

LET'S

TALK

SEND

## Let's Talk SEND Updates and Information

Information on previous and upcoming Let's Talk SEND events and updates on the borough's SEND improvement journey can be found on the **Local Offer**.

## Introduction

This edition of Let's Talk SEND supplement will look at a few key roles supporting families who have children with SEND, including the role of the SENCO\* (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) in school, and the manager of the 14-25 SEN High Needs Service in the local authority shares some insight into her role and the work of her team.

Let us know what you would like to see in our next 'Spotlight On...' as part of the termly Let's Talk SEND supplement. Email [parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

\*SENCOs are also referred to as SENDCOs (Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinators) in some schools.

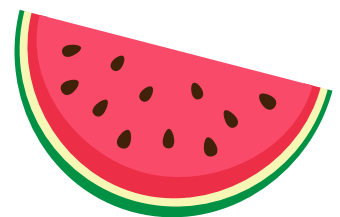
## Fun family picnic

Come to the Independent SEND Parents Forum's Fun Family Picnic!

Bring your own picnic and meet other families.

**Monday 27 July**  
**12noon-3pm**  
**Mile End Children's Park**  
**Locksley Street, E14 7EJ**

Organised by the Independent SEND Parents Forum in co-production with Tower Hamlets Council. Email: [thsendforum@gmail.com](mailto:thsendforum@gmail.com)



### Information event

The next Let's Talk SEND information event for parents takes place on **Tuesday 5 July, 4.30-6pm**. It is on the theme of preparing for adulthood.

For more information email [TowerHamlets&City.SENDIASS@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:TowerHamlets&City.SENDIASS@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

# Let's meet a SENCO in a Tower Hamlets School

Here we meet Memory Kampiyawo, SENCO at **Langdon Park Secondary School** to share some insight into her professional background and current role supporting families in her school.

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My SEND career started at **Bishop Challoner Secondary School**

where I worked for seven years as a SEND teacher. Since joining Langdon Park in 2013 I have served as teacher and now as SENCO for six years.

My role is to oversee and coordinate the daily operations of the school's SEND policy as clearly outlined in the SEND Code of Practice 2014. Strategically, I work closely with senior managers and the SEND governor to set targets and prioritise SEND goals in accordance with whole school policy.

As a SENCO, I am proactive and I am consistently planning and thinking about what is best for those pupils who need most support. I work collaboratively with primary schools and other external services such as educational psychology, speech and language therapy, Phoenix outreach and the local authority to ensure that students secure a positive and successful transition into secondary school. This I do through my ongoing work with a local charity, **AFASIC**, that supports children and

young people with speech and language impairments and their families during the summer school programme.

Additionally, I advise my colleagues by ensuring that they have the skills, knowledge and understanding required to provide high quality teaching and learning opportunities for all students.

I organise and oversee targeted and additional interventions to enable students to learn more, remember more and progress further. This includes catch-up literacy, Zones of Regulation, language and communication and social skills among others. The aim of these interventions is to build self-confidence, self-esteem and raise attainment. I encourage and enable SEND students to have a voice through my work with student SEND ambassadors.

I support the school through empowering colleagues by upskilling them to remove barriers to learning. I ensure the graduated approach is effectively implemented before assuming any student has SEND thereby improving how we identify students that may require additional support or evaluating the support that is already in place.

I am an advocate for the students and parents with or without SEND. I ensure as a school we build positive, trusting partnerships with all stakeholders which include students, parents/carers as well as other external professionals to meet students' outcomes.

## What is a SENCO?

A SENCO (or SENDCO) is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy.

A SENCO is a qualified teacher who has had extra training about SEND. They arrange all the extra support for children and young people with SEND.

Their job is to:

- put the setting's SEND policy into effect on a daily basis
- help staff to support children with SEND
- work with parents to help their child
- work with local council support services
- work with other professionals e.g. in health services

## Where do SENCOs work?

All mainstream schools and nursery schools must have a SENCO.

I have organised and coordinated support sessions such as SEND awareness days, SEND empowerment sessions and coffee mornings. Langdon Park now has SEND Parent Heroes whose vision is to encourage and empower other parents and safeguard the education of all students particularly those with SEND."

**Memory Kampiyawo**  
**SENCO and Head of Faculty**  
**Langdon Park Secondary School**



Langdon Park School parents, staff with Tower Hamlets SEND Parent and Young People Ambassadors, SENDIASS staff and other partners at the recent SEND Awareness Day

## SEND Awareness Day at Langdon Park

### Parental Engagement, improving partnerships

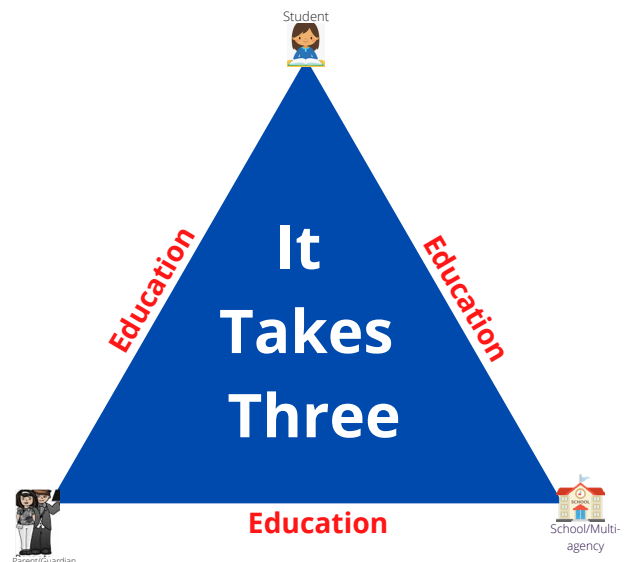
In March, **Langdon Park School** (LPS) held their annual SEND Awareness Day with the aim to ensure all parents, and particularly those whose children have additional needs, are engaged with the school in every way they can.

