

December 2019

Dear Parent /Carer

I hope you are all well and have had a good term. I am sorry to tell you that I am leaving my role as Head of SEND in Haringey at the end of this term. It was great to meet so many of you at the transitions event in October 2019, and I wish you all the best for the future. It has been a pleasure and an honour to work with you all.

Eveleen Riordan, Assistant Director for Schools and Learning will be in touch in the new term about new management arrangements for the service. In the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns can you email them to sen@haringey.gov.uk and a staff member will get back to you. On to news from the services:

1) Transport and Travel

We have been thinking hard about how we can improve our transport services, and to be able to do this properly we want to bring in a specialised transport external consultant to help us improve the services. The consultant is likely to start working with the team in January or February of 2020. At the heart of their work, which will be managed by officers, will be meaningful consultation and co-production. To achieve this, the consultants will be setting up a transport steering group as mentioned in the last news letter.

If you would like to be part of a transport steering group to look at how we can run the service more smoothly, please email: sen@haringey.gov.uk and state 'transport'.

2) Co-production and Participation

In the last newsletter I listed some of the parent/carers groups in Haringey and you can find these all on the Local Offer at:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer/about-local-offer/get-involved>

You can also find on the website a letter from Haringey councillors in support of co-production, apologies that the link was not included, you can find this on:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer/about-local-offer/local-offer-news>

3) Direct Payments Consultation

Thank you to everyone who took the time to come to events or reply to the consultation on the new direct payments policy. You can still comment on this policy online at:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer/about-local-offer/local-offer-news>

you can find the direct payments presentation under 'other updates'

Feedback about the policy changes so far are:

- Eligibility - children with a disability who do not need a service from the Disabled Children's Social Work Team, but have significant impact of their needs such as mental health and learning disabilities on their behaviour, will be eligible for a short break budget
- The amount of direct payments will be more predictable with no budget under £750
- Any budget likely to be over £3,000 will be assessed through a social care assessment, potentially a joint assessment with health services
- The policy has been clarified to include flights for a child abroad for holidays. This is for the child only and not for the 'normal' holiday expenses
- The budget can be used for cleaning/housework if this allows you to care for a child with complex needs
- The budget can be used for babysitting, if this 6pm to 2am, or is less than 3 hours. This also needs to be not more than twice a month. If the baby sitting is more than this time you have duties as an employer for the person who is supporting your child
- Cash usage should be avoided
- Payment cards can be applied for if requested - this is where the money you have is loaded onto a pre-paid card

4) Respite and Short Breaks

Below is a reminder of the providers available locally for short breaks:

Setting	Description
Centre 404 https://centre404.org.uk/	Learning and Leisure groups and activities for children, young people, and adults with a learning disability or autism that build social networks, reduce isolation and promote independence
Ezer Leyoldos https://ezerleyoldos.co.uk/	Services include postnatal support, counselling and play therapy, parenting support and skills training, emotional support and short breaks for children with disabilities. Ezer Leyoldos offers an extensive range of culturally appropriate family support services for the Orthodox Jewish Community.
Haringey Shed https://www.haringeyshed.org/	Haringey Shed is an inclusive theatre and performing arts company for children and young people.
KIDS https://www.kids.org.uk/	KIDS workers take the child or young person out into a community setting, such as to the cinema, bowling or to the local swimming pool. A KIDS worker can also care for the child or young person in their own home
Resources For Autism https://resourcesforautism.org.uk/	Resources for Autism provide practical services for children and adults with a diagnosis of autism and their families.
Step by Step https://www.stepbystepkids.org.uk/	Activities include animal workshops, creative arts, sensory storytelling, science activities, soap workshop, balloon race, carnival, sand art and lots more. Other activities include off-site

	trips to farms, indoor play areas, theme parks, trampoline parks and bowling, and a variety of performances
Team Spirit https://www.riverside.haringey.sch.uk/	After school holiday clubs and family respite run by Riverside Special School and known as 'Team Spirit'. Please contact the school for more details.
The Markfield Project https://markfield.org.uk/	Children at Markfield get to make decisions about what to do on clubs by choosing and planning activities. Markfield run clubs, holiday activities and after school activities

We are still looking at how Haringey families can get access to overnight short breaks if they need them. We will also be opening up our short breaks list again to encourage more providers to register.

You can learn more about what families said they wanted to see changed in the direct payments policy at:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer/about-local-offer/local-offer-news>

You can find the direct payments presentation under 'other updates'.

5) Is your child's education health and care plan making a difference to them?

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey monkey about the impact of their child's education health and care plan, and whether it made a difference to your child. It was great to hear that 80% of you thought the plans were well written and made a difference. You thought that SENCOs, teaching assistant support, therapies and advisory teachers made the most difference to your children's outcomes.

You wanted us to work harder on:

- Making sure the plans were updated after the annual reviews.
- The support was being delivered as it is described in the plan.

We are going to make this our focus for our next year's work.

6) Events this year

A quick summary of all the events to be planned for the coming year:

Event	Date time and place
Transport review	TBC Jan – Feb 2020
Local Offer Event –	TBC March 2020 - communication and consultation, how you want services to communicate with families
Therapies review	TBC June – July 2020

Best Wishes

Vikki