

## People Directorate

Quality Improvement Manager: **Scott Mulholland**

County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR



Date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

Following my letter earlier this week I stated that I would update parents on arrangements to continue contact and support for families. Since I contacted you on Monday the situation has continued to change. Following the announcement by the Prime Minister and First Minister that everyone should stay at home we have worked with our colleagues in social work to consider what supports can continue for children with severe and complex additional support needs.

We appreciate the individual challenges that all families are facing at this time. In particular the disruption to routines that can be extremely unsettling. We would like to thank you all for your understanding in these unprecedented times and can reassure you that we will do everything we possibly can to support you and your child.

Our current plans involve the following:

- Regular telephone contact with families by school and social work staff.
- Providing materials to families to support learning at home – contact with teachers will continue through online learning platforms.
- Southcraig will open on Wednesday of next week for a limited amount of time to a very small number of children to provide support. Families of the children affected will be contacted by school staff. At this stage it is not possible to bring large number of children into the school building.
- After the Easter break we will plan to increase the number of children accessing our special schools. These decisions will take account of national advice on infection control at that time.
- School staff will work closely with health and social work colleagues to ensure that other supports can continue, where possible. I am aware that Social Workers are already having these conversations with families.
- Free school meals will continue to be provided during this time. Meals will be delivered to your home from Monday of next week where parents have indicated that they wish to continue to receive these.
- Humanitarian Assistance Centres are being established in South Ayrshire. These aim to provide food and access to medicines for vulnerable children and adults. We will share information on this support as it becomes available.

I would encourage any parent or carer who feels that they need support or advice to contact school staff or social work colleagues during this very difficult time. We want to do everything we can to support families. I am sure you will understand that anything we do must take account of national advice on controlling the spread of infection in order to keep children, families and staff safe.

Yours sincerely

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

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