

Hop Skip and Jump Bring Respite Care to Horsham

The Hop Skip and Jump Foundation are to launch a brand new care centre for the disabled in the heart of Horsham's Swan Walk retail development. Following from the successful launch of a similar centre in Swindon, this centre will be the second of its kind in the country, bringing immediate respite care to Horsham town centre.



“CARE IN THE HIGH STREET”

Care in the High Street is an innovative new approach to providing care for the disabled, designed to give isolated families access to their local communities. With care available immediately on the high street, families will have somewhere safe to leave their children whilst they do the weekly shop, go to the dentist or spend some time with other family members.

Care in the High Street was launched at a reception held by Samantha Cameron at 10 Downing Street last year and has received Mrs. Cameron's full support: 'Hop Skip and Jump's commitment to helping families cope with the challenges a disabled child brings is amazing, whether at their three dedicated centres, or through the new 'Care in the High Street' facilities. I passionately support Hop Skip and Jump in their vision to offer these services right across the country, for every family who needs them.'

The new Horsham centre will contain a soft play area, sensory facilities and a fully accessible wet room and changing facility, meaning that Hop Skip and Jump can cater for children with a variety of complex disabilities and special educational needs.

Clarissa Mitchell, trustee for Hop Skip and Jump: 'We are really excited to be opening in Horsham. We have, for a long time, identified a real need for this kind of care in West Sussex and can't wait to get started helping some of the most vulnerable people in the county. We are very grateful to Horsham Town Council, The North Horsham Council Local Committee and Sussex Masonic Charities for their support in this new venture.'

Hop Skip and Jump are working in partnership with AVIVA Investors and Simons Group to redevelop the unit in Swan Walk which has long stood empty. Scheduled to open in time for half term, the new care centre will bring vibrant new life to Horsham town centre and help families in desperate need of support.

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Notes for Editors

Hop Skip and Jump was established in 1982 to provide immediate and flexible respite care to children and young adults across the South West. In the thirty years since the launch of our first centre in Cheltenham, we have gone on to launch two further centres in Bristol and Swindon, with new centres in Wigan and Cardiff scheduled for the near future.

Hop Skip and Jump provide support for children with any additional need, from complex physical conditions to special educational needs and behavioural problems. HS&J offer thousands of placements every year; care and support for children with help and advice for their families. Through targeted therapy sessions - after school care, weekend respite, teens and twenties clubs - Hop Skip and Jump provide valuable support to our community.

Care in the High Street was launched by Samantha Cameron at No 10, Downing Street and aims to make respite care easily accessible to all. With centres across the country, Care in the High Street will help support families when they need it most. These units will offer parents the opportunity to have some time off from the responsibilities of care, give children a stimulating environment to play in that is safe and secure and encourage footfall to Britain's high streets by enabling parents who cannot otherwise go shopping the opportunity to do so.