



June 2018

Dear All

I hope you are all well and starting to prepare for the summer break. We have had an extremely busy half term.

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

We will have finally finished all the conversions of children's statements to education health and care plans by the end of this month. If you are concerned your child's EHCP, you can contact the SEN department by email on sen@haringey.gov.uk, and ask to speak to your caseworker. We are obviously pleased that this is completed, and we can now start to improve the annual review process for yourselves and your children. There will be an event in October about the annual review process and how this can be improved to help develop your children independence as much as possible. This will be done as part of our annual Local Offer event. You will have an invitation posted to you directly about this event after the summer break.

2) 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
- ▶ Parent's asked how the respite assessment fitted together with the health assessments?
- ▶ Parent's 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

More detailed notes are on the Local Offer in the news pages. 10 families have put themselves forward to join a group to help review the direct payments process. There will be a further survey going out to families about direct payment shortly, designed by this group, to look at how direct payments process can become smoother.

3) 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.

4) 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 a local secondary School in the first instance.

SEND ran a very well attended event at Grieg City Academy in which Year 5 parents were able to meet and talk with SENCOs and parents from Haringey secondary schools. Don't worry if you missed this as secondary SENCOs are very keen to meet with Year 5 parents over the next few weeks to help families with the transition process and you can talk about this with your school directly.

Esther Joseph from the Language and Autism Support Team is running a workshop for Year 6 & 7 parents of children with Autism and/or Communication difficulties to support them with tips for a smooth transition. The workshop will take place at Highgate Wood School on Thursday 5th July 2018. Families can book a place by emailing last@haringey.gov.uk

5) Single Route of Redress

If your child's Education health and Care plan was issued after the 2nd April 2018, and you wish to challenge some parts of the plan through the SENDist tribunal process it is important to be aware that the SEND tribunal can now look at health and social care concerns too

If you have concerns about the education sections of an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan or about a local authority decision to not issue an EHC plan, you can go to the tribunal and ask for these concerns to be addressed. For these cases, you will now also be able to ask the tribunal to look at the health and social care sections of the EHC plan as long as the local authority decision happened on or after 3 April or the plan was issued or amended from 3 April.

You still need an education complaint to go to tribunal

One important thing to understand is that you cannot go to a SEND tribunal if you do not have an education complaint – a health or social care complaint without a special educational concern does

not enable you to use the SEND tribunal which must be “triggered” by a special educational concern. More information on what is included in a special educational concern, and how to appeal, is set out on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

This gives families a “one stop shop” (or single route of redress) where they can seek redress for concerns in an EHC plan.

Previously, the tribunal had no powers over the health and social care aspects of a plan. Now, all elements of a plan can be reviewed in one place as long as there is an education concern.

The tribunal can make “non-binding” recommendations about health and social care provision in EHC plans

The judgements that the SEND tribunal makes about health and social care elements of an EHC plan are “non-binding”. This means that the law does not require health and social care commissioners to follow the judgements.

This is a two-year national trial

IFF Research will be contacting parents and young people who have been through the trial to find out about their experiences. They will be gathering evidence to help the government make this decision.

More information can be found at:

- Your local [Information, Advice and Support Service \(IASS\)](#) – IASS can provide free, impartial advice about the law on SEN, local SEN arrangements and support, the trial and your rights. It can provide support with managing appeals, including support with preparing cases and attendance at hearings.
- [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) – This includes advice on making SEND appeals to the Tribunal and links to the appeal form.

[National trial toolkit](#) – Key information and resources will be shared as the trial progresses, including a frequently asked questions and answers sheet.

6) 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..

We have had feedback that families are finding it difficult to upload their EHCP 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 or communicating with them in the best way. 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. This 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 this newsletter will be published on the Local Offer under 'Local Offer Information', on the website

7) Early Years

We are delighted that our newly established Portage Service is going from strength to strength. Last week we had our first Portage Pop-In Picnic (bubble themed of course!) The Portage Service provides specialist home visitors for children with disabilities or medical conditions who have not yet started school or a pre-school setting. In our recent survey of Portage families, 91% were highly satisfied with the service. However 73% of families wished they had been able to access the service. If you think you would benefit from Portage please talk to your health visitor who can refer you.

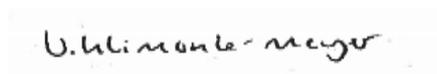
The Early Years Inclusion Fund which we introduced last year has worked well to increase choice for parents as we have children with SEND who are doing well in a far greater number of settings. All settings are now able to claim additional money in order to support children with SEND. They can also apply for a one-off grant for 3-4 year olds who are in receipt of DLA so make sure you tell your child's setting if you are claiming this. You can find out more about Early Years funding on the local offer.

8) Communication Support in Schools

Speech, Language and Communication needs are the biggest type of special educational need in Haringey. In order to ensure the children get the support they need on an ongoing basis, our Language Support teachers, who have recently gained Communication Champion Status, have met with every mainstream primary school in Haringey to help them audit their current provision to help develop children's communication skills and agree how to develop this further. Following on from this a number of schools have now signed up to become accredited Communication Friendly Settings. Ask your child's SENCo to find out more about the plans in your child's school.

Over the next year we will be extending this work into the Early Years settings and Secondary Schools.

Best Wishes



Vikki Monk-Meyer

Head of Integrated Service SEN and Disabilities