



January 2018

Dear All

I do hope you are all well, a very happy new year to you all. I thought I would update all of you with some of the changes since I last wrote a newsletter in September 2017.

1) EHC's new assessments and conversions

I am sure you are all aware that the SEN team have been working hard to complete the conversions of statements to education health and care plans. We have made very steady progress, but have quite a few plans to go. This remains a challenging target, and we have discussed with the Department of Education are plans to convert the remaining statements to Education Health and Care plans. If you are concerned about the progress of your child's conversion to an EHC plan, you can contact the SEN department by email on sen@haringey.gov.uk. If you have not had a letter that outlines the conversion from your child's statement to plan will occur shortly, you will soon receive a letter in the post.

I want to reassure all parents and families that your child's services will continue as they currently receive them, and no child will lose their school place or services because they have not yet had a finished education health and care plan. We will also continue to deliver all the services that are written into your child's statement, for the duration of the time that they have a statement.

2) Travel and Transport

You will be aware that we have changed the way that we deliver travel and transport. We are unfortunately unable to continue with the way we were delivering the services, which include escorts supporting door to door pick up.

We now offer an end of road or outside the house pick up, depending on the child's needs, with children who are able to walk with their parents to bus stops being picked up from stops near their home. Whilst I know you have not wanted the changes, we do thank you for being prepared to work with us and resolve most family's queries.

As a result of these changes, we now have a team of escorts trained to be independent travel trainers, and also Escort Buddies. This is a service which has not been offered before by Haringey, and is great new development. We have already travel trained some children who would otherwise not have been able to travel independently.

It remains challenging to transport those young people with more complex behavioural needs who are now going to school out of borough, and we are still working on how we can best support them using a range of options. This includes using personal budgets for transport to pay carers who are known to the young person to travel with them.

3) Riverside Learning Centre

We have been successful in extending the age range of Riverside Secondary school to include a small Sixth form centre. The Sixth Form Centre will open initially in September 2018 with 5 places, building to 12-15 places when it is at full capacity. The site for the full group will be in a building next to Riverside, which is currently being re-furnished.

4) The Grove

We are continuing to progress our plans for The Grove Autism School to open in September 2019 on a site near Turnpike Lane, on Downhills Park Road, N17. There is a possibility that we may be able to open one class of The Grove early, on a local school site, which has two classrooms not yet in use. This will give us much needed special school space and 6 more places for primary aged children with Autism in Haringey.

5) Positive Behaviour Interventions

SEND was involved with the procurement of new service for complex young people over 16 years with Autism and learning disabilities, which will mean that there is a wider range of providers for young people who would be described as our 'transforming care' cohort (young people with challenging behaviour, learning disabilities and Autism). The new providers use a 'positive behaviour interventions' approach. This is small steps highly detailed behaviour plans and approaches, usually lead by a clinical psychologist. If you want to read more about this approach you can look at training provided by the 'Tizard' institute who lead in this area

<https://www.kent.ac.uk/tizard/research/TizardLearningDisabilityReview.html>.

The new providers can both support young people at home, and also sometimes offer housing support for those moving into adult services.

6) Re-structure of the management structure in the Educational Psychology team and the Education Inclusion Service

We said a sad goodbye to Yvonne Wade, Principal Educational Psychologist in November 2017. We have had some staff changes since this time and. I am delighted to announce that David Collins has taken up the role of Principal Educational Psychologist, and together with Joanna Putler as Assistant Principal.

7) Language and Autism team

This service aims to support settings meet the needs of children with autism, language difficulties and social communication difficulties across a wide range of settings. I am delighted to announce that Esther Joseph will be managing this new team.

We have new roles within the service including a 14+ autism and social communication lead, who will be supporting young people with social communication difficulties, who have been in mainstream schools, to make the transition into college. Tim O'Connor has now started in this job. Tim We will also have a new support worker for children in foundation stage to work alongside Leticia Knight, Autism Support Worker.

To complete the new management structure Ellika McAuley is taking up the new post of SEN Inclusion Lead. Ellika will be managing the advisory teachers and education support services as a new role within the SEND management team, and her knowledge and expertise is much welcomed.

8) Local Offer Event

We had a very well attended Local Offer event at the end of November 2017 to review our new website. We were delighted to have a short speech from Councillor Weston who supported us in reviewing the website and ensuring that we hear your suggestions about the development of the Local Offer and service. I know that we all enjoyed it and families feedback they thought it was a useful event to have attended.

Families who attended wanted more on condition specific information, and also a real focus on transitions and preparation for adult hood. We are looking at how we can develop the website further so ideas and written information you want to include is very welcomed. We will be working with parent's groups on the action plan around these areas.

Once again thank you for all your support and enthusiasm!

I will write to you again in February to update you on our progress with the conversions of statements to Education Health and Care Plan and the local offer action plan.

Best Wishes

Vikki