Welcome to the first edition of the Harrow Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Newsletter.

Over the last 7 years, Harrow’s parents forum, Harrow Parents 4 Disabled Children (HP4DC) have been working together with Harrow Council, Harrow CCG, and local organisations to improve services for disabled children and their families. We hope that this termly newsletter will keep you updated on local developments. Please see the back page for opportunities to get involved and have your say.

Parents Forum Update

HP4DC is under new management. 1 Voice Community is a parent support group and registered charity that supports HP4DC. They will remain two different organisations. HP4DC will continue to be a parent participation forum setup to enable parents to work with decision makers to improve services for disabled children and their families.

It is an open forum funded by the Department of Education and offers free membership to all Harrow parents with a child with ANY disability. It welcomes parents to get involved and have their say to shape services that affect them. Parents can get involved as little or as much as they are able. The Steering Group are a group of volunteer parents who manage the activities of the forum and helps to provide feedback to and from the wider group of parents. They meet and work with professionals from Education, Health and Social Care departments on developments of the SEND reforms. The steering group is supported by a Parent Carer Forum Co-Ordinator, who is also a local parent.

In this edition of the newsletter, we give you an update of the progress each local department has made toward the SEND reforms. There has been collaborative working and joint commissioning of services between Harrow Council and Harrow CCG, as well as an ongoing review of the provision of Short Breaks. Parents have been working the Harrow Parks management team with support from Councillor Sue Anderson to develop Harrow’s first specialist SEN Adventure Playground. The Local Offer is the online resources for SEND provision in Harrow. It is continuously been developed and promoted in partnership with parents.

This year, in October, the forum celebrates its 7th anniversary as an independent parent-led group. For more information about the activities, events and updates on what some of the steering group members have been doing to relaunch the forum, please visit www.harrowparents4disabledchildren.org.

Also Coming Soon.....
The Harrow Special Needs Community Magazine for all things SEND in Harrow.

NEW Short Breaks Consultation
See Pages 3 & 4 for more information

Harrow LOCAL OFFER
Your gateway to SEND information!
Search for information about SEND services at www.harrow.gov.uk/localoffer

To keep up-to-date between newsletters go to www.harrowparents4disabledchildren.org
What is happening in Harrow?

HARROW COUNCIL DEPARTMENTS

The Education Services Division is part of the People Directorate. In the same Directorate as Adult Services

The Corporate Director of People Services
Chris Spencer

The Director of Adult Social Services
Bernie Flaherty

The Head of Adult Social Care
Visva Sathasivam

The Service Head for Children and Young Adults with Disability (CYAD) and Long-Term Care
Seth Mills

The SEND Reforms & The Children and Families Act 2014

What are the changes?

- **Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan):** A new single Education Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) from birth to 25 that will replace the current Statement of SEN and Section 139a Learning Difficulty Assessments

- **Personal budget option:** The option of a personal budget giving some families and young people with an EHC Plan greater independence, choice and control over their support

- **Local Offer:** A Local Offer of services for children and young people with SEND enabling parents and young people to see more clearly what services are available in their area and how to access them. Visit Harrow’s Local Offer page at [www.harrow.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/localoffer)

- **Person-centred involvement:** The need to involve children, young people, parents and carers at the heart of the process in a more person-centred way

- **Additional SEN Support** School Action and School Action Plus to be replaced by a new school based category called Additional SEN Support.

The Children with Disabilities Service (CWDs) is now called Children and Young Adult with Disabilities (CYAD), it comes under the Adults Directorate to take account of the persons whole life in relation to care and transition into adulthood. This is designed to smooth the transition between children and adult services in social care. The Service Head of CYAD is called Seth Mills. The new Divisional Director of Education Services is Patrick O’Dwyer.

In Health, the NHS Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is the GP-led organisation responsible for planning and buying many of the health services needed by approximately 260,000 people registered with GPs in Harrow. They are made up of all 34 GP practices in the borough.

