

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Inspiring You, Short Breaks Activities at Avon Tyrrell

We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to you for your continued support of Avon Tyrrell and our Short Breaks Programme. It has truly been a wonderful experience for us to see everyone take enjoyment and benefit from the activities and environment at Avon Tyrrell and watch many of the children/young people become more independent and confident.

It is with real sadness, that as a result of the recent changes to funding criteria made by Hampshire County Council we have made the decision to, for the short term at least, withdraw from the funded Short Breaks Programme as the format of our programme is no longer eligible. A key part of our programme has always been the opportunity for families to come away and benefit from the experience together and going forward the funding will only be available for activities where the children can be left on their own, offering parents/carers a break.

As a result our final Short Breaks weekends will be our two Christmas weekends in December 2018 (7th -9th and 14th -16th) and one further weekend in February 2019 (15th-17th).

We are committed to the programme we have worked hard with families to develop over the last nine years. As a charity, UK Youth, has already decided to hold a minimum of two weekends a year, one in the summer and one in December, which will follow the same format that you have grown to trust and enjoy. Without the Hampshire County Council funding, we may not be able to offer the same level of subsidy, but we are working hard to minimise our costs as much as possible and research for other sources of funding.

Our aim remains ensuring that our Short Breaks Programme offer families the best possible opportunities, so to ensure we focus on the elements of the programme you want to see and matters most to you, please do feel free to get in touch if you would like to comment on our programme.

To conclude we would reiterate both our deep regret that our programme no longer meets eligibility criteria for funding from Hampshire County Council and our commitment to find ways to continue to deliver what has been such a successful programme for all participants and the Charity.

Our warmest wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Watts', written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Watts Director of Avon Tyrrell & the whole Staff Team

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