



# Haringey Involve

## Parent Participation Forum

Hear our Voice... Influence change... Help to make a difference to the services for our children and young people with disabilities living in Haringey

## Haringey Involve Newsletter

Issue 1 / December 2018

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Welcome to Issue 1 of the Haringey Involve Term Time Newsletter!

It has been a very busy term for us – in October we started working in partnership with local disability charity my AFK, who are our new grant holders and are also providing administration support.

We also have a new Forum Support Project Worker, Hana Roig from my AFK, who will share news and events with members, recruit new forum members and support the Steering Group meetings.

We've also created new Facebook and Twitter accounts as well as this termly newsletter to keep you updated.

You're welcome to join the conversation on social media by tagging @HaringeyInvolve. If you'd like to make suggestions for our next newsletter please email us at [info@haringeyinvolve.com](mailto:info@haringeyinvolve.com)

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## Welcome from my AFK!

As you may already know, my AFK (formerly known as Action For Kids) is now providing administrative and other support to Haringey Involve. We are very excited for the chance to work with this forum and to support its mission of giving parents and carers a powerful voice in Haringey.

my AFK has been working with disabled young people in Haringey for over 26 years. We partner with local secondary schools and colleges, including Haringey Sixth Form, to provide work experience opportunities and training. We also support disabled young people into paid employment once they leave school or college.

In addition to providing “back room” services to the Forum, we will be helping with some of Haringey Involve’s events, so you will have a chance to speak to our team and find out about what we do.

We look forward to working with you,

Graham Duncan  
Chief Executive, my AFK



## Upcoming event in February: *Transition to Work*

Haringey Involve and the Life and Work team at my AFK are hosting an informative event this February about how my AFK supports young people with learning disabilities into employment. Elaine Harman (Life & Work Manager at my AFK) will give participants insight into the learning process our trainees go through. We will also discuss common barriers young people face to get into employment. More details coming soon!



## my AFK – What we do:

**Preparing students with learning disabilities for life after school** – we work with students aged 14 and over who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), helping smooth the transition to adult life.

**Supporting young people into paid work** – we have a team of specialist job coaches who work with trainees age 18-25 to help them get into work, as support employers through the process too.

**Holiday Programmes** – during the school holidays, we offer a safe environment in which young people with learning disabilities can meet new people and try new activities.

**Mobility equipment for disabled children and young people** – we provide mobility equipment not available on the NHS for disabled children and young people up to the age of 25.

**If you want to know more, get in touch!**

Website: [www.my-afk.org](http://www.my-afk.org)

Phone: 020 8347 8111

Email: [info@my-afk.org](mailto:info@my-afk.org)

Visit: 15a Tottenham Lane, N8 9DJ  
(near Hornsey Station)

## Haringey Involve



### What is Haringey Involve?

Haringey Involve is one of the country's parent carer forums. A parent carer forum is a group of parents and carers of children and young people aged 0- 25 years with SEND and additional needs who work with local authorities, education settings, health providers and other providers to make sure the services they plan and deliver meet the needs of disabled children and families within the borough.

Haringey Involve can run thanks to our Steering Group (SG). They are asked, as the recognised parent carer forum, to complete a termly survey on SEND from the Department for Education (DfE) and attend strategic meetings within the borough.

Currently the SG is composed by Kenton Doyle and Lisa Ferguson. We are looking for more SG members who can commit to attending regular meetings. If you think you like to join us, email us!

### Become an ACTIVE member, help us grow!

You can actively participate in any number of ways with us as there are many simple things parent carers can do to help Haringey Involve get our voices heard:

- Represent the views of families by attending strategic meetings
- Help at events that Haringey Involve organizes
- Spread the word: tell other parents, make sure your child's SENCO knows about us, tell health professionals you work with (e.g. Speech / Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists)
- Contribute your skills to help strengthen the forum (e.g. marketing, IT, social media)

### Networking with other forums

We are part of the **National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF)** and we attend to their National Contact and NNPCF Parent Carer Participation Conference once a year. We also keep our connection with London via North-East Cluster meetings once a term. These events and meetings help us to find and share out about forum and SEND good practice. They also provide an opportunity to talk about local issues and share ideas for how to address them.

*“The more parent carers share their issues with us, the stronger our collective voice”*

### Haringey Involve members

We have around 180 members that get informed with us. Members receive information about consultations, news, events and training opportunities in Haringey, as well as updates on SEND reforms and transition groups in Haringey.



