hubs will be contacted directly later today and once agreed, shared across the school network.

**What Ysgol Derwen needs to focus on immediately** is helping us to identify the children in our schools whose parents could be considered to be 'front line' staff for whom childcare arrangements may need to be made within the resilience hubs. We are waiting for the formal definition from WG of 'front line staff' but for our purposes here in Flintshire we are designating the following in the first instance (though please be aware this may change moving forward).

I am therefore asking all parents /guardians to send an email to [kimail@hwbcymru.net](mailto:kimail@hwbcymru.net) **BY 9am TOMORROW, (FRIDAY 20 MARCH)** with details of how you fit the criteria i.e. **We need you to let us know the names and classes of the children and what role you play as part of the set Key Workers.** We will then collate this information from you and pass this onto the LA planning Group by 11am tomorrow.

Key Workers currently defined as:

- *Medical professionals including doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics*
- *Other health workers - such as employment in a medical/health setting*
- *Community safety - police force and fire brigade*
- *Education - teachers, classroom support staff, school cleaners/caretakers*
- *Workers in childcare/early years settings*
- *Social care/domiciliary care works*
- *Council staff who will be involved in key roles e.g. streetscene operatives, drivers, school escorts, catering staff*

Please do not ring the school with questions regarding this as we are trying to keep up with a developing situation almost by the hour. We will only pass detail onto the LA of those parents who actually fit the set criteria regarding key workers. It is a list compiled by WG and FCC not the school. Our obligation is to get the accurate information ASAP so that arrangements can be put in place by Monday.

We very much appreciate your co-operation in this critical matter.

**R. Jones**

Headteacher