

HP4DC Steering Group Update

Steering Group Team Update November 2018:

After our last AGM last month, we re-elected the following people and recruit 2 new members. More new members are still welcomed to join us on the steering group team. Please see our website for more details. Current Steering Group Team include:

- Vicky Leech
- Olivia King-Boateng
- Hasina Hatim
- Anastasia (Stacey) Evangelides
(New Steering Group Member)
- Anita Reed
(New Steering Group Member)
- Kiran Singh

HP4DC Steering Group Team



Vicky Leech
Steering Group Chair



Hasina Hattim
Steering Group Treasurer



Olivia King-Boateng
Steering Group Secretary



Anastasia Evangelides
Steering Group Member



Anita Reed
Steering Group Member



Kiran Singh
Admin & IT Consultant

Quick background about HP4DC

- It was started in 2008 with the help of Harrow Mencap and Harrow Council
- It became independent and led by parents from Oct 2010, so it is our **8th anniversary this year.**
- We are funded by the Department of Education (DfE) every year, and we are a member of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums around the country called the NNPCF

(www.nnpcf.org.uk) Contact is the national charity that supports all the forums (www.contact.org.uk)

Our work can be divided into 3 main categories

1. We reach out to parents and offer training on SEND related issues, current SEND law to help parents understand their rights and share information from the Department of Education.
2. This then lays the foundation for what professionals like to call **PARTICIPATION**, which is what took place at the SEND Information Day event. We give you an opportunity to share your views and discuss issues with professionals and decision makers. Please visit the '**NEWS**' page of our website (www.harrowparents4disabledchildren.org/news/) for more information and pictures from the event.
3. The third part of our role is what is called **CO-PRODUCTION**. This is when we sit with professionals on strategy boards and take part in shaping services or projects from the beginning into really useful services for families in Harrow. A good example of this would be for Short Breaks. We did this by taking part in a roadshow consultation to several schools around Harrow to have in-depth conversations with parents about what they would like the Short Breaks to include. The council put together a list of requirements and the asked providers to bid to deliver the service you want. We helped them assessed the bid to make sure it was of good quality and then asked them how they would set out to deliver it. Please visit the Short Breaks page on the Local Offer to find out more

about the new providers and the range of services they can offer:

http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/100010/health_and_social_care/718/short_breaks_for_disabled_children

Other HP4DC Updates:

We think you should also know about 5 important activities that we are currently involved in:

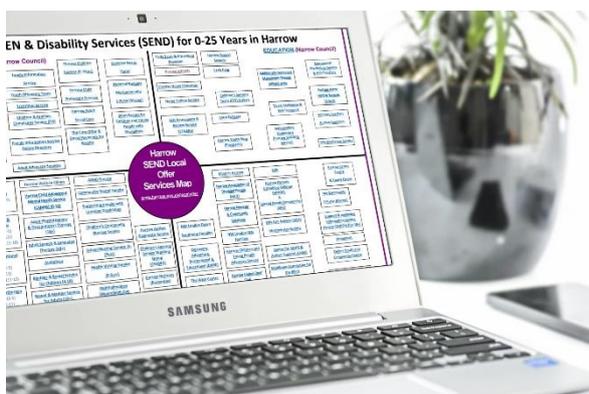
1. Special Needs Community (our Community Interest Company) Projects

- Our community interest company called **Special Needs Community** was set up by us to support the work of HP4DC but focus on the whole family and the wellbeing of parents. Parents have told us of other areas of improvement they would like to see. For instance, after much consultation, parents said they would like to see SEN Playgrounds and disability friendly parks around Harrow with more disabled toilets. This is an ongoing effort to raise money to fund the project.
- Following on from our outreach project, we also wanted to help empower parents by offering training to become **Parent Champions** to work with us to reach other parent groups in the school or communities they are known. We hope to launch the training programme in the new year.

2. Local Area Inspections

Ofsted and the CQC are conducting joint national inspections of all boroughs (local authorities and health departments) on SEND related provision. Harrow is expected to have a visit soon, so we have been working with the council and health partners to find out what we do well in Harrow and areas we have gaps. This working group meets monthly.

3. Harrow SEND Local Offer Services Map



Parents have repeatedly fed back in previous events, that it is difficult to find information about services. So, we have been working to help the professionals promote the Local Offer website, (which is where you can find information about SEN and disability services in Harrow). We came up with a simple one-page map which is a birds-eye view of some of what is available online. You can get this in printed form and as a downloadable interactive PDF. Each box holds the names of the service as it known by and when you click on the name of the service it takes you straight to the main Local Offer website. It still

needs tweaking and it will need to be updated regularly, so please bear with us. Visit our website at www.harrowparents4disabledchildren.org/local-offer/ to use the map or download the PDF.

4. Upcoming Events

There are two important events we will be organising soon:

- Health Coffee Morning Friday 30th November
- IPSEA SEND Law training in Jan/Feb (Date TBC)

5. Harrow Families Disability Discount Card- The Max Card is now available

We are pleased to announce that we have registered to become the distributor for the **Max Card** for Harrow. The Max Card is a national discount card especially for children with SEN and disabilities age 0-25. The scheme enables families to visit over 800 attractions nationwide at a discounted rate, including exciting venues like Alton Towers and Legoland. It will only cost



£3.00 (plus £1.50p for postage and packing) and lasts for 2 years until you renew it. The Max Card will be in the name of the child or young person. You will be able to apply directly to us to purchase your card, online or in person.

To qualify for your Max Card:

- You must live in Harrow
- Your child or young person must have an SEN/disability (we may need to see proof of DLA if you are not known to us)
- Your child or young person must be under 25 years old.

Please visit www.mymaxcard.co.uk for information about other venues that accepts the card. To purchase your Max card visit us at www.specialneedscommunity.org.uk/product/max-card/

For more information send us an email at discountcard@specialneedscommunity.org.uk.