

Welcome to our new updated Local Offer SEND newsletter!

In this Newsletter you will find:

- [SEND Review: right support, right place, right time](#)
- [Transition Conference](#)
- [Welcome to our new Director for SEND & Inclusion](#)
- [Phase Transfers](#)
- [BING—our SEND young people's forum](#)
- [ELSA and Nurture Groups](#)
- [BELS Covid Support](#)
- [Mill Hill County High School: how we support pupil independence](#)
- [Local Summer Activities](#)

SEND Review: right support, right place, right time Open Consultation

The government published the SEND Review: Right support, right place, right time, on 29th March 2022. This sets out our proposals for a SEND and alternative provision system that offers children and young people the opportunity to thrive, with access to the right support, in the right place, and at the right time, so they can fulfil their potential and lead happy, healthy and productive adult lives.



Proposed changes to the future of the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP) system are set out in the green paper, and there is a public consultation on the green paper's proposals.

How can I find out more?

There are a number of helpful summary resources to help you understand the proposals and what these mean. They are all available on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) and include an easy-read version of the green paper summary and a guide to help children and young people with SEND. There are also a number of translated resources. We also have information on our [Barnet Local Offer website](#).

What happens after the consultation?

The consultation ran from 29 March 2022 to 22 July 2022. All views and feedback are now being considered and the outcome from this will be shared soon on the following page:

[Outcome from the Consultation](#)



July 2022

BELS Virtual Transition Conference Primary to Secondary School

The Specialist Inclusion Advisory Team held a virtual Transition Conference on 10th May that was attended by more than 60 parents. The event was hosted by Kim Miller, Gina Mime, Karen Littleton representing the Advisory teams for BELS. The conference hosted



speakers from across the services including Linda Orr (Head of SEN Assessments & Placements Team), Lisa Coffman (Barnet Parent Carer Forum), Lorraine Croke (Barnet SENDIASS) and Ricky Rebello (Head of Service (Transport Brokerage and Contract Management) who helped parents understand transport, how it works and when they will know more information for September 2023.

From the Specialist Inclusion Team, Joann Moore shared a presentation on a Toolkit for Wellbeing and talked about how to support children's emotional wellbeing through transition. The final presentation was from the Specialist Team who gave lots of practical tips and advice to parents and carers on how to support their children and themselves through transition.

Following this event, the team ran a face to face coffee morning with a Question & Answer session. This was attended by a small number of parents and carers, and enjoyed by those

who did attend.

Transition meetings for children with Special Educational Needs



have been taking place between the primary and secondary schools throughout the summer term. If you could like to find out more about how to support your child through transition, there are transition materials available on our Barnet Local Offer.

[Transition Conference presentation slides](#)

[A Toolkit of Wellbeing](#)

[Transition Passport](#)

[Primary Transition Book with symbols](#)

Other helpful resources and links:

[BBC Teach—supporting secondary transition](#)

[Anna Freud Animation to support secondary transition](#)

Feedback from our parents and carers:

'The session was fantastic and helpful'

'Thank you for the transition conference; it was informative and helpful'

'Clear, well delivered and contextual examples helped'

'Thank you for the transition conference; I feel calmer now'



**Barnet
Local Offer**

Welcome to our new Director for SEND and Inclusion

A warm welcome to our new Director for SEND & Inclusion, Karen Flanagan. Karen begins her post in Barnet from September 2022 and we look forward to her joining us in BELS.



Phase Transfer for Pre-16

Autumn term is when the SEN Team start the phase transfer process for children and young people under 16 years of age who will be 1) starting in reception; 2) moving from an infant to junior school or 3) moving to secondary school in September 2023.

How will I know what to do?

You should have already received a letter explaining the process, including guidance documentation, parental preference form, Q & A sheet and templates to record yours and your child's views if these were not already submitted at the last annual review.

If you did not attend the Phase Transfer presentation sessions held in July, you can also access this information on the [Local Offer](#).

What happens during this process?

The SEN Caseworker will consult with the school you inform us is your parental preference and also with the 3 local mainstream schools closest to your home address if your preferred school is not one of these.

If you ask us to consult with a mainstream faith school we will try to accommodate this and will also consult with other local authority faith schools if these are closer to your home.

Where do I send my preference form?

Please send your preference form to SENAdmin@Barnet.gov.uk by **Friday 21st October 2022**.

