

Health, SEN and Disability

Bi-monthly newsletter



July 2019

Welcome to the first Health, SEN and Disability newsletter!

My name is Georgina Clarke-Green and I am the Assistant Director for Health, SEN and Disability at Brighton & Hove City Council. Together with my senior management team in the photo, and colleagues in the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, we want to share news from the services that support you, and celebrate the successes of people with additional needs. This month we are looking forward to being part of Disability Pride on Sunday 14 July.

We're proud to work with the city's Parent Carer' Council (PaCC) and local charity Amaze and together they are a key part of service planning, development and design.



In the photo: back row from left to right

Carolyn Bristow, Head of SEN Statutory Services; Mo Bham, Principal Educational Psychologist and Head of BHISS; Georgina Clarke-Green, Assistant Director Health, SEN and Disability, Cameron Brown, Head of Adult Learning Disability Services. Front row: Lisa Brown, PA to Georgina Clarke-Green and Carl Campbell, Head of Children's Disability Services.

If you have any comments on anything in this newsletter or suggestions for future newsletters, including news, success stories and celebrations – I'd love to hear them!

We'll also be looking at how we improve the content and can send this out to you for future issues. We'll keep you posted.

Please email me at SEN.team@brighton-hove.gov.uk



What's Out There event

Thursday 18 July, 10am to 3pm, BHASVIC

'What's Out There' is annual free event for young people aged 16+ and adults with learning disabilities and autism, as well as their carers and families. It showcases the support, activities and opportunities available in the city. [Learn more about the event](#) or [watch a short video of last year's event](#).

News from the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

We would like to thank all the parents and carers who contributed to the recent PaCC and Amaze consultation on children's wellbeing and mental health services.

We are responsible for most of the hospital and community NHS services in the city, making sure services meet local needs. The feedback and comments we received will help us plan future service improvements as part of the recent [NHS Long Term Plan](#). It will also feed into the current Sussex-wide independent review of emotional health and wellbeing support for children and young people that will report in the autumn. The feedback will also help us design and deliver an updated Children and Young People's Wellbeing Service from June 2020 that addresses the mental health needs of SEND children across the city.

We will continue to work with PaCC and the wider community on this very important project.

We've also been looking at developing better family support courses about neuro-developmental conditions, for example ADHD, autism and other communicative issues. We are currently working with parents and carers (through PaCC and Amaze) to understand how we can improve family support courses for them. We will report on this and our planned improvements to neuro-developmental pathways later in the summer term.

Making the child-to-adult transition in social care easier

We're re-designing our services for children and adults with learning disabilities to make the transition from child to adult services easier for families in response to what our parents, carers and young people said about our services. The new service will have three teams working with the age ranges 0 to 14, 14 to 25 and 25 plus.

The new-look service will be based in Wellington House in Brighton, which currently provides a day service for people who have a learning disability and complex needs.

Building works are underway with the day service moving into the other half of the building so we can continue to offer this service. We're expecting it all to be up and running by the end of September.

We know some of our service users find change difficult to cope with, especially with the noise and new people needed for the building work, as well as moving to a new part of the building. Our staff are really trying to go the extra mile to best support the service users during this time. I'd like to thank everyone for their patience and hard work.

If you are finding the changes difficult, or if you wish to give us any other feedback, please:

- email disabilityredesign@brighton-hove.gov.uk
- call 01273 265825

Thinking ahead for SEN services

We are developing a new SEND strategy across the city for 2020 to 2025 involving council, health and community/voluntary services.

In June we had a workshop involving education, health, social care, voluntary and community groups, the Parent Carer group PaCC and the charity Amaze to look at the vision, aspirations and priorities across the city such as::

- SEND Pathways - ensuring that children and young people with SEND and their families can access the right support from services easily and quickly
- Sufficiency of SEND Services and Provision – we want to ensure that the right provision and support is available at the right time for all SEND. This includes early years, post 16, post 19 and adults with learning disabilities
- Transitions – to ensure that moves between services or changes in provision and support across all ages are smooth, seamless and supportive. This applies to services such as education, health and social care
- Achievement and Outcomes – ensuring all are able to achieve their potential across health, education and social care
- Early intervention – ensuring needs are identified, assessed and supported both early in life and when issues arise
- Inclusion – this is to ensure there is a city wide commitment to services and support being inclusive to all

We will produce a draft strategy over the summer after talking to other local services and groups – including our children and young people. We will put this out for consultation in September. If you want to contribute, please email head of SEN services Carolyn Bristow by the end of July at carolyn.bristow@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Residential services under review

The Local Authority is carrying out a review of our council-run residential provision for children and adults with disabilities, supported living arrangements and our day activities for adults with learning disabilities. A review of this type is standard practice in local councils like ours aiming to continually improve and enhance service delivery for staff and users. The purpose is to make sure our current provision meets both present and future demand within the funding available.

Peopletoo is the organisation the Council has commissioned to do this piece of work. The Peopletoo team come from a social work background and provide support to organisations across Local Government and Health nationally. They are working closely with the teams on the ground and our stakeholders, including the families of service users, to ensure that they have the right information to help us inform our future planning.

At the end of the process the review team will provide a range of options that will help us to think about how we can best meet the needs of children and adults with disabilities and adults with learning disabilities in the future. The options will then be carefully considered by the council and discussed with internal and external stakeholders before proposing a set of recommendations that will be taken forward and further engagement and consultation will then take place. If you would like to comment on the services, please email them to LDR@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

The process started in May 2019 and it is anticipated that the review will take two to three months and should be completed by the end of July 2019.

Care home garden gets makeover!

We've been working to make the garden of our care home at 15 Preston Drove a more attractive and stimulating place.

Our service users have been closely involved in the project, which aims to turn the garden into a much more interactive and sensory rich space. This means putting in more herbs, fruit and vegetables, as well as plants that attract insects or offer interesting touch and smell experiences or simply move in the breeze.



It's been a great chance for our residents to learn and develop gardening skills!

The plan is also to turn the garden into a nicer environment for summer BBQs and picnics with friends and family.

Special school hubs to get extended day services

Our east and west special school hubs – Hill Park and Downs View – are developing new extended activities and care services to offer extra opportunities for their pupils outside school times.

We've consulted parents and carers about our plans for this, and we will continue to involve them as well as our children and young people.

Zoe Anstey, Extended Day Services Manager, will work with both schools on making sure the services are appropriate and meet legal and welfare requirements. The move is part of the wider reorganisation of special school provision in the city.

The new services will start during the summer. It is hoped that the number of extended activities can grow over time to help more children, young people and families across the city.

Zoe can be contacted on ZoeAnstey@hillpark.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Results of recent Care Quality Commission Inspection reports

The CQC has recently inspected two of our services – 15 Preston Drove and 83 Beaconsfield Villas. Both were rated 'good'. Congratulations to our staff in both these facilities!

Useful contacts

Brighton & Hove City Council SEN and Disability Services

- Email: sen.team@brighton-hove.gov.uk
- Phone: 01273 293552

Amaze – charity for families with disabled children and young people in Sussex

- Email: info@amazesussex.org.uk
- Phone: 01273 772289

Brighton & Hove Parent and Carers Council (PaCC)

- Email: admin@paccbrighton.org.uk