We are Contact (previously known as Contact A Family), the charity for families with disabled children. We bring families together and support parent participation in England.

“Parent participation” is when parents get together as part of a parent carer forum and work with local authority and health staff to make sure services meet the needs of families with disabled children.

There are 152 parent carer forums in the country; each group receives a small grant from the Department of Education, administered by Contact’s Parent Participation Team of Advisers. Haringey Involve is your local forum.

Our Local Adviser is **Heather Tarbuck**, who covers the North East & South of London.

Heather’s job is to help parent carer forums grow into strong representative groups of parents. She advises and supports them wherever she can, talking to the local council as well as health colleagues. She supports each local forum to achieve its aims of representing the views of parent carers for ages 0-25 and all additional needs or disabilities at a strategic level. Her email is [heather.tarbuck@contact.org.uk](mailto:heather.tarbuck@contact.org.uk)

*“I have been working for Contact as an Adviser for the last eight years.*

*Throughout this time, I have continually been inspired by the resilience and commitment of all parents who have a*

*disabled child. The work forums do to make sure the services provided are what families need is especially vital now when money is so tight.”*



Go to [www.contact.org.uk](http://www.contact.org.uk) to find additional information and resources. You can also access our webinars – these are roughly hour-long recorded training sessions on various topics including healthcare and transport, as well as best practice for running a forum.

There is also a link to the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) website.

Our Haringey Forum meets all the other forums in North East London once a term and then once a year we are offered places at a 2-day NNPCF conference. This national movement of forums means that we can all influence things at a central government level by feeding our issues up. (See the article on the NNPCF on page 3).

Of course, outside of the work on forums you may already know about another key part of the Contact service is their free Helpline. This is an advice service for families caring for a disabled child. You do not have to be part of a forum to call this number and you can ask about anything that is worrying you.

**Freephone helpline 0808 808 3555**  
**(Mon-Fri 9.30am – 5pm)**

**Email [helpline@contact.org.uk](mailto:helpline@contact.org.uk)**

As Contact hears from families about their daily challenges, they can then campaign on issues, lobbying the government to make changes. They also help support local and national groups bring parents together for practical and emotional support and, in some parts of the country have small teams. They run workshops and information sessions. And have a small number of Parent Advisers in Childrens Hospital and Hospice settings.

Contact are part of a consortium with KIDS and the Council for Disabled Children (CDC) covering participation for Children & Young People. Contact is also a member of the **Disabled Children’s Partnership**, a coalition of 60 organisations whose aim is increase awareness of the challenges families with a disabled child face, remove the barriers that top disabled children access opportunities in life and campaign for social change. For more information, please visit their website at [www.disabledchildrenpartnership.org.uk](http://www.disabledchildrenpartnership.org.uk)

## Invitation to join Haringey's new Transition Reference Group

We invite all interested parent carers to join the **Moving On Transition Reference Group** that will be part of the Adult Social Care Board structure.

## Updates

The Moving on Transition Reference Group has been running for several months now, chaired by Shana Nessa from Haringey Council. Meetings are normally held at the Winkfield Resource Centre.

We have been working on a detailed transition tool called the **Preparing for Adulthood Pathway Guide 2018**. The intention of this resource is to help parents and young people age 16+ to understand the options available to them from their local council.

Mike Wilson will be now joining the group and we all look forward to hearing his input, skills and knowledge he will be able to bring to the table. Mike is the Director of Public Voice, the organisation that delivers Healthwatch in Haringey.

## Local Offer event at Haringey

This event was held at the Irish Centre over two days. The event was extremely busy with lots of professionals in attendance as well as a number of local parents and carers.

The room was split into about 4 or 5 focus groups who discussed:

- Transition
- Transport
- Direct Payments
- Short Brakes and rest bite.

