



April 2018

Dear All

I hope you have had a good Easter break and welcome back for the summer term. There is a lot of news as ever:

1) Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) new assessments and conversions

I am delighted to tell you that we have the majority of statements converted to EHCPs in draft form. However, unfortunately we missed the deadline to finalise all the education health and care plans. We are continuing to convert children's statements to education health and care plans as swiftly and accurately as we can with yourselves and your children's settings. If you are concerned about the progress of your child's conversion to an EHCP, you can contact the SEN department by email on sen@haringey.gov.uk, and ask to speak to your caseworker. We are committed to finishing the conversions as soon as possible, and no child will lose their services or school place because they have not yet had a finished Education Health and Care plan. Haringey will also continue to deliver all the services that are written into your child's statement.

2) Capital Funding - SEND Grant

Haringey were successful in our application for the first tranche of funding to help us expand our special school places. The funding is over three years and is helping us to expand our special school places. We have started work on the new section of Riverside School for 16-19 year olds, which is next door to the Riverside School.

We will also be spending the money on some small changes needed to St Mary's CE School N8 as they have kindly provided the classrooms in a small unit in the school. This will be where two of The Grove Special School classrooms will be based whilst the new Special School site is built on Downhills Park Road N17.

3) Direct Payments

Parent who receive Direct Payments have said that the systems and processes that Haringey are using are not user friendly or clear. We want to improve the system to enable more families to use a direct payment (where they receive the money for a service) rather than the Local Authority managing it for them. If you have direct payments, or receive services from the Disabled Children's Social Work Team, you will shortly receive a letter inviting you to an event on the 10th May 2018 10.00am -12.30pm at the Cypriot Centre. If you would like to attend this event but do not receive a direct payment for services, please can you contact me on sen@haringey.gov.uk and I can tell you more about the event.

4) Haslemere Road

Some families may know that Haringey has an overnight respite care provision called Haslemere Road which is currently closed. We have been looking for a new provider to run this centre for us for some time now without success, however recently we have had discussions with two providers who are thinking about whether they would be able to run a provision in Haringey on our behalf. The provision would be over night care for people with learning disabilities, in the evening and at the weekend. If families would like to know more about this I will be talking about this more at the direct payments event, or you can contact SEN by email on sen@haringey.gov.uk and I can call you or email to answer any questions you might have.

5) Preparation for Adulthood and Supported Internships

We have received a grant from the government of 58K to help us develop more opportunities to support people with Learning Disabilities into employment. Supported Internships are jobs with employers for people with Learning Disabilities where the person has extra support to learn how to carry out the job and manage the challenges of being employed aswell as carry out their job affectively. We will be meeting with neighbouring boroughs to look at how they are addressing this, and working with our own apprenticeships and employment services to see how we can progress this area for people with learning disabilities. We are working on our pathways for preparing young people for adulthood and the information available to help families and children as their children approach 18 years. We have a working party called the "Moving On" group, which has:

Made improvements to the Local Offer website for the 18-25 section.

Made better links between the Local Offer website and the Haringey social care website on preparation for adulthood information;

Developed information on mobile apps to help people with disabilities, which will go on the Local Offer

I will keep you informed about further developments in this area.

6) Support for Children with SEND at Secondary School

We know from parents and children that transitioning from primary to secondary school is a worrying time, and families have expressed concern that their children will not settle into school confidently. We have asked one of our experienced secondary mainstream schools to work on this together with special educational needs co-ordinators in all the secondary schools and our Education Support Team in SEN lead by Ellika Mcauley. The team will be looking at a variety of areas including:

- Transitioning into school
- Communicating with parents and children
- SEN and behaviour policies
- Teaching and learning approaches

This piece of work will be lead by Alexandra Park School in the first instance. I will let you know more about it as it progresses.

7) Support for Children with SEND in schools and Education Health and care plans

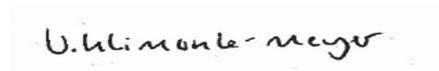
Schools receive some funding for children with SEND directly, and the government adds to that funding by providing grants to local authorities called the 'high needs block' budget, which then funds the money into a child's education health and care plan. If your child has an education health and care plan and is in a mainstream school, you may have noticed that the plan has money called

your child's 'top up' on the last page of the plan. This year that amount will go up slightly, as Haringey schools have agreed to put some additional money into the high needs block to help with supporting children with special educational needs. This will go into your child's school from April 2018 and then be amended on your child's education health and care plan after their annual review. The additional money is to make sure that the schools can meet the increased costs of employing staff members, and may not increase the amount of support that your child has in school.

I will write again in June 2018 with further updates

Please note that this newsletter will be published on the Local Offer under 'Local Offer Information', on the website

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vikki Monk-Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light grey rectangular box.

Vikki Monk-Meyer

Head of Integrated Service SEN and Disabilities