

Important Update on overnight respite / short breaks during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Monday 11th January 2021

This communication is coming to you as a regular user of Achieving Aspirations overnight short break/respite service, which your child attends at either Ambleside or Maryland.

Once again we find ourselves in a National Lockdown as part of the Government's effort to reduce and control COVID-19 Infection rates. We realise this time around it feels very different for all, but particularly for families of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and that not all of us have the resilience we had in March 2020 due to the pandemic and its effect on families.

Partners across Suffolk County Council, Health, Special Schools, Achieving Aspirations and Suffolk Parent Carer Network have urgently met and worked together to address the need to ensure an overnight short break/ respite service continues for you as long as it is safe to do so. We also realise how important it is for some families to be able to access their school placement as well as some short break/respite provision.

With this in mind we have agreed that Achieving Aspirations will urgently contact each family and discuss their wishes, preference and needs and then carry out an individual risk assessment with you to confirm what respite arrangements can be put in place. We will continue to meet weekly to review the situation and to ensure that families are kept informed about any changes.

We will work with any family that needs short breaks/respite to identify the most appropriate service and support, based upon your family circumstances and current capacity within short break services provision. If you need to speak to someone about your family's respite/short break needs, please contact: Chris Southwell, Short Breaks Manager on 01473 260152 / chris.southwell@suffolk.gov.uk or contact Activities Unlimited on 01473 260026 / info@activities-unlimited.co.uk .

Kind regards,

The Short Break Panel

