Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust

Children, Young People & Families
and Specialist Primary Care Directorate

20th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19 and the impact of school closures

This letter has been passed to you as the parent/carer of a child with Special Educational Needs (such as a learning disability or autism). We are aware that the closure of schools may be having a significant impact on you and your child. Your son/daughter may be finding it very difficult to cope with the uncertainty about the future and with changes to familiar routines and structure. They may however be happier staying at home but you might be worried that they will become distressed when the time comes to go back to school.

We wanted to write to let you know what support you can get with this at the moment – you can:

1. Contact your school's SENCO for advice

2. Fill in a form on the Starting Well (https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/support-during-covid19) or Here2Help (http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help) websites or ring them. You will be able to arrange a one-off advice session about your child's behaviour, anxiety and emotional wellbeing.

3. Visit the Speech and Language COVID-19 webpage (www.hacw.nhs.uk/sltcovid19) for lots of up to date social stories, visual timetables and resources to help with your child's anxiety.

   More resources and advice are available at (https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/childrens-speech-and-language-resources/) and on Facebook, Instagram (search for 'Worcestershire Speech and Language Therapy') and Twitter (SLT_worcs).

   You can also email WHCNHS.sltcovid19@nhs.net and a member of the team will arrange a time to give you specific advice about your child's behaviour, communication or anxiety.

4. Contact your child's School Health Nurse (through the school) or Special School Nurse (at WHCNHS.ssn@nhs.net)

5. Contact a professional who is working with you already such as a Community Paediatrician, CAMHS/LD CAMHS worker or Speech and Language Therapist.

We hope that you find this helpful and you can find the support that you need at the moment for both your child and yourself.

Take care

Services within the Children, Young People & Families and Specialist Primary Care Directorate
Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust