

To all our partners,

Due to the present health climate and the most recent guidance issued by the government surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak, we have been advised by Contact Head Office to cease all face to face office appointments, home visits, coffee mornings and Drop Ins as well as postpone our scheduled Easter events and workshops.

However, we are very aware how worried everyone is, and that for families with children with disabilities these are particularly anxious times. We will be offering advice and support wherever possible via phone and e-mail and will still be contactable via the team e-mail, our individual e-mail addresses and contact numbers. Please see the details of these below;

TEAM E-MAIL

wandsworth.office@contact.org.uk

0-13 YEARS

Molly – molly.austen@contact.org.uk OR 07759064982

Rhiannon – rhiannon.orablebar@contact.org.uk OR 07759064344

14 – 19 YEARS

Alaina – Alaina.dingwall@contact.org.uk 07759064480

We understand that this is going to be an extremely difficult time for our families and want to ensure you all that we are still offering support where we can and are working as a team to find the best way to do this.

We will be issuing tips, guidance and advice via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/contactinwandsworth/> on coping and dealing with the challenges that we may be facing for the next few weeks, and we encourage everyone who can to post their own feelings, thoughts and worries on there so we can support each other as a community.

We are looking at offering some of our workshops and other activities in a digital way – we will update you with more information about this shortly.

As a team, we want our families to know that we are available to be contacted with any worries and concerns, even if they just need a chat.

If you know of any families that had a scheduled appointment, please bear with us. We will be in touch with them as soon as possible to discuss alternatives.

You can also get support from our national information advice and support service:

- Contact's [website](#) provides advice and information about any concern you might have about raising a child with additional needs – from diagnosis, entitlement to services and benefits, to childcare and support when your child is at school or college. To help find the advice you're looking for quickly and easily take a look at:
- [Our Common Questions tool](#) to guide you through our online information

- A Turn2us online [benefits calculator](#), offering independent information on benefits and other financial help you might be entitled to as a parent of a disabled child
- A Turn2us [online grants finder](#) to find out if your family can apply for a charity grant
- A [Live Chat](#) service to help find information about your rights to services and support
- [Our online shop](#) offering a range of practical products for your child and family
- Browse our library of podcasts and look out for our regular [Facebook](#) Q&A sessions for tips and advice on parents' top issues and concerns
- [Sign up to our free, regular e-newsletter, What's New](#), to find our latest information and online advice.
- Helpful guide <https://contact.org.uk/professionals/our-helpful-guide-for-your-families/>
- **Call our free helpline** on 0808 808 3555 between 930-5pm Monday to Friday or email us at helpline@contact.org.uk

Look after yourselves, look after each other and as always thank you everyone for your continued support of our service and understanding.

Best Wishes,
The Contact Wandsworth Team