



# Make it Happen Spring Term Newsletter

Spring Term, 2019

## Make it Happen



We are a group of parent carers, of children and young people with special needs and disabilities, working together to help improve services for children and young people with learning disabilities in Westminster. We come together to constructively evaluate services provided and voice any concerns or queries that families may have. We believe that our opinions and voices are widely consulted by various services and have influenced and shaped services and policies in an effective way.

This group is open to all carers and people who have a professional or personal interest to help children, young people and adults with SEND to receive better services.

### A Message from the Chair

As the chair of Make It Happen, I sincerely want to thank you all for your support and hard work on 2018. Make it Happen would not be where it is without you all.

It is now the start of 2019 and I am delighted to welcome a number of new parents to the forum. I can proudly say that we are very lucky to have many active parents. I am sure that you have noticed how busy it was in the last year. We have 2 drop-ins, new speakers every week and events very frequently on topics that you chose and ask for. We will keep listening to you, please let us know what topics you wish for learn about in 2019. Join us and Make It Happen

**Hend Rahman,  
Chair**





## What is New?

- ❖ Make it Happen or WPPG as you've known it for years is becoming an independent charity. What does that mean?? We will be able to help in more areas and provide support to families in more practical ways
- ❖ We are also managing PAN Westminster and working hard to bring it back to its deserved position.
- ❖ Our executive board extended to include Douaa Benkacem, our new Vice Chair and education champion. Douaa is also joint-chairing our Local Offer Steering Group. Please see this link for the agenda and minutes of the first meeting: [bit.ly/WCCYouSaidWeDid](http://bit.ly/WCCYouSaidWeDid)
- ❖ A new Drop-in Venue for the South - the Bessborough Centre
- ❖ In partnership with the Bi-borough, the first group of Parent Champions are trained and ready to help you navigate the Local Offer website, feedback your views to the local authority and answer your questions about the website.
- ❖ Make it Happen is now the official provider for the Max card in Westminster. You can apply to us directly and enjoy all the discounts and benefits! Come to one of our drop-ins or email us on [chair@wppg.org.uk](mailto:chair@wppg.org.uk)

### MAX Card

[www.mymaxcard.co.uk](http://www.mymaxcard.co.uk)



## Volunteering opportunities for parent carers

If you are interested in joining our steering group, you will see the amazing benefits from this opportunity.

- You will not only have a chance to get your voice heard, learn about your rights and your child's rights, learn about new services and changes to services that affects your lives,
- You will also earn great experience in a vast areas including admin, event organising and report writing.
- Make it Happen will reimburse your expenses and reward your time (please ask for our remuneration policy) You will also receive vouchers and points on the Tempo Scheme

Email: [chair@wppg.org.uk](mailto:chair@wppg.org.uk)



## Parent Carer Drop-In Sessions



Our parent carer group meets twice a week during **term time only**.

It's a chance to meet other parents, and get information and advice from others who have been in your situation before.

We have different speakers who come to the drop-ins every week. For more information on upcoming speakers, please visit our website or email [chair@wppg.org.uk](mailto:chair@wppg.org.uk)

Refreshments are provided at all of our drop-ins.

**Tuesdays, 10.00am-12.00pm**  
**At Bessborough Centre 1 Bessborough Street**  
**SW1V 2JD.**

**Thursdays, 10am-12pm**  
**At: LDN, 389a Harrow Road,**  
**W9 3NA**  
**(Opposite Iceland)**



## What have we been up to this year?

We have had a very busy year arranging events and attending meetings, including the work streams set up in preparation for the Local Area Inspection around quality of all services provided to our children and families in Westminster. Here some of the events that Make It Happen ran last year:

### Parent/Carer Participation and Consultation Events

We ran many focus groups and consultations on topics such as: **SALT, OT, Short Breaks, CAMHS, Housing, Post 16, Preparation for Adulthood, Early Years, Outreach team, Special schools, Direct Payment, Autism Strategy and more.**

### Information Sessions

Such as: **Housing, SEN surgeries, Short Break surgeries, Preparation for Adulthood, Behaviour Therapy and ABA session, Music therapy and Mindfulness sessions.**

### Training Courses

We ran many training courses this year including **WIASS training, IPSEA training, NAS training, Behaviour management training, Preparation for Inspections training and Stress management training.**

### Health Conference

This was an Information and Pampering Day for all parents of SEND children and young people. We had a facial and massage therapist, delicious lunch as usual, and most importantly fantastic speakers. Parents could link to services and discuss their concerns/ points with decision makers. Stalls from all health services in Westminster and some national services such as POhWER and KOOH ran their stalls for information.

### OFSTED CQC Local Area Inspection

We are organising groups of parents who wish to speak to the inspectors when they come to Westminster. We are running preparation sessions, to explain what is expected from us as parents, but we are happy to answer any of your questions at any point. Your time will be rewarded and all your expenses will be reimbursed.

*Learn from our fantastic parents' experiences*

come and meet other parents who have been through your journey and see what worked for them.

*What topics are you interested in this year?*

- Welfare Benefits?
- Short Breaks?
- Financial Support?
- Schools? Something else?
- Let us know

*Come along and Make it Happen*







## Upcoming Events

- **29<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10-12pm WIASS SEN Training, Bessborough Centre**  
The Independent support advice team with their IPSEA Training and Westminster tailored experience are giving this free SEN training for parents and professionals.
- **31<sup>st</sup> Jan, 10-12 Success Story, LDN Harrow Road**  
Cathy Slater, a parent of an adult with SEND and a SEND activist and a local champion, founder of support groups and charities in Westminster, is coming to share her expertise and tips that she learned over her journey.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10-12 Local Offer Session, LDN Harrow Road**
- **12<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10-12 EHCP Surgery, Bessborough Centre**  
Meet a manager from SEN team to discuss your child's individual EHCP, 1:1 support for 15 minutes. (We can only offer a limited number of places booking is essential)
- **14<sup>th</sup> Feb 10-12 Short Breaks Surgery. LDN Harrow Road**  
Meet a practitioner from Short Break team to discuss your child's individual case, 1:1 support for 15 minutes. (booking is essential)
- **26<sup>th</sup> Feb 10-12 Energy Saving Event, Bessborough Centre**  
Come and learn tips about saving on your utility bills.
- **7<sup>th</sup> March 10-12 Therapy input your child's EHCP. LDN Harrow Road**  
Meet the head of Outreach team and head of Health to discuss your child's individual case, 1:1 for 15 minutes. (Booking is essential)
- **12<sup>th</sup> March 10-12 Short Breaks Surgery, Bessborough Centre**  
Meet a practitioner from Short Break team to discuss your child's individual case, 1:1 support for 15 minutes. (Booking is essential)
- **21<sup>st</sup> March 10-12, Energy Saving Event, LDN Harrow Road**  
Come and learn tips about saving on your utility bills.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April 10-12 Short Breaks Surgery. Bessborough Centre & LDN Harrow Road**  
Meet a practitioner from Short Break team to discuss your child's individual case, 1:1 support for 15 minutes. (booking is essential)
- **02<sup>nd</sup> May 10-12, Prepare for Adulthood. LDN Harrow Road**

Please see [www.wppg.org.uk](http://www.wppg.org.uk) for updates on our events or email [chair@wppg.org.uk](mailto:chair@wppg.org.uk) for more information.