

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
24 September 2020**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Jeremy Pugh

Who and which department is responsible for the failure to provide face masks for our young people travelling on Powys school transport to and from schools as they did not arrive at the schools until several days after?

Response

On the afternoon of Wednesday 26th August Welsh Government recommended that children over 11 were advised to wear face coverings on School Transport. Powys CC decided that it would provide two reusable face coverings to each pupil in line with the Welsh Government recommendation. This recommendation provided the Council with very little time to provide the response necessary and to be able to source get delivered and distribute the products required

Commercial services sourced 7,000 face coverings and then undertook the necessary checks supporting certification and accreditations including liaison with Health and Safety to check their suitability. The supplier agreed to deliver the 3,500 face coverings on Tuesday 1st September (following the Bank Holiday Monday) with a further 3,500 being scheduled for delivery on Monday 7th September.

The supplier failed to deliver on the agreed time scale but did deliver the 4000 disposable masks as a gesture of goodwill.

1500 reusable masks were delivered on the 3rd September. Face coverings were available to pupils on Friday 4th September, one day after the partial return to school.

Due to the original order not meeting agreed delivery dates the Council responded quickly and sourced masks from another supplier, 4100 which were delivered on Friday 4th September with the balance being delivered w/c 7th September.

All Secondary Schools have now received 2 face coverings for each learner who is transported to school on a Powys CC bus.