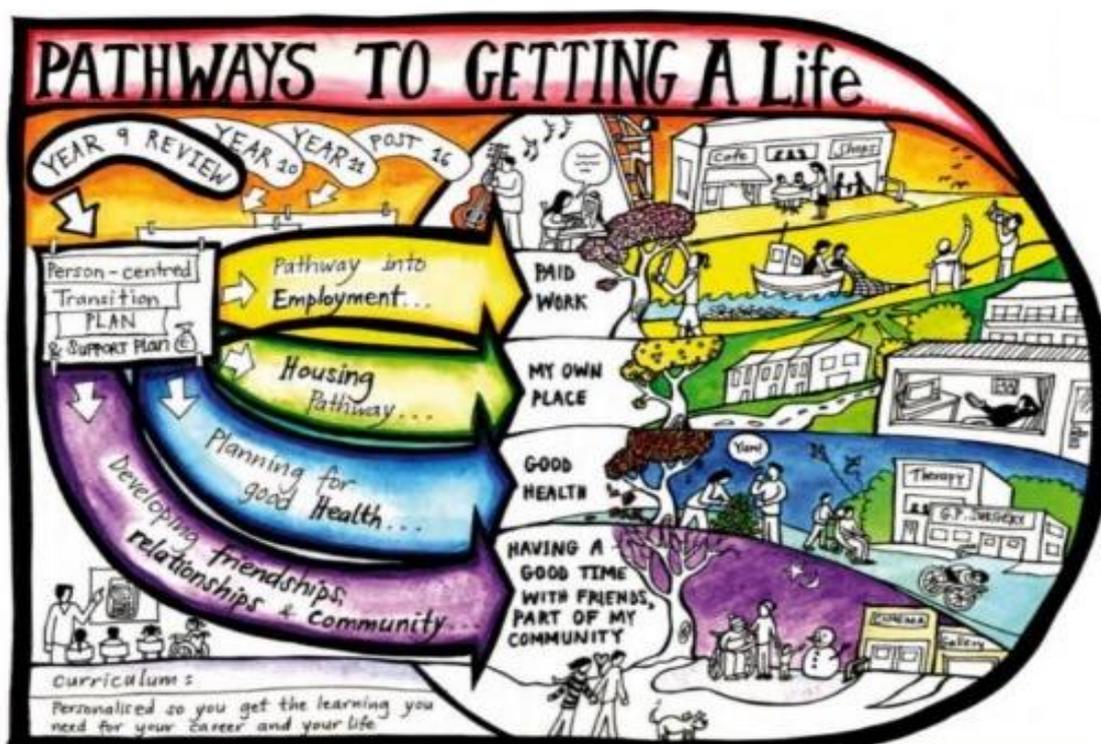
We look forward to seeing even more parents and carers at the next event – get in touch for more information!

## Contribute to this newsletter



Please email us to share comments, ideas or articles you would like to see in our next newsletter.

Email: [info@haringeyinvolve.com](mailto:info@haringeyinvolve.com)



## Upcoming events

Haringey Involve will hold several events between December and March. If you would like to suggest a topic or speaker for future events, please do get in touch!

- **Dawnosaurus** – free events for children on the autism spectrum to enjoy the Natural History Museum with their families away from the hustle and bustle of the public.
  - Mon 10 February 2019, 8am-10am
  - Sun 28 April 2019, 8am-10am
- **Transition to Adult Life: Housing, benefits and financial planning** – for parents, carers and professionals
  - Wed 27 February, 10am-2.30pm  
St Alban's Centre, London EC1N 7AB
- **Family Buddy Up with Wheely Tots** – inclusive family oriented cycling sessions
  - Thursdays in Finsbury Park N4 2NQ, 9.45-10.30am and 10.30- 11.15am
  - Fridays at Lordship Recreational Ground N17 6NU, 9.45-10.30am and 10.30- 11.15am
  - Ground play sessions held on the last Friday of every month 2-5pm at Somerford Grove Adventure Playground N17 0HL
- **Transition to Work** – information for young people with SEN and parents, carers and professionals. Event hosted from my AFK in partnership with Haringey Involve being delivered in February. Date, time and venue TBC.

## Services at Markfield



- **Wednesday Turkish speaking parents group**, 10am to 12pm. Join for tea, friendly chat and advice from a Family Support Worker.
- **Parent/carer group for Transition & Adulthood** meet on Fridays 10-12pm. Come along for tea, healthy snacks, to talk to other carers & get advice from a Family Support Worker.
- **Call the Haringey SENDIASS helpline** for SEND information, advice or to book an appointment: -Mondays 9:30am to 1pm - Wednesday 3.30pm to 7pm -Thursdays 2.30pm to 6pm
- **Join Under Fives stay and play sessions** on Thursdays from 11:30 am to 2:30pm. Come along for inclusive play, singing and to meet other families.



[www.haringeyinvolve.com](http://www.haringeyinvolve.com)



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Find us on:



Haringey Involve

my AFK  
working with disability



contact For families  
with disabled children



National Network of Parent Carer Forums  
'Our Strength is our Shared Experience'