



## Supporting children with special needs

### **Press Release**

The Trustees of Kids Can Achieve, the Harrow-based charity for children with special needs, are delighted to announce that they have entered into a formal legal partnership with the Westminster Society for People with Learning Disabilities.

Under this arrangement, Kids Can Achieve remains an independent, locally-based charity with its own Board of Trustees, but becomes part of the larger Westminster Society's network. The Westminster Society has become the corporate trustee of Kids Can Achieve and will therefore play a key strategic and support role in KCA's governance and future direction. Westminster Society will appoint a 'corporate trustee' to the KCA Board, and will manage KCA's services under a Shared Services Agreement.

For Kids Can Achieve the partnership will mean a much more stable and financially viable future, with greater opportunities for funding and contract bids, a larger capital base and access to the Westminster's Society's recruitment, financial, quality and management systems. For the Westminster Society, who for some time have been expanding beyond their original base in the City of Westminster, the arrangement represents an opportunity to bring their expertise to a new area of London and to combine the best of their own work with that of KCA.

In a very challenging financial climate for charities and local authorities alike, both organisations believe that creative partnerships like this, often used in the Housing Association sector, represent the way forward. They offer a chance for smaller organisations to have the protection and support of larger charities, while efficiently sharing resources and developing expertise together.

KCA Chairman Simon Jarrett commented: 'I am delighted that we have been able to achieve this partnership with the Westminster Society. The two organisations have been working very closely and successfully together for the past two years and this puts the legal seal on the arrangement. We have much in

common in our approach, believing that children with special needs and their families must always come first, and need all round support from the early years to adulthood to achieve their potential. Combining our skills and expertise in this way will bring real benefits to the children and families we work with.'

Westminster Society Chief Executive Gabby Machell said: 'This is an excellent new arrangement, which allows KCA to retain their independence as a local charity while benefiting from a partnership with a larger organisation. We have enjoyed a very fruitful relationship with KCA over the past two years and in forming this partnership there is now great potential to build an excellent network of children's services in Harrow for the benefit of local children, their families and the local authority.'

Further information:

**Kids Can Achieve** has been in operation as a charity in Harrow since 2002, and provides support to children with a wide range of special needs and their families, including after-school clubs, play-schemes, youth groups, family groups and specialist support for individual children.

**The Westminster Society** is an award winning charity providing services for people with learning disabilities and their families in Westminster and other London boroughs.

The Society has extensive experience of working with families and both children and adults with a range disabilities, including people with complex needs and profound and multiple disability. The Society places special emphasis on the promotion of effective relationships with families and considers this crucial to successful delivery of services.

## **Contacts**

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