

## **PRESS STATEMENT 04/10/21**

### **SERVICE REOPENING**

The pandemic has hit everyone hard, and we are acutely aware of the impact on people who use day services.

We have worked tirelessly to ensure as many people can come back to services as possible for as much of the week as we are able.

ERYC has plans for everyone to return to normal levels of service as soon as the advice regarding community infection rates is confirmed as having reduced to a level where the risk of the infection being transmitted from service users in attendance, or staff teams at the day service, or staff teams caring for people in the residential arrangements is less likely.

We have made many changes to the service to ensure it is as COVID-safe as possible during these difficult times and is sustainable post-pandemic.

We care deeply about our service users and their families, but we also have a duty to protect everyone from transmission of infection in resuming the full pre COVID level service we are eager to deliver.

The pandemic has been very challenging for charities like ours because, as a charity which relies on our nursery and sales, we have taken a significant financial hit during the pandemic. We have been grateful for the financial support from the council during restrictions.

Yvonne Rhodes, head of business management and commissioning at East Riding of Yorkshire Council, said: "We are extremely grateful for the work that our day care providers are doing to support people living with families. Without them I don't know how many family carers would have coped."

"I understand why the families of those that live in 24-hour supported living feel as they do but we are trying hard to make sure that everyone has access to a paid service that allows them to access activities of daily living.

"Because of the very real risks of staff teams becoming infected and being unavailable to support people, these services are different for some people than prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.

"As a council we have taken steps to ensure no one that uses day services is financially disadvantaged because of COVID-19 and people only pay a personal contribution towards services they receive."

We are ready and waiting to bring people back and will do so as soon as we are advised by ERYC it is safe and appropriate.