



September 2018

Dear All

I hope you are all well after the summer break and are settling back into the new term.

1) Direct Payments, Respite and Support

Thank you to families who contributed to this event on the 10th May 2018. Key themes from the feedback were:

- ▶ Direct Payments process needs to be smoother
- ▶ Amount of providers is too small and the cost of providers is too high
- ▶ Families thought there should be changes to the way the assessment of their child's needs was carried out, to make sure children's needs linked more clearly to their budget
- ▶ Parents asked how the respite assessment fitted together with the health assessments?
- ▶ Parents wanted to understanding the thresholds and criteria for respite budgets better
- ▶ Parents wanted to know what happens to the respite budget when children transition to adult services

Your feedback is really valuable and will feed into the Local Offer action plan, which we will review at the annual Local Offer event in November 2018.

In September, we are meeting with a range of organisations who offer respite support in Haringey and nearby areas to launch applications for a new 'short breaks' contract. We are inviting these organisations to apply to become approved Haringey short breaks service providers – offering fun activities for children and giving parents and carers a temporary break from caring. Our aim is to help make sure that families can access a variety of high-quality services at a reasonable price.

2) Reception Transition Event

We will be holding our annual Reception Transition event – **Choosing Positive Futures** - on **Tuesday 9th October 2018 at Triangle Children's centre, 91-93 St Ann's Rd, London N15 6NU.**

This is an event for families of children who are due to start Reception in September 2019. There will be a number of talks from different professionals which will help you understand the Reception Admission process and the support your child will receive in school. There will also be a chance to meet with professionals individually in order to discuss any questions you might have about your child.

Please contact areasenco@haringey.gov.uk if you would like more information

3) Secondary schools event for parents transitioning

Please note that there is a parent's event for families whose children are choosing their secondary school places this year ready for a September 2019 start in secondary school.

The event is on 26th Sept 10am -12pm and held at Cypriot Centre Earlham Grove N22.

We will be covering what to consider when choosing a secondary school, and how to prepare your child and your family for the changes. Some of the areas are covered under the 'frequently asked questions' second on the Local Offer website if you would like to read more.

4) Transport

We have recently started to encourage families who use transport to apply online using a form on the Local Offer website. We are still reviewing the functioning of the form. However the purpose is to make sure that information we have on your child's needs is as up to date and can be shared with transport escorts and drivers of the vehicles.

We have already had feedback that families are finding it difficult to upload their EHCP to the site, and we will change that part of the application to make the process more straightforward. You will not need to do this if your child is already known to transport and the SEN team.

The application asks for details about how your child's needs can be best managed in transport, which helps us to plan for their needs in terms of equipment orders such as specialist car seats, or how to communicate with your child in the best way. The information you add here is very important as it helps us when we are planning on how best to meet you children's needs.

We are encouraging families and young adults to take up the offer of independent travel support, such as buddying or travel training where ever possible and safe. We have had some excellent feedback from families of young people who took up the offer of the 'Summer Transport Buddy' programme. This programme was to introduce young people to their transport buddy and also allow them to practice their routes to school or places of interest in the summer, such as the park or local shops. The transport buddy programme is an individual decision to be discussed with the transport team by families and young people and not for any one of primary age.

Please note that we do have some new providers of our transport routes and we are monitoring the routes carefully. I know that some parents have experienced disruption to their transport services at the start of term. I do apologise for any difficulties you and your children are experiencing. We will aim to resolve them as quickly as possible. If you do have any concerns you can call 0208 489 5768 and discuss them with Nneka Keazor, who is our transport and travel manager or Janet Miller, who is the SEN and transport service manager on 0208 489 3877.

5) 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>

6) Improving Transitions

Help shape the future of transitions and join the transitions reference group!

A Joint Health/Social Care Partnership Board (JPB) has been set up in Haringey which represents a range of service users. It is going to widen its remit to include carers of children, young people and adults.

It is really important that service users and parents / carers have an opportunity to make their views known to commissioners and policy makers in the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group, and to the local Mental Health Trust about how they would like their child's experience of transition to adulthood to be improved.

The new **Transition Reference Group** will be meeting in September and we would welcome members to join us who have children who will be transitioning in to adult services in the next few years and those whose children have recently transitioned. We will meet once every two months at a time and venue to suit the majority of members – daytime and evening meetings.

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

SEND are also hosting a transitions event for families and young people on:

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.

7) Local Offer Event

Our next Local Offer Event is the 13th November 2018 10-12.30pm Haringey Cypriot Centre Earlham Grove N22.

At this event, we will be reviewing how we have got on with our 'Local Offer' action plan. It is an opportunity for you to both influence the development of our website, but also feedback to us about how you think services can be improved. We will be covering our annual review process, an update on the progress on the therapies review, and also recent developments to our website that you have requested such as more 'condition specific' information. You can look forward to more advice and information on services about:

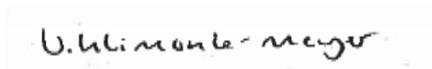
- Cerebral Palsy
- Hearing and Visual impairments, including services for the Blind and services and support for Deaf children and young people.
- Down Syndrome
- Autism

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

Will be will opening our consultation on the CYPS children and families offer for children with SEND, including Disabled Children's Social Work Team criteria at the Local offer Event in November 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

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