



**“CARE IN THE HIGH STREET”**

## **Official Launch of Hop Skip and Jump’s ‘Care in the High Street’**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**

**Number 10 Downing Street, London**

At the invitation of Samantha Cameron, Tuesday night saw the unveiling of Hop Skip and Jump’s brand new ‘Care in the High Street’ initiative at No. 10 Downing Street.

The event, attended by key industry figures and business leaders, was hosted by Mrs. Cameron, who spoke of the very real need for respite care in local communities and of the positive effects that will come as a result of Care in the High Street.

Hop Skip and Jump were represented by patron Dr. Dawn Harper, founder trustees Mrs. Clarissa Mitchell and The Reverend Celia Carter and the hardworking team behind Care in the High Street.

Following Mrs. Cameron’s keynote speech, the assembled guests heard from Mrs. Samantha Buck and Natalie Gazey, who have campaigned tirelessly for support in looking after their children with disabilities and are acting as ambassadors for the campaign and Mr. Jonathan Smith, who spoke of the benefits to businesses of Care in the High Street.

### **Care in the High Street**

Care in the High Street is an innovative new approach to providing respite care, with units operating in the heart of towns and cities all over the country. These centres, providing high quality care, will open up access to the high street, shopping and leisure facilities to a group of people who are at present entirely unaccommodated for.

Hop Skip and Jump will provide full changing facilities, staff trained to the highest standards in caring for disabled children and a range of engaging and stimulating activities at central locations country wide.

Through this ambitious plan, we hope to reinvigorate ailing high streets, create footfall to shops, restaurants and cafes and revolutionise the lives of families caring for children and young adults with disabilities. With a Hop Skip and Jump on every high street, families all over the UK will have direct access to the respite care they so desperately require.

For further information, please contact:

Mr. Ian Cantoni

Hop Skip and Jump Foundation

[marcoms@hopskipandjump.org.uk](mailto:marcoms@hopskipandjump.org.uk)

[www.hopskipandjump.org.uk/care-in-the-high-street](http://www.hopskipandjump.org.uk/care-in-the-high-street)

Tel: 01453 836390

Hop Skip and Jump have been providing flexible and immediate respite care for children and young adults with disabilities and special educational needs for over thirty years. We currently have three centres around the South West, in Bristol, Cheltenham and Swindon. Our staff provide daily help and support to thousands of families every year. Hop Skip and Jump’s provision allows parents and carers valuable time off from the responsibilities of care and gives children a stimulating environment in which to learn and play.

-ENDS-



From left to right:

**The Reverend Celia Carter**, Chairman of The Hop Skip and Jump Foundation

**Mrs. Natalie Gazey**, a campaigner and ambassador for Care in the High Street who has a disabled son

**Dr. Dawn Harper**, Hop Skip and Jump patron

**Mrs. Samantha Cameron**, who hosted the reception on behalf of Hop Skip and Jump and spoke of her support for the initiative

**Mrs. Samantha Buck**, a campaigner and ambassador for Care in the High Street who also has a disabled son

**Mrs. Clarissa Mitchell**, founder trustee of The Hop Skip and Jump Foundation