

## **Extratime Coronavirus (COVID-19) Statement**

The extraordinary circumstances presented by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis mean we cannot offer Extratime's usual services during this incredibly challenging time. Instead we are working hard to offer alternative approaches to bring Extratime to children, young people and families in their own homes.

The health, safety and emotional wellbeing of our staff, children, families and the wider community informs all of our decision making. We are carefully following national and local government guidance and working in partnership with all stakeholders to balance the risk of COVID-19 against the immediate and longer term needs of families who rely on Extratime to support their family. We are committed to keeping all staff, families, partners, commissioners and funders updated as this rapidly changing situation unfolds.

### **Our staff**

Where possible the team are working at home, using phone and video conferencing to run virtual services, staff and trustees meetings. Extratime is also making use of the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to support jobs and sustain the charity's future. This means some of our colleagues are on furlough until we are in a position to welcome them back to work.

### **Our Families**

Following government advice, we have temporarily suspended all of our usual clubs, schemes and family events due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). We know how tough this is for Extratime families who are also coping without school places and the other short breaks you rely on for the well-being of your family. Although it's not the same as a physical place at Extratime, in March we launched Extratime@Home to bring you;

- Brett's behaviour support line for parent carer telephone support every week day afternoon (07585 646365)
- Online activities and resources - link
- YouTube Channel of pre-recorded videos for children and young people who would like somethings they can watch on repeat. - link
- Telephone and Zoom calls for children, young people, parent carers - contact us or 01273 420580 if this is something you would like to explore
- Buzz Buddies (at home) – link to Kate's contact
- A closed Extratime Facebook group for you to share ideas and make connection between yourselves and children and young people with the same interests

We have started small and we're listening carefully to what you would like from us so if you have any special requests please let us know.

We are also supporting Brighton & Hove City Council to provide childcare for children of key workers and the most vulnerable children with EHCPs identified by the local authority. As per the Government's directions, these are children who are remaining in school during the school closures.

Alongside this we have set up a Food Delivery Hub at Extratime's usual home at Portslade Village Centre as part of a city wide project run by Brighton & Hove Food Partnership – link to referral route (BHCC)

We look forward to welcoming back our children, young people, staff as soon as we can. Until then, if there is anything else you need, please let us know. We are in constant contact with parent carer groups, the councils, schools and other charities, so if we can't help, we will probably know someone who can.

Warmest wishes and take care

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Price'.

Sam Price  
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