

Version History	Date	Summary of Changes
V2	14 May 20	Please note: a health and social care worker can be employed in the statutory, private/independent or voluntary sectors.

Key workers are:

- i. Health and Social Care workers providing clinical care for those who have tested positive for COVID-19);
- ii. Health and Social Care workers, social workers supporting life-threatening emergency work, as well as critical primary and community care provision; and safeguarding; and
- iii. All other Health and Social Care workers, and wider public sector workers providing emergency/critical welfare services (e.g. PSNI/NIFRS/Prison Staff/Social Workers/Teaching, non-teaching and support staff working in schools).

Please note: a health and social care worker can be employed in the statutory, private/independent or voluntary sectors.

Vulnerable child is:

A child **currently known to social services**, who is:

- i. in need;
- ii. in need of protection (on the child protection register); or
- iii. Looked after.

The definition includes young carers, disabled children and those with Statements of special educational needs. If you have questions about whether or not a child falls within the definition, these should be addressed to your local HSC Trust.

The children of key workers who are in the very high risk group for severe COVID-19 should not attend any childcare setting in line with the guidance on shielding. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>.

Children with underlying health conditions which put them at increased but not very high risk of severe COVID-19, can attend a childcare setting if, following an individual risk assessment, it is considered to be in their best interests to do so. Parents must seek advice from the child's GP and, in complex cases, a consultant medical opinion may also be required.

If a child lives in a household with someone who is at very high risk of severe illness from coronavirus (COVID-19), they should only attend a childcare setting if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child is able to understand and follow those instructions, which may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social distancing.

In relation to a child who has underlying health conditions which places them at increased risk (high or otherwise) of severe COVID-19, a decision about whether to use the Bespoke Approved Home Childcarer Scheme will be a matter for the child's parent(s), taking medical advice if necessary.