

To: All SEND Parents/Carers

Date: 29 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, we hope you and your family are safe and healthy as you read this letter. We write to offer our thanks to our SEND parents and carers for the immense work you are doing in caring for your children in such unprecedented and difficult circumstances.

We want to formally acknowledge the many challenges facing families during this exceptionally difficult period. As you know, there has been reduced access to vital support networks due to the social distancing guidelines now in place. In addition, the personal care and therapeutic input that would have normally been provided through an educational setting during the week will now be significantly reduced if your child is not attending school. Without physical access to extended family members and friends, we acknowledge there will be more pressure on parents/carers (some of whom now have very little respite) to meet their child's needs.

What has been particularly challenging for some is the current limitations on access to outside space for exercise and the inevitable changes in routine which some children with SEND find incredibly difficult and distressing. For single parent families, this situation is even more acute.

We would therefore like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we endeavour to deliver our service; we have been adjusting, like you, to the drastic changes in life during the last few weeks. We are therefore extremely appreciative of our social workers, teachers, specialist support staff, caseworkers and other local authority officers for their positivity, flexibility and resilience. Their commitment to the delivery of a service which supports our most vulnerable children, young people and their families has been remarkable.

Please be assured that we are working as hard as we can to support you all. As ever, we are inspired by what has been and what will continue to be achieved for our children and young people by the collaboration between parents and local authority staff. Indeed, the feedback from parents and carers, PaCC and Amaze in terms of families support needs, continues to inform the reshaping of our services.

**Executive Director for Families, Children &
Learning**
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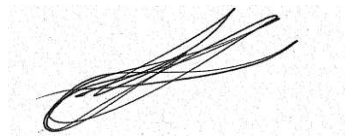
Further support and information provided by the local authority for families who have children and young people with SEND is available through this link: <https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/sen-interim-working-arrangements-support-families>.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



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Interim Executive Director
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