



Welcome to our new look Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) newsletter!

The newsletter has been redesigned to provide families with the information they need in an easily accessible format. This newsletter is part of our exciting developments for Haringey children, young people and their families. As always, we welcome your feedback - please let us know how well it works for you.

You can send us any comments via email at [sendnewsletters@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:sendnewsletters@haringey.gov.uk)

## News



### **SEN Transport to Schools**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Many of you will be aware that we have experienced issues with our transport arrangements to support your children in travelling to their place of learning at the start of term. These issues were caused by internal and external factors which included implementation of new technology and vehicle breakdowns. I am truly sorry for the disruption this has caused and fully appreciate the impact this has had on your children, yourself, your wider family, schools and colleges. Our efforts to rectify these issues began from the moment we became aware of them and the team have been working hard to resolve these as quickly as possible. Despite our efforts, this still resulted in children who were not picked up from their home address or school.

Thank you to all of you who kindly agreed to make alternative arrangements whilst we are working through this, it is truly appreciated. Whilst schools are very much a key partner working alongside our service, they are not responsible for transport arrangements for the school. I am grateful to our colleagues within schools who have

also worked tirelessly to support us in finding alternative solutions by providing transport directly and communicating your concerns to us on your behalf.

I will be personally undertaking a comprehensive learning review to investigate why so many errors happened and will implement an action plan that I will manage to ensure this does not happen again.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. I am hopeful that by the time you have read this newsletter, we will have resolved the vast majority of, if not all of the issues you are experiencing. Please do continue to raise any concerns with transport for your children directly with the SEN Transport Team on the contact details at the end of this newsletter.

**Jackie Difolco**

Assistant Director - Early Help, Prevention and SEND



## **Statutory Assessment and SEND Transport Team restructure**

The Statutory Assessment and SEND Transport Teams have recently gone through a restructure and we are welcoming a number of new staff to support us on the next stage of our journey.

Firstly, we are welcoming our new SEND Transport Manager, Matthew Fisk, who just joined us. He writes:

"I'm Matthew Fisk and I'll be the new SEND Transport Manager for Haringey. Originally from West London, I've recently moved into South Tottenham and have relished getting to know the area better.

"Having spent nearly a decade in the art logistics and transport industry, I'm very much looking forward to contributing to the effective running of services in my local community. My aim in this role will be to create open channels of communication, identify opportunities for improvement, and deliver the best possible service for you and your children."

We have also recruited a new Statutory Assessment Team Manager, and we are delighted to welcome Alena Lerari who many of you will know from Markfield and joined us on 13 September. She will manage the Team Leaders and will be responsible for delivering all aspects of Statutory Assessments and Annual Reviews in Haringey.

Finally, Kathy Mahoney has been in post since July 2021 as the new Performance and Finance Manager. She has oversight of the Finance and Data Team Leader and the SEND Transport Manager.

New case officers have been recruited over the summer and will be joining through September and October.

### **What will these changes mean for your child?**

There will be oversight of all stages of the SEND process so that children and young people with SEND receive quality service, there will be less reliance on individual case officers and, instead, a focus on a whole team approach to ensure that families can be supported regardless of the availability of individual officers. Case officers will retain pieces of work to ensure minimum disruption to children. As an example, if a case officer has started an assessment for an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP), they will continue with this until completion. After then, it will move to the allocated team rather than an individual case officer. In the event that your child has a birthday and moves into the next age group, the current case officer would continue with the assessment.

At present, all teams are completing the assessments which they currently all hold and when they are completed, they move to the relevant team. All new assessments are allocated within the school-age team and will remain there.

The larger, better-coordinated teams will support a multi-agency approach to securing good outcomes and supporting children and young people with SEND.

### **Contact the teams**

- **Up to year 5:**  
[SENDETeam1@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:SENDETeam1@haringey.gov.uk)
- **Years 5-11:**  
[SENDETeam2@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:SENDETeam2@haringey.gov.uk)
- **Years 12+:**  
[SENDETeam3@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:SENDETeam3@haringey.gov.uk)

# Joint Area Inspection for SEND

We are yet to receive the formal report from Ofsted with the findings from the inspection that took place between 5 and 9 July. Once received, this will be published on our [Local Offer webpages](#), with recommendations becoming part of our overall SEND strategy and service improvement plan.

## Haringey SEND Strategy 2022 - 2025

Thank you to everyone who attended the 6 drop-in conversations which helped us to shape the priorities for the draft SEND strategy.

A recap session was held with those who attended the conversation events on Monday 13 September to review the feedback provided and confirm whether this is reflected within the priorities outlined within the strategy. Following this, we will be in a position to publish a draft strategy and most importantly the strategic plans which will form our next steps to improve services in Haringey.



The draft strategy will be published on our [Local offer webpages](#) on Monday 20 September for wider public consultation, which will end on Sunday 7 November. Our partners will also have an opportunity to contribute to the development of the final strategy.

Please take the opportunity to read the draft strategy and share your views. Feedback from the public consultation will be published on our webpages with the new strategy launched in January 2022.

