**Response to questions raised by C404 Parents Board**

**Sheron Hosking: Head of Children’s Health Commissioning**

**July 2017**

**Q: The lack of provision on speech and language is something parents often raise at the NHS board.**

A: Islington has a relatively good offer of Speech and Language Therapy across a range of settings and age groups. There are SLTs allocated to all schools in Islington. The school allocation is based on school population and level of need within individual schools. Any child or young person (CYP) with SLT in there EHCP will/should receive the level of resource set out in their EHCP. If this is not happening then we want to hear from you (parents and carers) with examples and we will be happy to follow up. There is also an SLT offer into Islington children’s centres.

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**Q: Health staff should give information about the procedures before doctors’ appointments so that parents can prepare their children beforehand.**

A: Is this before GP or paediatric appointments or both? We agree this is a good idea and linked to the point below would be really keen to work in partnership with primary care, community services and also parents / carers to develop some scenarios that we can start off with.

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**Q: Parents proposed having social stories, or even simple photographs, at GP practices or at any other session or procedure involving children with disabilities.**

A: as above we agree and would be happy to develop something in partnership.

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**Q: Professionals in the autism board and other boards lack disability awareness and understanding of the issues children and parents face:**

A: There are a range of professionals at the Autism Board and other strategic boards not just health professionals and of course it’s important to have an awareness of the issues that are being discussed. Would parents like to work with us to develop a session that we could deliver jointly to Board Members? Your input to this would be central to making it successful and real. If there are specific issues it would be useful to know so we can address them directly.

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**Q: OTs should be trained on sensory processes :**

A: All of Whittington Health CYP OTs have training in sensory processing disorders and 4/12 of the OTs are Level 4 trained which is the highest you can be. The service does have a lot of expertise in this area and are currently looking at evidence for intervention and outcomes.

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**Q: Parents would like to know how the local authority classifies ‘high needs’ and also eligibility criteria for the new ‘high needs’ funding.**

A: ‘High Needs’ is a way of describing a pupil’s special educational needs that are above the level that they can normally meet through the resources available to an educational setting such as a school/ nursery/ college/ training provider.

The resources already available to educational settings vary slightly between schools / colleges/ children’s centres/ special schools

For schools the additional SEN resources includes up to £6K of additional support per SEN child already delegated to schools as part of their budget

They also include free services such as SALT/ OT/ outreach support from special schools/ CAMHS and other things that are provided by the Council budget to the setting.

Eligibility for high needs funding is via assessment. This is usually summarised by a Statement or EHCP.

Information on how the exceptional needs (high needs) SEN funding is calculated can be found here: <http://directory.islington.gov.uk/kb5/islington/directory/advice.page?id=MQkC8n9vATU>