

## **Council provides free meals for children of key workers**

More than 3,350 places have been taken at the six emergency key worker childcare hubs provided by Bridgend County Borough Council since the start of the Covid-19 coronavirus lockdown.

With over a hundred staff on hand each day to provide care and support, the council has agreed to continue to cover the costs of providing breakfast and lunch for the children while the pandemic is in place.

The authority is also continuing to support 4,800 children who are eligible for free school meals by using school transport providers to deliver weekly food parcels to each child's home.

Featuring enough food to provide the children with breakfast and lunch for five days, each parcel contains a range of products designed to offer variety as well as items such as fruit, vegetables and a simple recipe guide. Arrangements are also in place for children who have special dietary requirements.

Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration, said: "Providing a safe, appropriate environment where the children of key workers can be looked after while their parents help to maintain essential services is only part of the challenge that the council and its partners have had to deal with.

"At a cost of more than £1,000 a day for providing breakfast and lunch at the hubs, the council has made a substantial financial commitment towards providing this service, and for ensuring that people can continue to receive nutritious meals while the pandemic is underway.

"Our staffing levels have been significantly depleted by the pandemic, but I would like to thank and acknowledge everyone who has volunteered their time to support the emergency childcare hubs.

"I'd also like to acknowledge parents for following national public health advice, and for keeping their children at home wherever possible."