## #Actually Haringey centre has opened

A new centre, called #Actually Haringey, providing day activities, groups and advice for adults with high functioning autism has opened at Chad Gordon Autism Campus in Waltheof Gardens, Tottenham, N17.


They have a number of groups and activities planned including a cinema group, a



walking group, a cooking group, a careers/employment preparation group, pre and post-diagnostic groups, and more.

For more information on activities offered and costs involved, please email [autismhub@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:autismhub@haringey.gov.uk)

## Key dates and events



### Choosing Positive Futures

This is an online event to help you choose a reception place for your child. You will have an opportunity to hear from different schools as well as stories from parents and children who have been through the process recently. You will also have an opportunity to talk with professionals about the support your child will get in primary school.

- **When:** Tuesday 12 October, 9.45am - 11.45am
- **Where:** Online

If you would like to join, please email [areasenco@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:areasenco@haringey.gov.uk) and we will send you a link and instructions to join the online event.



# Celebrating success



## The Grove opens its first summer school



The Grove opened its first summer school during the holidays. This was the launch of the new outdoor and Forest School curriculum which saw pupils learning how to make fires from flints; they even toasted marshmallows and ended the week with a full Turkish breakfast cooked on the fire!

They planted vegetables, tendered the garden and even built their very own Bug House and Bird Boxes. This was a fantastic opportunity for new pupils to transition into the school and a celebration of the outdoors with key social skills development.

# Spurs Foundation holiday activity programme

We were delighted to kick off our Spurs Foundation holiday activity programme for children with autism and/or social communication difficulties this summer.

This is the beginning of an exciting collaboration between Spurs, the Inclusion Team and the Educational Psychology Team consisting of activities every school holiday. If you would like to find out more, please email [last@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:last@haringey.gov.uk)



## Find out more about...



## Transferring to secondary school

If your child is in Year 6 (born between 1 September 2010 and 31 August 2011) you will need to apply for a secondary school place for them by 31 October 2021. If your child is at SEN Support, you will need to [apply for a school place online](#). If your child has an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) you will receive a form from us which you need to complete and send back to us.



Choosing a secondary school is a big decision and it is important to visit the schools you are thinking of as well as including your child in the decision. The best way to visit the school is to contact the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) and arrange an appointment with them. You can find their details on the school website or through the school office.

There is lots of helpful information about [preparing for secondary school](#) on our website. Alternatively, you can contact [Markfield](#) for help and advice or just contact us:

- **Email**  
[SENDTeam2@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:SENDTeam2@haringey.gov.uk)
- **Phone**  
020 8489 1913

## COVID-19 vaccine for 16 and 17 year olds

Young people aged 16 and 17 are now able to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. Ensuring young people are vaccinated will reduce the disruption to their education, and limit the risk of the virus spreading within schools.



The NHS will contact all young people eligible for the vaccine directly and provide them with a booking link, as well as information on walk-in sites - no appointment needed. You can also find [information on walk-in sites on the NHS website](#). COVID-vaccination is also available to those aged 12 to 15 who are vulnerable or who live with someone vulnerable.

For more information and to find the nearest walk-in clinic, please visit our [COVID-19 vaccinations page](#).



## Roles of a SEND Service case officer

There are 2 main things that a SEND Service case officer does:

- coordinating the education, health and care (EHC) needs assessment process to request an EHCP
- coordinating the review process for an existing EHCP to work out any changes that need to be made to it

For both of these processes, it is necessary to prepare the information that the local authority will consider when making any decisions at the SEND Panel meetings about requests for a new EHCP or a change to an existing one.

Sometimes case officers also receive queries in relation to pupils' education, but these are not part of what they are responsible for. When this happens the caseworker will – where they can – help parents/carers and professionals find the help they need.

## Contact us



### SEND Service

**Telephone:**

020 8489 1913

**Email:**

[sen@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:sen@haringey.gov.uk) | [sendnewsletters@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:sendnewsletters@haringey.gov.uk)

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## SEND Statutory Assessment Teams

- Up to Year 5:  
[SENDTeam1@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:SENDTeam1@haringey.gov.uk)
- Years 5-11:  
[SENDTeam2@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:SENDTeam2@haringey.gov.uk)
- Years 12+:  
[SENDTeam3@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:SENDTeam3@haringey.gov.uk)

## Transport Team

### Telephone:

- Viviane Austin - 020 8489 4376
- Kathleen Johnston - 020 8489 5692
- Pembe Hippolyte - 020 8489 5629
- Ricky Morris - 020 8489 6937

### Email:

[School.Transport@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:School.Transport@haringey.gov.uk)

## The Disabled Children's Team (DCT) including the Short Breaks Service

The DCT duty team office is open Mondays to Fridays, 9am - 5pm (contact by telephone only).

### Telephone:

020 8489 3671 | 020 8489 3672

### Emergency telephone number (out of hours):

020 8489 0000

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## **Stay up to date**

We will be distributing the SEND newsletter on a monthly basis.

This email has been sent to educational settings - please click on the button below to sign up so you can keep up-to-date.