Harrow CCG and Harrow Council have been jointly commissioning several services. The first was for the mental health and wellbeing of young people in Harrow. The service was shaped by young people themselves and named Harrow Horizons. Recently, a new role has been created to bridge the gap between the two departments. A mental Health Social Worker is now in place to work with schools and families across Harrow.

For more information about Health services visit: [www.harrowccg.nhs.uk](http://www.harrowccg.nhs.uk). For general information on SEND services throughout Harrow, visit [www.harrow.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/localoffer).
Consultation on Short Breaks for Children and Young People with Disabilities

What are Short Breaks?
Short breaks are part of a range of services provided to parents/carers and children and young people with disabilities by the Children and Young Adults with Disabilities Team (CYAD). Short breaks provide parents and carers time to spend with the rest of the family and to pursue their own interests whilst children and young people with disabilities are able to learn new skills and develop their independence through taking part in fun and exciting activities.

In addition, Harrow Parents For Disabled Children (HP4DC) would like to hear your views on the proposed development of a specialised playground for disabled people.

You can contribute to both of these in two ways:

Attend a workshop at your child’s Special School or one of the events at the Civic Centre if your child has a disability and attends a mainstream school.

The workshops will cover both short breaks and the proposed playground.

Please turn over to page 4 for the consultation dates.

We Want to Play Too!

A VISION for inclusive and accessible parks and open spaces for families with disabled children & young people in Harrow

Parents have said:

- “A specialist centre where children can have fun and parents can hang out”
- “There is simply nowhere for us to go as a family in the whole of Harrow”
- “A specialist playground and café would be LIFE CHANGING!”

Disability Friendly Parks in Harrow
Specialist SEN Adventure Playground
The Cedars Park Community Cafe

Read about our idea to build the first specialist SEN Playground in Harrow with the help of councillors, professionals and the Harrow Council Parks Management Team at www.harrowparents4disabledchildren.org. Tell us about what SEN equipment you would like to see and of your experiences in the park in the joint consultation in October. This is your chance to make change happen!
Join the HP4DC Advisory Board and share your knowledge and experience

WHO: Any parent with experience and/or skills, training on SEN and Disability (SEND).
WHAT: You need to take part in discussions, meetings and possibly trained to become a parent rep.
WHY: We need to represent all parents voices to help decision-makers deliver quality services.
WHEN: Once a month for 1 hour. (See website for dates)
WHERE: At the HP4DC address: Cedars Hall, Chicheley Road, Harrow Weald, HA3 6QH Tel:07928577689
For more information visit www.harrowparents4disabledchildren.org

BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE!

 Consultation Dates

As the current contracts for short breaks are coming to an end, Harrow Council will be going out to tender for providers of short breaks. We would like to hear from you about your experiences and give you the opportunity to have your say about the types of activities you would like to see provided. We will be joining parent groups at local special schools in October to find out what you think about the services you get. We will also be holding events at the Civic Centre for those parents/carers whose children have a disability and do not attend a mainstream school.

Woodlands School: 10th October 2017, 10.30am-12.30pm
Kingsley High School: 11th October 2017, 10.30-12.30pm
Shaftesbury High School: 5th October 2017, 9.30am-11.30am
Harrow Civic Centre-Committee Room 1&2 11th October 2017, 5.00pm-7.00pm
Harrow Civic Centre-Committee Room 1&2 13th October 2017, 12.30pm-2.30pm

Questionnaires

There is also the opportunity for you to tell us about your experiences and suggestions by completing the on-line questionnaire which can be accessed by clicking on the following link:
https://consult.harrow.gov.uk/consult/t/ShortBreaksQuestionnaire/consultationHome

If you would prefer a printed copy of the questionnaire please either e-mail childrens.commissioning@harrow.gov.uk and quote Short Breaks in the subject line or submit a request to Harrow Council, People’s Commissioning Team, 2nd Floor South Wing, Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow, HA1 2XF.

Questionnaires on the Specialist SEN playground can be found at www.harrowparents4disabledchildren.org or email info@harrowparents4disabledchildren.org

The consultation period will end on the Tuesday 24th October 2017 so please hurry if you want to have your say.