

Dear Parent or Carer,

We are writing to you because a child or young person in your care may currently be waiting to receive support for their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

The County Council and Clinical Commissioning Groups pay for this support and we'd like to make you aware of some changes.

It's nothing to worry about; your child or young person will still be assessed and offered appropriate support despite the changes.

### **What's changing?**

A range of organisations are currently paid by the County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups to support children across Staffordshire with their mental health and emotional wellbeing. These contracts are coming to a natural end. **From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, this role will be performed by one organisation, Action for Children.**

Because support will be provided by one organisation going forward, families and professionals will find it easier to understand the support available and to access it.

### **Who are Action for Children?**

Action for Children offer a wide range of support around mental health and have a dedicated, experienced team of expert staff. Helping more than 386,000 children and young people in the UK each year, Action for Children protect, support and provide practical and emotional care. They also ensure children and young people's voices are heard and campaign to bring lasting improvements to their lives.

Some of the support they offer is face-to-face and some will be through a new digital counselling service, depending on the type of support your family needs.

### **What do I need to do next?**

The key thing to know is that if your child needs support, their needs will be assessed by Action for Children and they will be offered the right support.

In the coming weeks you will be contacted by the organisation who currently holds your child or young person's details to ask for your permission to pass information about your child's needs to Action for Children. This will then allow Action for Children to make contact and discuss the support they may be able to offer.

We will ensure that you have the information and support you need as changes take place.



If you do have any questions at this stage, please contact:

Sarah Newton (Commissioning Officer, Staffordshire County Council) –  
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Yours faithfully,

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Karen Coker  
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