

25th March, 2020

Dear All

I hope you are all OK and have not been too upset by all the announcements and the changes we are making in the work situations. I and the managers do realise how unsettling and worrying this is and I want you to know that you can speak to anyone about your concerns or just your thoughts how to get through this very difficult period.

We have tried to make some changes that we hope will support you in the work situation. Some are not particularly changes we would want to make but they are necessary to try and keep everyone safe and healthy.

Family Time

- From today 25th March 2020 all face to face family time will cease and we will review the situation in three weeks. I have a letter that we will send out to families. This means we need to be very creative as to how we support children to have contact with their families. We will need to support carers to use technology in a different way than they have in the past and if we need to purchase equipment to do this then we will.
- We are aware that older young people will make their own decisions and we will need to consider how we support them to do this. I am really hoping we can help them to understand the importance of social distancing and being hygienic keeping others safe.

Management Review

- This is postponed it is not fair to ask you to try and concentrate on this complicated restructure at this time when there are so many other asks of you. I do realise this is probably just as unsettling but I hope you realise I am doing this with the best of intentions.

Audits

- The audit day tomorrow is cancelled
- There will be no requests for audits to be undertaken at this time, when we are ready to reinstate them I will let you know.

Contd

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PPE – Protective clothing

- We have sourced protective clothing such as face masks and these will be available should you require them. Please speak to your head of service and they will organise the distribution.

Child Protection Medicals

- There is a statutory duty for child protection medicals to take place and we have discussed with all the providers how this will be done. Unless the child or young person is displaying symptoms then business as usual will occur with a very strict hygiene regime in place.

There will be other things happening very quickly and I will endeavour to make sure that we get information out to you as quickly as we can.

Thank you for carrying on protecting and supporting those families that really need it, we are as a group of professionals not always visible but we know how hard you work and how much you care, this is going to go on for a long time so please take care of yourself and take necessary breaks and keep well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Webber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.