





social workers, local authorities and other relevant professionals. In making these decisions, I encourage you to consider the balance of risk involved in attending an education setting, including health vulnerabilities, family or other home circumstances, the child or young person's assessed special educational needs, and any safeguarding concerns.

I am also asking that, where applicable, designated safeguarding leads and/or equivalent staff should keep their lists of vulnerable children and young people who should be attending settings under review and continue to share these lists with local authorities and children's services.

As education providers you will also want to continue your close partnership working with social workers, local authorities, and other professionals to keep in touch with vulnerable children and young people and their parent or carer (whether they are attending provision, or not attending for an agreed or non-agreed reason), including by letter, phone or visit.

I recognise that some providers, particularly early years childcare providers, alternative provision settings, special schools, and residential settings, may be facing very specific challenges, including those stemming from the small sizes of your settings; high staffing ratios; the need for specialist skills or qualifications; and the specific needs of some of the children and young people you work with. Where this makes it more difficult to keep your institution open and safe, please work closely with your local authority to make sure your vulnerable children have a place at another education provider wherever possible.

Finally, I have also written to all local authority Council Leaders, Chief Executives and Directors of Children's Services to share this message about continuing to work together to ensure adequate and appropriate arrangements are in place to protect vulnerable children and young people.

Please accept my deepest and sincerest thanks for everything you are doing to support the country during this difficult time. You are making an immeasurable difference for those who need you the most.



**Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP**  
**Secretary of State for Education**