



**Haringey**  
LONDON

NEWSLETTER

## September 2020 Edition

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the latest edition of the Haringey SEND newsletter. This issue comes to you at a time when your children are returning to education whilst the Covid pandemic is still with us and causing concern. We have therefore included some useful information and links to support the return to education and to try and help reduce any anxiety.

Read a [Welcome Back to School message from Dame Christine Lenehan](#) – that link also takes you to the Council for Children with Disabilities, which has very useful information.

## Huddle Goes Online

This term, we will be running our weekly drop-in for under 5s with developmental difficulties online. Sessions run weekly on Tuesdays 10:30am-11am. In the sessions, there will be:

- A chance to share experiences and connect with other families
- Play activities that you can do at home to support your child's development
- Professionals you can talk to about any concerns you have

For more information on how to join, and how to get your free 'Huddle Hamper' – a box of equipment that will enable you to join in the activities with us – please email: [portage@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:portage@haringey.gov.uk)

## Choosing Positive Futures

Do you have a child who was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017? If so, they will be due to start school in September 2021 and you need to start planning for this now to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible. On **Tuesday 20th October**, we will be holding

an event where you will have a chance to meet a range of SEND professionals, including representatives from both special and mainstream schools, to hear about the options available to you and answer any questions you may have. You will also have an opportunity to hear about the experiences of some young people who are currently going through the school system. We will be sending out invitations via your SENCO later this month, but – if you would like to be put on the mailing list – please email: [areasenco@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:areasenco@haringey.gov.uk)

## Secondary Transfer

If your child is in Year 6, you will need to apply for your secondary school by the end of October. You can find out more on our dedicated [Secondary Transfer page](#) on the Local Offer.

If your child is at SEND Support, you apply through the standard process, but – if your child has an EHCP – you will receive a letter from us asking you to express a preference for two schools. You will receive this letter by the Sunday 20th September with a return deadline of Saturday 31st October 2020.

Contact has produced this [back to school advice](#) and links to help with the new school term. There is also a recording of their informative and useful back to school webinar there.

## Coping with School Anxiety **YOUNGMINDS**

Whether your child is starting a new school/college, or returning to the same school/college, some children and young people may occasionally worry about their school and education.

[Young Minds have helpful information and advice](#) on supporting children with school anxiety. There are also tips for working with your child's school if your child is having difficulties and finding extra help if you need it.

## Healthy Lunchbox Ideas



Whether your child has lunch at school or brings a pack lunch, take a look at these [lunchbox recipes and tips for some quick and healthy ideas](#).

# EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS

## **EHCPs**

We are working hard to keep the EHC plan process moving. Assessments for an EHC have been quite different over the past few months as it has been difficult to do our work face-to-face. We have been making contact and working by telephone and video calls. Our decision-making panels operate online meetings. We will continue to review this as the situation changes.

The Government has introduced guidance on temporary legislative changes relating to coronavirus (COVID-19). Read about the EHCP temporary changes to timescales [here](#).

## **SEND Travel Arrangements**



We continue to provide transport where needed and we will contact you about any changes to the service.

***Remember that you are not required to apply for transport every year unless your child changes school/college or there are other circumstances that have changed.***

Only those parents applying for SEN transport for the first need to submit an application form.

If you need to submit a form you can apply [here](#).

Families with children still attending school are increasingly choosing to transport their own children to school during the coronavirus pandemic. Please consider transporting your children to and from school if you can.

## **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Travel Team Contact Details**

Email: [school.transport@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:school.transport@haringey.gov.uk)

Tel: 020 8489 5629



## Family Fund Grant

Family Fund has received £10 million in extra funding from the Department for Education to provide grants for families on low incomes raising disabled or seriously ill children in England this year.

This emergency funding has been provided in response to the coronavirus pandemic and will help more parents and carers to look after their children. Families can apply for grants to make their lives easier while implementing social distancing measures, including computers and tablets, outdoor play equipment and sensory toys.

This grant is still open having been launched back in May. For more details and how to apply, click [here](#).



### PACEY Website

The [Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years \(PACEY\) website](#) is not specifically for SEND,

but it does have some really good ideas for children starting school or indeed returning to school.

Formed in 1977, they are a charity dedicated to supporting everyone involved in childcare and early education to provide high-quality services, information and advice to children, their families and carers.

## Haringey SEND Service Survey

Recently, Haringey SEND Service recently carried out a survey to ascertain the views of parents and carers of children with SEND. Links to the survey were sent to the parent/carer of every young person with an EHCP (2,424) and 118 surveys were completed – a response rate of 4.8%.

A key question in this short survey was what people believe Haringey SEND Service should prioritise in their plans and the key issue identified was communication – we need to get better at getting messages out and at listening to people.

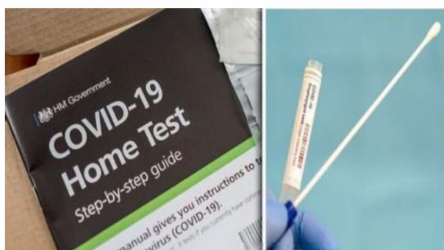
This survey has given us a good indication of the parent/carer perspective and builds on other research and consultation (SEND Travel, Amaze Report, Markfield Survey and the website feedback etc...) and now helps us further develop our plans and the next stage will be to consult on our ideas for the focus of our plans and get the parental/carer perspective regarding this.

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey and we hope to have even more respondents to future surveys as we want the views of parents and carers to direct our planning.



### **Lockdown Heroes**

We would all agree that there have been many heroes during the coronavirus pandemic. You might wish to have a read of this great story in The Guardian newspaper about some of our own local heroes, [Haringey's Children's Centres providing support for people](#) at this difficult time.



### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Home Test Kits**

Just a reminder that anyone who experiences any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms (a new, continuous cough, a high temperature and/or a loss of taste or smell) can access a test at a testing site or at home using the [online booking portal](#).

**Lastly, goodbye and thank you from our AD, Paul Sutton**

At the end of this month, I will be leaving Haringey after a very enjoyable 10 months in which I have worked with some great, supportive and committed people. I leave Haringey with some great memories and knowing that services, especially the SEND service, are in good hands and that the work begun will be completed. I have communicated with a number of parents and carers of children with SEND during my time in Haringey and heard the messages regarding the need for Haringey to improve services, listen more and communicate better. I am pleased that I will be leaving a SEND service that is committed to, and getting better at, doing this.

I wish everyone the best and thank you, the parents and carers, for your continuing dialogue with the service. Please be assured the service is listening and improving and your children and yourselves are at the heart of our thoughts and actions. Thank you and Goodbye  
Paul Sutton, Assistant Director Early Help, Youth and SEND

## **Feedback**

Please feel free to email us at [sen@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:sen@haringey.gov.uk) any comments you may have. Your valued feedback will help us improve this newsletter still further in future.