

Complex Health Needs Newsletter Jan 2013

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Richard Holden
Head of Complex Health
Needs and Disabilities

RBKC Newsletter January 2013

Head of Disabled Children's Service

The big news for me is that I have given up a number of my other Kensington and Chelsea responsibilities and in their place have taken over responsibility for Hammersmith and Fulham's Disabled Children's Service alongside Kensington and Chelsea's.

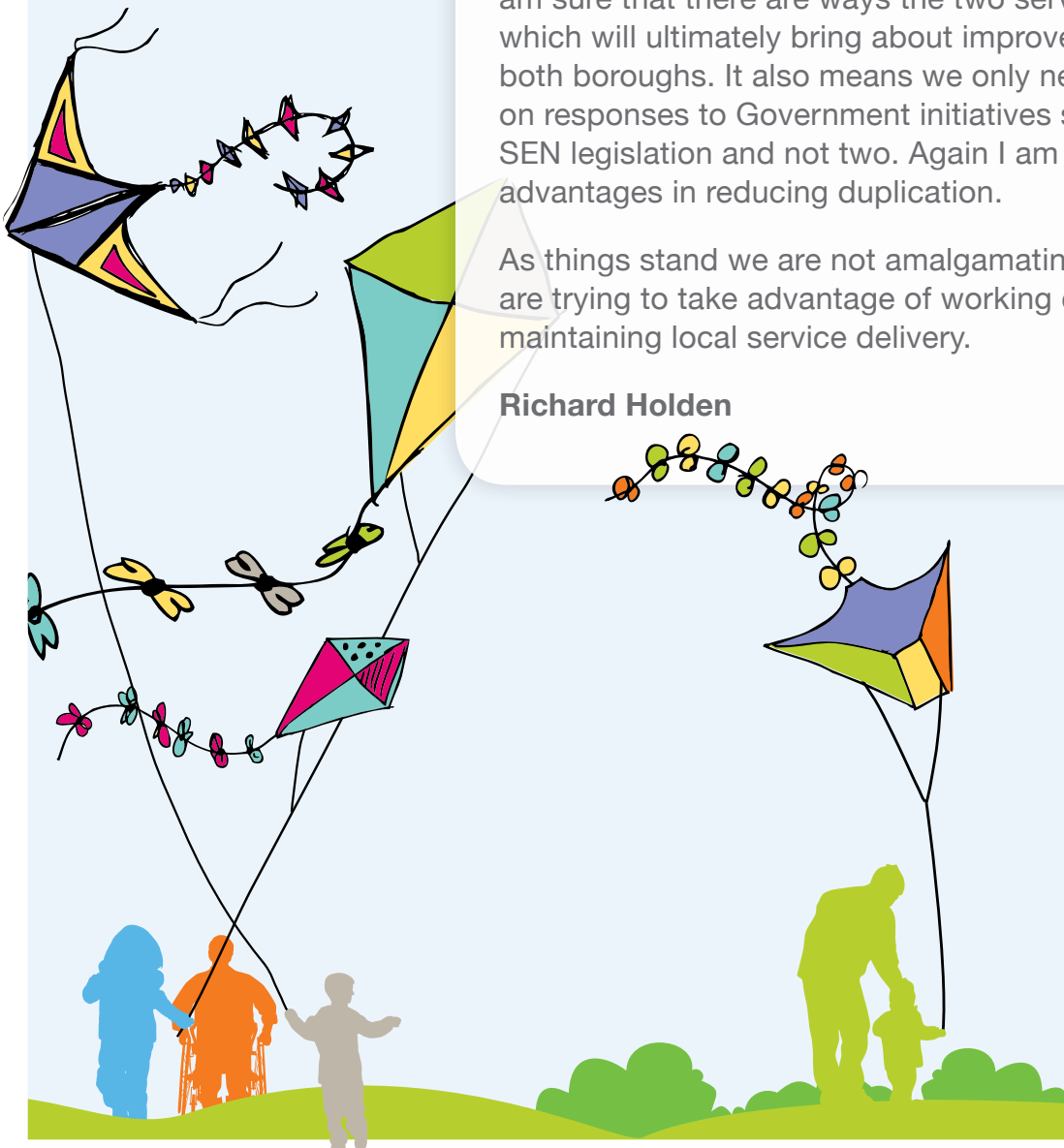
This only started on the 2nd January and it will be interesting to compare and contrast the two services. Heading up each of the services is an opportunity for me to try and bring in what is seen best practice from one service into the other. I am sure that there are ways the two services can co-operate which will ultimately bring about improvements for users in both boroughs. It also means we only need one team working on responses to Government initiatives such as the Draft SEN legislation and not two. Again I am sure there will be advantages in reducing duplication.

As things stand we are not amalgamating the services, but are trying to take advantage of working closely together whilst maintaining local service delivery.

