

Dear Parent or Carer,

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

The County Council pays for this support and we'd like to make you aware of some changes.

It's nothing to worry about; they will continue to receive the support they need.

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

A range of organisations are currently paid by the County Council 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 rather than being delivered by a number of organisations, 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 or young person needs support, they will continue to get it. In the coming weeks, you will be contacted by the organisation who currently supports you to ask for your permission to pass information about your child's needs to Action for Children. This will allow your child or young person's support to continue.

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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Josephine Bullock (Strategic Commissioning Manager) –  
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Yours Sincerely,

*K Coker*

Karen Coker  
Senior Commissioning Manager (Children & Families Health & Wellbeing)