What if I have a query?

If you have any queries please contact your caseworker, their name and email is included in the letter.

You can also get information, advice and support from Barnet SEND Information, Advice and Support Service. They can be contacted on 020 8359 7637 or by email at: SendIASS@barnet.gov.uk.





BING

Barnet Inclusive Next Generation

REPRESENTED, HEARD AND ACTIONED

Barnet Inclusive Next Generation (BING) is Barnet's pupil participation group for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 11-25 years old that meets monthly. Its aim is to enable young people to have a voice that influences the way that services are provided to young people in Barnet.

To date, BING has been involved in a range of tasks including working with SENDIASS, offering feedback on mental health and youth zone sections of the local offer, meeting with Ofsted to provide their views of Barnet, supporting the Autism team with a transition handbook, presenting at My Say Matters Launch event and creating a video campaign which sets out the issues of concern for some young people with SEND in our schools.

The video can be found here: [Video Link](#)

How schools can get involved and give your feedback

We would welcome the involvement of schools in identifying the concerns of children and young people with SEND and in developing bespoke responses.

BING has also developed a questionnaire for use by schools in Barnet and we would appreciate your feedback: [Feedback form](#)

Based on the findings, a task and finish group of headteachers and SENCOs/Inclusion leaders will be asked to consider the responses and to make recommendations for practice in schools and actions for BING to take forward.

If you or your SENCO or other appropriate staff would like to join the task and finish group, could you please email Nina.Robinson@barnet.gov.uk

Additionally, if you know young people who you think would want to be part of BING, or if you would like BING's views on a project, initiative or practice, please be in touch.





Nurture Groups Nurture Groups are an evidence based, small group intervention which aim to support the social, emotional, and mental health needs of vulnerable children and young people. Nurture Groups are strongly informed by theories of attachment, trauma, and child development, and are led by two trained members of staff who act as key adults. Children typically access the Nurture Group for 2-4 terms, often for 3-5 half-days per week, while still maintaining links with their mainstream teachers and peers.

This year the Educational Psychology Team have been working with 5 schools (4 primary schools, 1 secondary school) to help set up a Nurture Group in their settings. Staff attended a 3-day training course this spring, followed by regular network meetings to further support set-up, good practice, and reflection. Nurture Group staff, SENCOs and Head Teachers are already reporting that their Nurture Group is having a positive impact, including children making progress in their emotional and social development, strengthened relationships with vulnerable parents/carers and moving towards a more nurturing whole school community.

We are hoping to grow our Nurture Group network through further training to schools and ongoing support and development with existing Nurture Group settings.

Further information about Nurture Groups can be found via the Nurture UK website [Home - NurtureUK](https://www.nurtureuk.co.uk/) or by contacting Amy Gibb (Educational Psychologist) amy.gibb@barnet.gov.uk.

Emotional Literacy Support Assistants

Last autumn the Educational Psychology Team began to roll out the **ELSA programme** in Barnet for the first time.

ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) is an evidence-based intervention, aimed at supporting children and young people's emotional and social wellbeing. 23 staff members across 17 primary and secondary schools, and Barnet Virtual School attended a 6 day training course, covering topics such as emotional literacy, loss and bereavement, resilience, and therapeutic story telling.

The ELSAs have since started to provide 1:1 and small group interventions in their settings, working with children affected by issues such as loss, self-esteem & identity, peer relationship difficulties, and family break-up. All ELSAs have been attending regular supervision and working towards becoming fully accredited.

Feedback from ELSAs have been very positive and schools are already reporting the positive impact of ELSA for their children and school:

"[ELSA has] opened me up to find other routes to support many families and children with a range of needs. [Supervision] allowed us as professionals the space to share ideas/support and or successful resources." Quote from one of the ELSAs.

A second round of ELSA training is taking place this coming autumn term. For further information, please click [here](#).





Upcoming Events on the Local Offer

Save the date!

Barnet Virtual SEND Conference

**3rd November
2022**

**9.30am until
2.30pm**

*More details to
follow in September*

BELS Covid Support 2021 - 2022

As the pandemic hit, we as an Educational Psychology (EP) team like many other colleagues working in schools, adjusted our ways of working to remain available to our school and parent/carers community in ways that were helpful. As we offered support during 2020, we gained feedback around what was most valued and what our community would value more of.

From September 2021, with a focus on emotional support and wellbeing, we have delivered training sessions and workshops to our school colleagues and our parent/carers community as well as providing intervention groups for children and young people in our schools. We have also extended our parent/carers support offer to include regularly available slots for telephone consultations with an EP as well as small workshops to offer shared spaces for discussion and support.

In this final term of the academic year, we have further built upon our offer to support the national drive for reducing exclusions and supporting SEMH needs. We have delivered a number of sessions around topics such as trauma informed practice, whole school emotional regulation support, promoting anti-racist practice and working with refugee and asylum seeking young people and families.



As these commissioned projects come to a close, we are continually exploring ways in which we can offer the range of support our school and parent/carers community are asking for and find useful. If you would like to share any feedback about the EP offer during the pandemic or have ideas about what would be helpful offers of support from us in the future, please do share your thoughts with me at janchai.king@barnet.gov.uk





Mill Hill County High School: Moving towards Independence – A pupil's perspective

At Mill Hill County High School, the SEN department support students and families from the earliest moments of Year 7 to take the steps needed to work towards an independent and fulfilling life. In line with the 2014 SEN Code of Practice, staff are aware that outcomes for young people must include the widest possible areas. Therefore, as well as the focus on academic progress, priority is also given to independent travel, preparing a meal and any aspect of life a student may want to be able to do.

Ensuring the pupil's view is the starting point, review meetings with families always look at what everyone will do to achieve the young person's aspirations including the pupil, family, school and any other support services. Also the support that is available to parents and carers with to help them deal with any natural anxieties they have about their child becoming more independent.

As they transition through secondary school, giving pupils the skills to grow independently is important such as how to use a phone safely, or engaging with social media and being able to travel in their own community safely. Parents and carers are often surprised at what their child can do, and it's fantastic to hear them speak about being blown away by how their child has been able to do so much more than they thought.

At Mill Hill County High School, pupils study an ASDAN course which enables them to develop life skills; this is at the heart of their curriculum underscoring the importance that these skills are given. For example, planning a trip to a local café for lunch involving travelling by bus, reading the menu, working out the cost of the meal are all part of working towards independence.

Year 11 pupils shared their views about what they are now able to do and how they feel about the ASDAN course. Nicholas Agbodan said '*I have enjoyed studying ASDAN and going out on trips like visiting the restaurant and planning events for staff and students at school.*' Ikenna Mazinwosu said '*I am now allowed to do more outside of school because my parents have seen that I can safely make meals or travel independently.*'

Senior Teaching Assistant for Year 11 Tina Unalkat spoke about the trip '*We had a lovely lunch with the ASDAN group today. The students all had a chance to travel on the bus, experience lunch at a restaurant where they ordered the food and drink of their choice. As you can see in the photograph, all clean plates and big smiles!*'

They all expressed how much they enjoyed the lunch and were extremely polite and respectful.

Clare Jeffries

SENCO Mill Hill County High School

Permission was given for names and photos to be included in the content of this article





Summer Holiday Activities

A summary of some of the activities that are on offer locally over the summer holidays:

Barnet Summer Holiday Activities: Join in the fun this Summer Holidays. All activities are free for children and young people in Barnet!

BACE Holidays: BACE Holidays stands for Barnet. Active. Creative. Engaging. Holidays!

BACE Holidays is organised and run by Barnet Council and Young Barnet Foundation and paid for by the Department for Education. It supports children and young people aged 5 –16 who receive free school meals in the borough of Barnet.

Unitas Youth Zone—Holiday Club: Unitas Youth Zone offers a safe and affordable youth facility for junior aged young people on school holidays, with fantastic activities on offer every single day including a host of sports, games, arts and crafts, and cooking sessions! Please note that Holiday Club is for 8—12 year olds only.

Unitas ‘Limitless’ for young people with SEND:

‘Limitless’ team is dedicated to ensuring the Youth Zone’s offer is accessible for all young people aged up to 25 with a disability. The team make sure that each and every young person who attends the Youth Zone can get involved in the activities they want to and ensure that all the sessions are fully inclusive, they have dedicated ‘Limitless’ sessions every Sunday between 10am and 2pm.

Barnet Open Spaces Scheme: Our Open Spaces Scheme offers a safe space where children with SEND can play with their families. Sessions are unsupervised and families have exclusive use of the venue throughout their session.