Richard Holden



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**



St Quintin News

St Quintin Parent Association

St Quintin has now elected its Parents Committee. It is made up of 10 parents. There will be a board in the front foyer with all the elected parents photos and phone numbers. The meetings will be held termly. This is new experience for most of the parents on the committee but they are committed to ensuring it works for everyone and will be up dating everyone on how to contact them and start to work closely with St Quintin in developing the centre further.

Skills Group

This term we will be introducing our new Life skills group as a pilot for 10 children. This will be very person centered to each child and introduce them to various life skills they will need. We will be encouraging the children to achieve a badge once they have mastered the life skill. These skills range from washing their hands to making a cup of tea. We will keep all parents informed on what their child is working on so it can continue at home.

Transport

As many of you who use St Quintin transport know, we struggle at times with the service we received from Westway. Over the last few months we have been looking at other providers with Raj who many of you know co-ordinates the school transport service, We are happy to say a new company has been appointed and hopefully will be able to support us afterschool and in the holidays.

Transport criteria still apply as before but we are hoping the new provider will provide us more suitable buses and drivers. Please let us know if you have any concerns over the transport from St Quintin.

Keyworkers

The Keyworker service is now based at St Quintin. It supports families with children under 6 years. Jennifer Clark who has led the new service for the past 8 months is going off to do her Social Work placement for the next 4 months. She is being replaced by Racheal Herbert. We wish Jen good luck in her placement.

Social Worker

Sadly Sarel Eloff who was the St Quintin Social Worker left just before Christmas for a year's secondment to the localities. He has been replaced by Cheneen Grove who used to support the Early Years Sure Start programme. Cheneen works at the centre Tuesday to Friday from 9-5pm.

Tracy Beard

St Quintin Manager

Children with Disabilities Team News

There have been a few changes in the team since the last newsletter. Erika Endlein has left to become a manager of the Hammersmith and Fulham Children with Disabilities Team. Kate Young has taken over from Rita Perl as manager of the Occupational Therapy Service. Jade Noble has joined us as a Social Care Worker. Lauren Carre and Mary Kargbo have joined us as Social Workers.

Mostly the staff group has remained the same and I hope this continuity has helped you to get an efficient and responsive service from us.



Tracy Cooper is our Direct Payment support worker. She works closely with Paula Ellery to support parents using the service. The rules for Direct Payments can be a bit confusing so I sent out a “frequently asked questions” letter to parents about this in October.

The Children with Disabilities panel has looked at around 160 requests for individual packages of support in the past 12 months. In order to get such a high numbers of support packages agreed for the coming year, parents will not automatically be invited to attend the 2013/14 panels.

Your social worker, social care worker or keyworker will update last year’s form with you and if there are no significant changes in your circumstances it is likely that your child’s package for 2012/13 will be allowed to continue. You will be sent a copy of the panel form that has been agreed along with a letter setting out the procedure for resolving any disagreements. However if you do want to come to panel to discuss your child’s package that’s fine. Please ring me on **020 7598 4924** and I’ll give you a date when this can happen.

Peter Woodhead

Manager children with disabilities team

BFST News

Staffing:

