



December 2018

Dear All

I hope you are all well and looking forward to a break with your children.

I am sorry to miss the newsletter for October and November. After writing these letters over the last year, I think that we will be updating you half termly from this point onwards. As ever, the letters will go on the Local Offer after I send them out.

We have had some excellent events this term, the 'Preparing for Positive Futures' reception transfer event, and the 'secondary transfer event' were very well attended and with good feedback. The presentations are on the Local Offer website at:

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer/0-4-year-olds-early-years/starting-school>

And

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/local-offer/5-15-year-olds/preparing-secondary-school>

1) Local Offer Events

Our main event was the 'Local Offer' event on the 13th and 14th November 2018.

Feedback from families from the events about the areas of strength and challenge for the local services included:

Areas of strength:

- ▶ EHC assessment process- The plans are thorough, high quality, and the content is good. Parents said the plans made a difference
- ▶ Therapies – parents reported that the Speech and language therapy input helped their children's progress, they gave good advice to school, and the SLT summer scheme is excellent
- ▶ Transport – parents liked the transport buddies, the escorts and the drivers
- ▶ Transition from children's to adults - parents said the education transition goes well, and the choice of colleges is good
- ▶ Respite and support – parents reported that having Direct payments gives you more control and you can trust the workers.

Areas you wanted us to work on:

- ▶ EHC assessment process – we are slow in our 20 week timescales, parents did not always understand the assessment process, parents wanted to know how to understand how to choose between special and mainstream

- ▶ Support for children at SEND support - parents said it was not clear who to talk to, and what was available for children who did not need an EHCP, but still needed some extra help.
- ▶ Therapies – you wanted consistency of people, more OT, therapies in college and more liaison with home
- ▶ Transport – you were not happy with the communication with this service, and found the pick up points a challenge. You wanted to know how the journeys were set up pick up points chosen, you wanted us to know there were delays in setting up the transport for some children.
- ▶ Transition from children’s to adults - you wanted to know more about the social care assessment process, wanted more supported internships, you wanted us to help you make sure colleges delivered outcomes for your services, and you wanted EHC services to be more joined up post 16.
- ▶ Respite and support – you wanted to improved process of receiving and using direct payments, more choice of respite, more communication about reviews and appeals of budgets and wanted us to consider the use of cash payments

We will be looking at all your feedback and working to address these in our new ‘action plan’ which you can see on the local offer in January 2019.

2) Direct Payments, Respite and Support

Would you like to get involved in the development of policies and procedures that the council puts in place? Bettina Aruoture is our new project manager who is keen to support you to do this. Bettina’s message is below:

One of the most important challenges for Haringey’s Children’s Services is to plan the right support for children with disabilities or long-term complex health needs for now and in the future. Part of that is ensuring that Haringey has systems in place that allow children, young people and their families to have greater control over their lives.

This is where Direct Payments comes in. Direct payments are sums of money paid by the council to disabled and older people and family carers. They are a way of people managing and meeting their own support needs instead of the council providing services.

From January 2019, we will be establishing a co-design group to help us design a Direct Payments service for Children’s services. We hope to have a group consisting of parents of disabled young people who are users, and parents of potential users of Direct Payments. Once established, we will be working with group members to actively plan, design and develop a Direct Payments service that meets the needs of our customers.

We think it is important to understand what great support looks like and this is your chance to have your say about what is going on and what you would like to see with Direct Payments.

To find out more or to volunteer your services, please call 020 8489 3214 or email us at Bettina.Aruoture@haringey.gov.uk by the 11th January 2018 if possible.

3) Parenting Children with SEND

If you would like to find out more about support groups, advice and courses for parents of children with Special Needs and Disabilities please also look at our parenting support information on: <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/parenting>

4) Transition to Adulthood

Transitions Event 30th January 2019 10.30 - 1.00pm at (TBC)

We will have workshops and presentations to talk about the transitions process, how to choose a local college and the different college offers, and support for preparing for adulthood. Parents of young people 16 to 18 will be invited, however the event is open to everyone. We will be talking about adult social care and employment support, as well as education.

If you are starting to visit colleges and you and your son/daughter are wondering which colleges to choose, do not forget to look at the local offer website pages for help on which courses are on offer to children.

If your child has an EHCP, please remember to tell your caseworker if you are applying to more than one college, and which one is your preference, so that we know to expect more than one college to contact us.

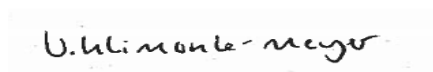
If you would like to join us or learn more about this opportunity contact Mike Wilson on 020 3196 1896 or mike.wilson@publicvoice.london

5) CYPS children and families offer for children with SEND, including Disabled Children's Social Work Team

We will be opening our consultation on the CYPS children and families offer for children with SEND, including Disabled Children's Social Work Team criteria online in December 2018. This will be your opportunity to feedback your experiences about the ranges of support offered from the different statutory services to meet families of children with SEND support needs, including Early Help, Social Care, Inclusion Advisory Services and the Disabled Children's Social Work Team. There will be a range of smaller events on these themes after the launch and also online feedback available.

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

Best Wishes



Vikki Monk-Meyer

Head of Integrated Service SEN and Disabilities