Addysg / Education

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TO: KEY WORKER PARENTS/CARERS OF GWYNEDD SCHOOL CHILDREN

Dear Parent/Carer

In response to the early lockdown period, Gwynedd local authority provided childcare facilities in schools for key workers. This was an immediate response to the emergency childcare needs for those on the frontline of the national cause to minimise the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. Schools were re-purposed in line with Welsh Government's guidance to provide these facilities.

Following consultation with other agencies, including the NHS, and as we progress our national recovery programme, the same level of need no longer exists, and the lifting of restrictions allows for childcare to be delivered by more normal means. The repurposing of schools has been reversed, and the Welsh Government will not be funding childcare for school-aged children of key workers over the summer. Consequently, the local authority will not be providing childcare over the summer holidays for school-aged children of key workers. This is consistent with what is happening in other local authorities, and provides an opportunity for childcare providers in Gwynedd to re-establish their businesses as a means to ensure that childcare needs are met.

Families wishing to access childcare are welcome to contact the local authority's Family Information Service (GGTGwyneddFIS@gwynedd.llyw.cymru / 01248 352436 / 07976 623816) who will provide a list of registered providers who would be able to meet their needs.

The local authority's Children Services and Education Department are currently constructing a summer support programme for our most vulnerable learners, many of whom have found lockdown conditions particularly challenging and detrimental. This programme will seek to deliver bespoke support for those assessed to be our most isolated children and young people suffering from increased stresses and substantial psychological inequality. The programme will be configured around current resource, allowing services to deliver increased opportunities for safe social interaction and enhanced wellbeing and mental health interventions.

Again, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to parents and carers for their understanding and cooperation during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

Garem Jackson

Head of Education