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Date 16 April 2020

A message to Parents/ Carers from the Physical Impairment Team during the Covid-19 pandemic

This message is for parents/ carers of children with Physical Impairment in mainstream schools who were being supported in some way by the Physical Needs Advisor (Lucy Daullah) prior to the lockdown/ school closures.

- As you may know/ be aware the STePS Physical Needs Advisor is still working during the school closure period but support is very limited and the PN Advisor is unable to carry out any face to face visits. During lockdown/ school closures it may take longer to reply to your email/ phone calls than usual.
- Your school may have set work for your child to do at home. Teachers have had very little time to prepare for this scenario and some schools are still open for a small number of children. Perhaps the teachers in your school have not been able to produce, find and provide appropriate work for your child. We know this may be causing you some anxiety particularly if your child is preparing for public exams.
- Some Paediatric Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists (those who work for the Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust) have been redeployed. The team phone for the DHFT OTs is 03001 234 586 (option 2 and then option 5) if you have any questions/ concerns about equipment provided by health OTs
- Most children with physical impairment will have had opportunities during the school day to carry out physio programmes. Hopefully you will be able to do these with your child at home in the short term but if you are unable to carry out these programmes due to lack of space or equipment please speak to your physiotherapist as they may be able to adapt the programme and come up with an alternative



- If you are a lone parent (even temporarily due to sickness) we know it can be particularly difficult if you have a child with a physical impairment just getting out of the house to get your essentials. If you don't have any family members, friends or neighbours who you feel you can ask for help from then contact the Community Response Hub on 01332 640000 or email the Derby Covid Community Response Hub.
- If your child has communication difficulties and you are worried about how emergency services and hospital staff will understand their complex needs should they get taken ill suddenly and particularly if you are not able to accompany them to hospital. The NHS trusts locally have developed a template you can fill in to give to them in these situations. It is known as the A&E grab sheet. Email stepsadmin@derby.gov.uk if you would like a copy of this sheet.

If you have any concerns or queries about your child's ability to access the work being provided/ set by school during school closure first speak to the SENCO. If you are unable to contact the SENCO then contact the team in the usual way by email or by phone directly to the worker alternatively contact us on stepsadmin@derby.gov.uk or 01332 641400