

## CABINET STATEMENT

### Written Statement: Eligibility for ongoing provision for children who are vulnerable, or whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response

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The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. **It is imperative that, as far as possible, we minimise social contact. This means if children can stay safely in their home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.**

**This means parents need to keep their children at home**, wherever possible and **schools and childcare and play settings should be open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.**

**If your work is critical to the Covid-19 response, or if you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, you should make arrangements for your child to be safely cared for at home.**

**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.

**Education and childcare** – this includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers.

**Key public services** - this includes those essential to the running of the justice system, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters.

**Local and national government** - this only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response.

**Food and other necessary goods** - this includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution,

**Public safety and national security** - this includes police, 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.

**Transport** - this includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response.

**Utilities, communication and financial services** - this includes staff needed for essential services provision. If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

We recognise this will represent a challenge to families across Wales and for education settings and childcare settings.

The UK Government has confirmed employers can reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) for employees who need to self-isolate for 14 days. Businesses can defer payments to HMRC and a new helpline will be set up. A number of temporary changes have also been introduced to support people under the Employment Support Allowance.

