

**Short Breaks Support CORONAVIRUS**

**Update 1**

**1st April 2020**

**PLEASE NOTE WE ARE EXPECTING SOME UPDATED GUIDANCE FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT NEXT WEEK WHICH MAY REQUIRE SOME CHANGES TO THIS ADVICE**

*The impact of virus locally and nationally does mean that things can change quite quickly we aim to regularly update this information.*

The Coronavirus outbreak is having a serious impact on services for children with disabilities with some services ceasing or reducing their offer. Where services are still operating – it is often in reduced capacity due to staff absence and therefore have to prioritise. Some families are also choosing to cancel support as a preventative measure as part of reducing their social contact as much as possible.

* **Direct Payments**

Direct Payments continue to operate however some families will have difficulties with the availability of Personal Assistants (PA’s) who may need to self-isolate. Where other short break services are closed or offering a reduced service you may need more flexibility with your Direct Payment to meet your child or young person’s needs in a different way. Please contact your social worker or family support worker in the first instance to discuss any changes to your child or young person’s support plan.

A fast track decision authorisation process has been implemented for any approved changes during the outbreak. *For example increasing your hours to the equivalent of school holiday period. Converting social group activity hours to PA hours.*

A separate document has been produced covering of FAQ about employment and expectations of PA’s during this period.

* **Specialist Support Providers**

**Social Groups and Outreach**

Due to social distancing guidance and the availability of staff Action for Children and Together Trust have ceased their activities in the community. We are still exploring with them what alternative support they may be able to offer during this time.

**Care Support in the Home**

This support is still in operation with priority being given to the children and young people with multiple complex needs. The provider should be contacting you directly with any changes. If you are experiencing difficulties please contact your Social Worker / Family Support worker

**Overnight respite services**

Overnight residential services with Together Trust and the health provision at Cambeck Close are currently closed. There have been changes made at Cambeck Close and they will be temporarily offering a solo occupancy day service between 9am and 5pm. Initially this is for those children and young people who already access the service. This will be kept under review and we will update when more information becomes available.

**Home from Home**

We are currently reviewing and exploring the Home from Home carers offer during the outbreak and will update when we have more information.

**Special COVID-19 Provision**

In recognition that many children are now spending more time at home and finding it difficult to keep them occupied. A one of payment off small grant of up to £200 can be accessed to purchase equipment / toys, please contact your Social Worker or Family Support Worker – who will discuss the need and complete the “fast track form” and submit for authorisation.

**INFORMATION AND UPDATES WILL BE POST ON BURY DIRECTORY**

Visit the web page [The Bury Directory](https://www.theburydirectory.co.uk/kb5/bury/directory/home.page) For updated Information and Advice on local services

**Central Contact Number for Children with Disabilities**

**0161 253 6070**