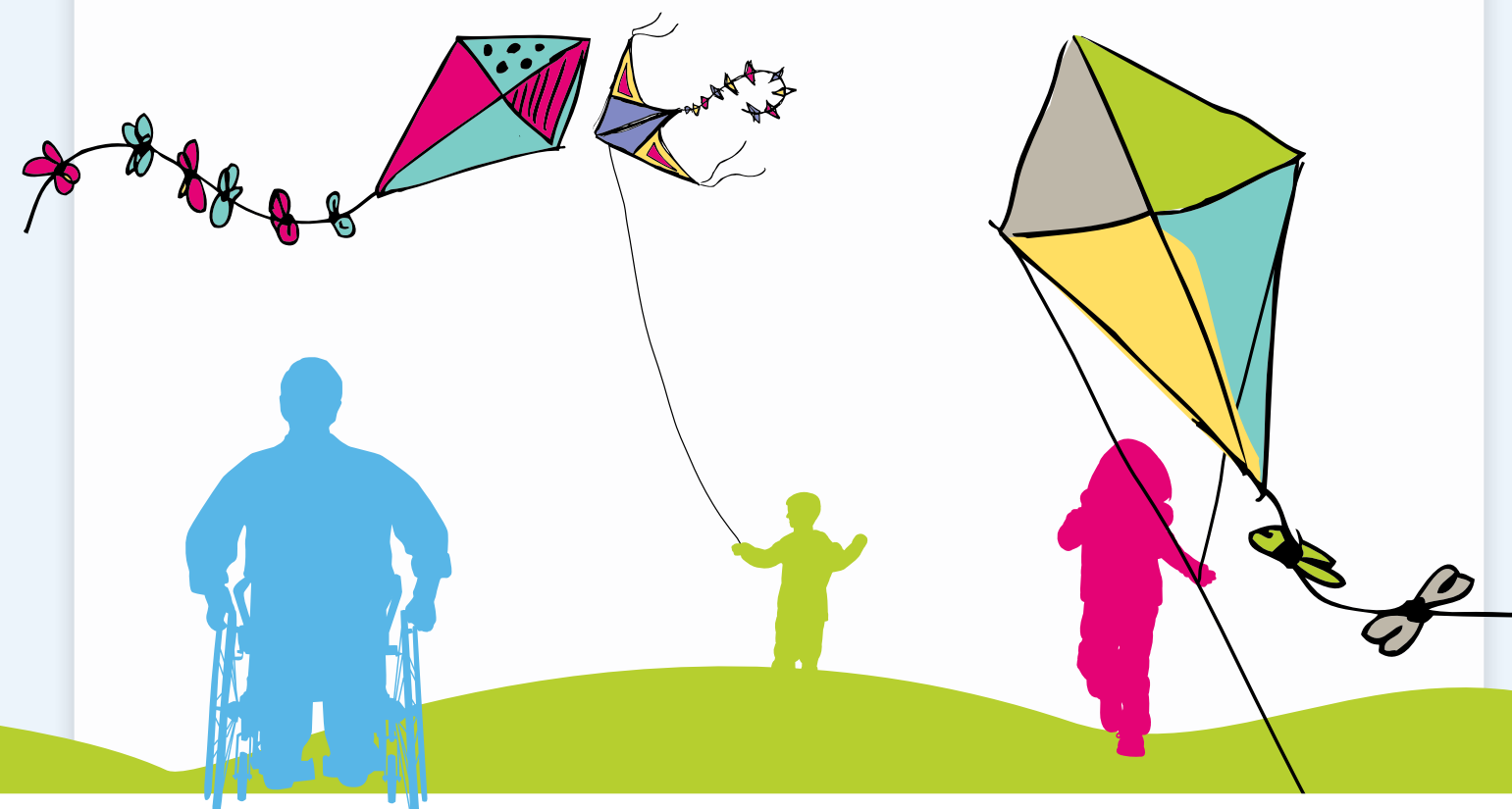
The BFST has had some staff changes over recent months – Carolina Sharman (Clinical Psychologist/Joint Team Manager) is currently on maternity leave with Jane Iles covering her clinical sessions. Kate Doherty (Clinical Psychologist) left on maternity leave in early January, with some cover for her leave being provided by Cat St Clair.

Managing demand for services:

The team continues to review the best way of meeting demand for their services with some cases being open to them for lengthy periods. With this in mind, a more regular review of goals will take place with families and other professionals working with the child in order to focus the BFST’s input around key issues and to limit input or close cases where progress is not currently achievable. This will create capacity to respond to new referrals promptly as they are received. Collaborative approaches with their colleagues in education and social services continue to be explored in order to achieve the best outcomes for children they work with.”

Tamsin Arnold

Coordinator BFST



Tri Borough News

There is a lot in the papers about the efficiencies The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Westminster City Council and Hammersmith and Fulham have achieved by amalgamating back office functions in a number of areas.

For services to disabled children we are particularly aware of the need to be organized in a way that is compatible with the Draft SEN Legislation which we anticipate will come into force sometime in late 2014. We are keeping a close eye on the Pathfinder Authorities who are piloting some of the ideas contained in the draft SEN legislation.

With these factors in mind we have begun to explore whether there is a case to create a tri borough Disabled Children's Service. So far this has just been pulling out facts and figures and making comparisons in terms of the types of service being provided, how many children get a service, what are their needs and how much is being spent.

We believe this information will then help us to identify where we can amalgamate back office functions, do things to a higher quality or more efficiently across all the boroughs by adopting best practice, and where we might be able to buy in services more effectively by offering some economies of scale. We also believe this could be an opportunity to further develop local services which could ultimately prevent children needing to use overnight or boarding school services in the future.

We hope to have done a lot of this homework by the end of March 2013 and will be coming to you with a range of ideas, some big, some small, some very much in draft, and some thought through in more detail, for discussion feedback and comment. We hope this will be a useful process for everyone concerned.

Richard Holden

The last word

We are proud of the range and variety of services we have on offer (after school, Saturday and holiday activities, day trips out, holidays away, the caravan, yoga, hydrotherapy swimming, evening disco, support to access mainstream youth activities, direct payments, support groups, homecare, pampering social work, BFST support with behavioral management etc) which we suspect are unmatched anywhere in the country. Still we are constantly trying to improve what we do.

Having recently set up the St Quintin Parents Association, we are hopeful that the parents represented on this group will be able to help us link more effectively with all parents, decide what activities to run in future, and become involved with fundraising. Details of the parents on the committee will be posted up in the centre and on the website.

Richard Holden

*Tri Borough Head of
Disabled Children's Services.*

