

Riverside playscheme 2025

As I am sure you are aware, Enable Ability was requested to take over the running of the playscheme at Riverside School from last Easter at very short notice.

We agreed to do so even though it was self-evident that Enable Ability and Riverside School would struggle to be able to run the provision within the very limited budget that had been allocated for it.

We subsequently received reassurances from Hampshire County Council Short Breaks that they aimed to fund the provision to a more appropriate level with a 3-year commitment (subject to a successful tender), as this would enable it to be developed to more fully reach its potential (including supporting the children on a one to one level as required).

However, owing to the severity of budgetary constraints, Hampshire Short Breaks have only been able to offer a grant extension that is significantly lower than last year. Despite many subsequent discussions with the Hampshire Short Breaks committee, they are unfortunately unable to increase their grant offer for this year. Along with other providers that have been similarly affected, we can only deliver to the level that we are being funded.

Currently it is likely we will only be able to offer a playscheme during the summer holidays and that it will be for fewer days than in the past.

I'm still in the process of challenging this decision as well as looking at whether additional funding can be sourced.

Whilst this will be disappointing news, I would prefer to give you an honest update to help manage your expectations – and will keep you informed as soon as I am able to concerning what we will be able to provide within the agreed budget.

Julie Nethorote
Deputy manager