Memory Kampiyawo commented:

**"As the SENCO at Langdon Park, I am very proud of our parents' enthusiasm and willingness. The day was well attended. We introduced our LPS Parent SEND Heroes to the school community and the day was supported by the borough's SEND Parent and Young People Ambassadors who were amazing. I hope they can attend our next coffee morning.**

**Our vision is to ensure all parents are empowered, engaged and supported."**

### Effective Partnerships



Many thanks to Memory for sharing the infographic above. She uses this to encourage parents to engage with the school and share the importance of working in partnership to support their child's learning and education experience.

If you would like the SEND Parent Ambassadors to visit your school coffee morning or event visit the **SENDIASS website**. For the SEND Young People Ambassadors email **towerhamlets&city.SENDIASS@towerhamlets.gov.uk**



# Introduction to the SEN 14-25 High Needs Service



“ I am Tina Sode and I currently manage the 14-25 SEN and High Needs Service. I have worked in the field of education in east London for 34 years, 22 of which have been in Tower Hamlets.

I started work as a lecturer at Tower Hamlets College (now New City College) in September 2000 and was a Head of Faculty when I left nine years later to join the council. My first role in Tower Hamlets Council centred on supporting children and young people in schools, colleges and alternative provision who had a learning difficulty or disability (LLDD), displayed challenging behaviour, were disengaged from education or completely NEET (Not in Education,

Employment or Training).

In my current role, I manage the 14-25 team who also work with vulnerable children and young people. Whilst this cohort differs because they all hold Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), the challenges and barriers they face and the intense support from multiple agencies they require, is similar.

The role of the team is to ensure young people with SEND get the advice, support and services they need to live a full adult life. This advice and support begins from the moment the young person is assessed for an EHCP and follows them right through until they transition into higher education, employment or adult care services.

Many young people have appropriately informed us that they want to have access to the same opportunities as young people in mainstream education and training. Therefore, the 14-25 team have developed a range of supported internships, commissioned apprenticeship places and arranged work experience opportunities in order

to prepare and support young people into work.

The 14-25 team also facilitate opportunities and support young people, their families, health and care agencies and education and training providers to find solutions that enable young people to become independent and self-reliant, to develop and maintain relationships, to access their community and feel safe, and to confidently manage their own health and wellbeing.

The journey to adulthood marks a tumultuous time for most young people and can often be more intense for young people with SEND. As such, the local authority are keen to ensure we get the Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) agenda right. We are currently carrying out an audit of the way in which we prepare our children and young people with SEND for adulthood. If you would like to be involved in this audit please contact me.”

**Tina Sode**  
**14-25 SEN and High Needs Service Manager**  
 Email: [tina.sode@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:tina.sode@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

## SEND transition event

The recent SEND transition event at the Brady Arts Centre was a great success.

The annual event was attended by more than 70 parents and carers who found out more about primary to secondary school transition for children with an Education Health and Care Plan.

The session included presentations from Jenny Miller, Manager of the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SEND IASS), John O'Shea, Head of the Special Educational Needs Service and Holly Barker and Aileen Warren from the Independent Travel Training Team.



For further information or support visit [www.towerhamletsandcitysendiass.com](http://www.towerhamletsandcitysendiass.com)

# SEND support group for parents

Would you like to meet other parents of children with SEND, share your experiences, pick up some useful information and hear some interesting guest speakers? Then come along to the fortnightly SEND support group for parents, facilitated by the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS).

**Thursdays**

**16, 30 June**

**14 July**

**8, 22 September**

**10am-12pm**

**Parents Advice Centre**

**30 Greatorex Street, E1 5NP**



## SEND Support Group

- Come and meet other parents
- Share information
- Younger children welcome
- Monthly guest speakers



For more details email [towerhamlets&city.SENDIASS@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:towerhamlets&city.SENDIASS@towerhamlets.gov.uk) or call **020 7364 6489**

## Tower Hamlets Independent SEND Parents Forum

The Tower Hamlets Independent SEND Parents Forum is pan-disability. Members work with families and professionals from the council and health services to ensure the views of parents, carers and young people contribute to the design and delivery of services.



**Make sure your voice counts! Have your say!**

Education  
Health and  
Care Plans  
(EHCP)

Transport

Health and  
social care

Short  
breaks

Education

Transition

Post 16

**and much more.**

Join other parents and carers of children and young people with SEND (0-25 years) for coffee and talk about the issues that are important to you. For more information, email [thesendforum@gmail.com](mailto:thesendforum@gmail.com), call 07498 573872 or find us on Twitter [@ThsendF](https://twitter.com/ThsendF).

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

**Get in touch for  
new and exciting  
events planned  
for this summer!**