

## People Directorate

Quality Improvement Manager: **Scott Mulholland**

County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR



Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Provision for Children and Young People attending Special Schools

You will have received a text from your child's school today confirming that Southcraig and Invergarven will remain closed this week. The current strategic priority for us at this point is to slow and reduce the spread of the virus. It is essential that we follow all national guidance and ensure that absolutely no unnecessary social contact takes place. Our current plans are focussed on ensuring children of key workers have access to childcare in order to support the work critical to reducing the spread of the virus.

We are currently developing plans to provide a level of support or respite for families. This may involve a session in school or access to other supports available to provide respite. It is anticipated that this will be for a small number of children where no alternative supports exist. We will continue to work with a range of multi-agency partners, including Social Work, to determine what this may look like and which staff will support.

The level of provision will reflect:

- The need to close as many schools as possible to reduce transmission of the virus.
- The need to significantly increase learning space for pupils to keep them and workers as safe as possible.
- The availability of cleaning and other support staff.
- The provision that is already available to support children and families.
- Existing Scottish Government advice on social distancing, isolation and underlying health conditions.

For the vast majority of children and young people in our special schools support and advice will be provided through regular phone calls or email communication from school staff and social work colleagues. Each school has already taken steps to ensure you have been provided with learning materials, including sensory materials and access to online resources.

Due to the complexity of these arrangements and the need to protect children and staff from unnecessary risks of exposure we will provide further information on our arrangements by **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**.

We urge that everyone continues to pay close attention to the advice provided by the Scottish Government to keep you and your family safe during these extremely challenging times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. Mulholland'.

**SCOTT MULHOLLAND**  
Quality Improvement Manager (Inclusion)