

## PaCC Statement on the closure of Extratime

20 June 2023



This is the response of the Parent Carers Council (PaCC) to the announcement that Extratime will be closing in October 2023. See [LINK](#) to ET press release.

This news will be a devastating blow to our community. To parent carers and children and young people who attend Extratime and rely on the excellent services they have provided for so many years, the loss will be great. We understand you will be shocked, feeling concerned about future provision and have many questions you would like answered. PaCC will be working with BHCC, Extratime and other partners, to represent your concerns and seek information updates on what will happen next. We are clear that ensuring continuity for families is critical. Equally important is accelerating long overdue strategic planning and effective commissioning of respite support for families, along with services which support transition to adulthood for our young people.

For now, we want to take a moment to celebrate and appreciate Extratime. For 20 years, they have provided high quality and much-loved services in B&H and in West Sussex. They have impacted the lives of thousands of families and on behalf of the SEND community we want to express our immense gratitude, and our sympathies – we know that staff and trustees are deeply distressed and have worked tirelessly in recent years to try to avoid this situation unfolding. We invite parent carers and children and young people to feed back to PaCC with experiences and memories of Extratime, so we can collate these and pass them onto the staff and volunteers. We hope this offers some small comfort to a fantastic and committed workforce in these very difficult times.

We also want to recognise that Extratime has been a committed PaCC partner group, helping us to reach, engage and represent parents of children and young people with SEND. We are grateful for their expertise and their support in our work.

It is an incredibly sad day in Brighton and Hove, the ramifications of this news are far-reaching for many, and our hearts are heavy at the loss of a truly fantastic voluntary organisation. To Sam, Ros and the whole Extratime team we are sending much love.

PaCC welcome any communication in relation to this news. You can contact us by emailing [admin@paccbrighton.org.uk](mailto:admin@paccbrighton.org.uk) or calling **01273 234862**.

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The Parent Carers' Council (PaCC) is a parent-led forum which represents parent carers with children and young people with any kind of physical disability, learning disability, complex or long-term medical/health condition, mental health issue or special educational need. The group was formed to enable parent carers to work closely together to help improve services and support. It aims to help parents get more directly involved in the strategic delivery of services for disabled children in Brighton & Hove and now has over 525 signed up members. This position statement was developed through consultation with our Steering Group members and our partner groups: Barnardo's Link Plus, Brighton Pebbles, Extratime, mASCot, T21, Amaze Face 2 Face and Children's Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG).