



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](#).

SEND Annual Report

The 2021-22 annual report of the SEND Improvement Board is now available to view on the Local Offer page via the following link [here](#).



Commission (CQC) in June/July 2021.

The report is organised around the five priorities of the SEND Strategy, including 'You Said We Did' examples which demonstrate where feedback from parents and young people has impacted the way we deliver services. The report also includes two case studies setting out where good practice and collaborative working has made a difference to young people with SEND and their parents.

Steve Nyakatawa
Director of Education
London Borough of Tower Hamlets

The Annual Report 2021-22 sets out how the SEND Improvement Board and local partners have been working together to deliver on the priorities set out in the [SEND Strategy \(2020-24\)](#). It also highlights work to address the four areas of significant weakness identified in the [inspection](#) carried out by Ofsted and the Care Quality

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

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

SENDIASS refers to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service.

More information on the support available to families can be found [here](#).

Introduction to the SEN Service

The SEN service undertakes the Education Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) process which is the route to an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). We ensure that a child or young person's initial needs are properly considered, and whether they have special educational needs requiring an EHCP.

We are working to ensure that our SEN offer, assessments, placements and provision is the best it can be. SEN in Tower Hamlets is going through its greatest change ever. We have expanded the service to ensure that we deliver our statutory duties on new assessments and Annual Reviews, including our Educational Psychology Service.

We are changing all our formats and paperwork, requests, advice, EHCPs, and Annual Reviews to make them more accessible and tailored to the needs of our children and young people. Our system of assessment and planning will now more directly involve families, as well as the children and young people themselves.

We are preparing again for school phase transfer. Last year, 83% of children were placed in their first preference school. We are changing our process slightly to speed up the information we give to parents and schools. We want to give as much time as possible to secure the right placement for our children and young people. Information on this will be shared at our transition events as well as on the Local Offer.

SEN in Tower Hamlets is changing for the better, and I look forward to telling you more about each element over time.

Lewis Teasdale
SEN Service Manager
 Email: lewis.teasdale@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Educating families and professionals on neurovariance

Barts Health and Phoenix Primary and Secondary School delivered a training session in July. The session covered how to identify autism, basic interventions, and the experience of parents. A local parent also spoke at the session giving valuable insight into families' experiences of using local services.

The session was attended by over 120 families and professionals from health, social care, schools and early years.

Another training session will be held on **11 October 2022**.

Details will be posted on the newly developed [Local Offer webpage](#), which also provides key information relating to autism and neurovariance.



SEND Support Group

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

For more information contact:

Tower Hamlets & City SEND IASS, 30 Greatorex Street,
 Whitechapel, London E1 5NP

☎ **020 7364 6489**

✉ **TowerHamlets&City.SENDIASS@towerhamlets.gov.uk**

🐦 **@TH_IASS**

🌐 **<https://www.towerhamletsandcitysendiass.com>**

We meet every Thursday
 morning **10am-12noon**
 at Tower Hamlets &
 City SEND IASS



The Independent SEND Parent Forum family picnic

The Tower Hamlets Independent SEND Parent Forum held an inclusive family fun picnic in July. The event took place in Mile End Play Park and was attended by children with SEND and their families.

The children explored the natural environment, wildlife and sensory materials like sand and water. They enjoyed a range of stimulating activities, such as go kart racing, arts and crafts and much more.

The forum would like to thank the Tower Hamlets Parks Team, Arts & Events Team, Crisp Street Children & Family Centre, the Parent and Family Support Service and the Mile End East and Bromley by Bow Health Community Interest Company for their help and commitment to the event alongside the forum parent volunteers.

To find out more or to join the forum, visit www.thsendforum.co.uk



Fun at the family picnic. Photo: Emily Jayne Nolan

Tower Hamlet Independent SEND Parent Forum

The Tower Hamlets Independent SEND Parent 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!



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, call 07498 573872 or find us on Twitter [@ThsendF](https://twitter.com/ThsendF).

www.thsendforum.co.uk

DLR Ambassadors make dreams come true for Zakariyah

Parent and Carer Council member, Neherun Nessa Ali, worked with the Parental Engagement Team and the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) Ambassador Team to provide a great experience for her son who is a big fan of the DLR.

“Transport for London (TFL) is an integral part of my son's (Zakariyah) life and he describes his special tour of the DLR with the DLR Ambassadors as the best day of his life.

Zakariyah is autistic and can't keep his attention focussed for too long, but the DLR Ambassadors were absolutely amazing on the day. They were so creative in how they managed to keep him engaged. Each one of the team has made such a difference to his experience of the DLR. They were all so attentive and helped make the experience so special for him.

The tour was like a dream come true for Zakariyah. He always pretends to be a train driver and having the opportunity to make announcements on the DLR left him feeling ecstatic with joy. The whole experience has helped him develop more confidence with his social interaction. Thank you all so much – I can't express my gratitude enough for the experience.

Neherun Nessa Ali
Zakariyah's mum



SEND Young Peoples Zone

Find out about services that offer information and advice around education, apprenticeships and employment for young people aged 16 years old and over.

- [Useful resources for Moving On Post 16](#)
- [Post 16: Transport to Education and Training - Statutory Guidance](#)
- [Useful Videos](#)

- [Videos made by Young People for Young People](#)
- [Our Time Forum top 5 priorities 2022](#)

Visit the SEND Young People's Zone [here](#).