

Welcome to our new updated Local Offer SEND newsletter!

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Barnet Local Offer SEND Conference

Our Barnet Local Offer SEND Conference took place virtually on Thursday 3rd November 2022 and included a series of presentations from our Barnet services.

This was a free conference for Barnet parents, carers and professionals that was jointly organised by education, health and social care and representatives of our Barnet SEND parent community.

Our keynote speaker, Dame Christine Lenehan DBE, provided an inspirational and thought-provoking presentation sharing valuable information about the local and national context for SEND, and reminding us of the importance of co-production with our children, young people and families.

Thank you to all our presenters who provided thoughtful and informative sessions for our SEND community.

Thank you also to our parents, carers and professionals who joined, participated and made it a collaborative event.

Presentation slides along with information from the day can be found on our Local Offer website: [Barnet Local Offer—News Event](#)

December 2022

Introduction from our new Assistant Head of Service

0-25 Disabilities Team

My name is Tokunbo Agunbiade, the new Assistant Head Of Service, 0-25 Disabilities Team. Prior to this, I was Team Manager in the Service leading in Transitions.

I am very passionate about working with Children, Young People and their families as well as working collaboratively with our partners in education, health, the Police, housing and the voluntary sector in achieving best outcomes.

I am looking forward to working with you all.

I love history and spend my leisure mostly with family.



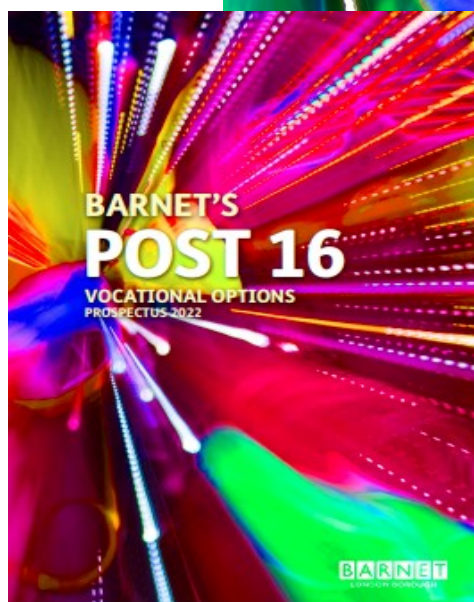
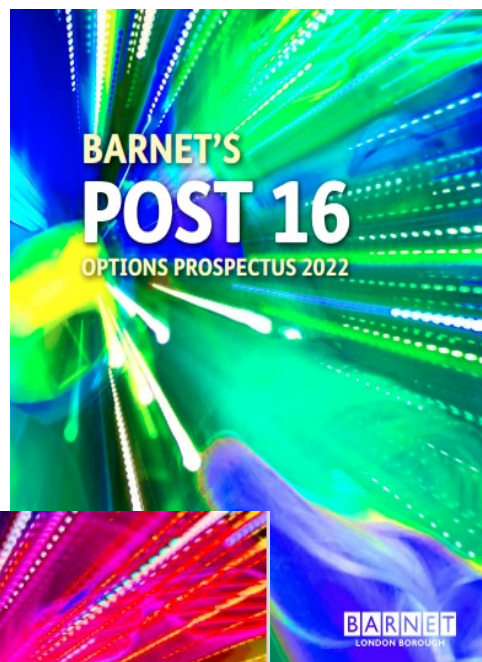
Post 16 Prospectus 2022

The new Post 16 Options Prospectus 2022 and Post 16 Vocational Options Prospectus 2022 are now available to download.

Visit the following website links to find out more:

[Post 16 Options Prospectus 2022](#)

[Post 16 Vocational Options Prospectus 2022](#)



Short Breaks

Short Breaks Short Breaks are a range of play and leisure services for disabled children and young people. The services are available for people who live in Barnet, between 0 -19 (birthday) who need additional support to access play and leisure services. The new offer for families in Barnet is:

- 15 days or 90 hours using Barnet approved provider list
- £1200 funding via pre-paid card to allow families choice and flexibility of services (subject to a 0 to 25 service funding policy and Short Breaks written agreement).

No need to re-apply if the service has been allocated the previous year as this will be renewed automatically. This was decided thanks to the parents feedback.

We have a variety of organisations providing short break services and trying to create also new alternatives.

For more information visit our dedicated webpage: www.barnet.gov.uk/shortbreaks

The Short Breaks webpage will be updated soon with new information but you can already see all the general information, including eligibility criteria that will help you to understand our service and how to apply.

To find other activities organised in Barnet please visit the Local offer webpage www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk

If you already have a Short Breaks package, remember to contact the allocated provider in advance to reserve spaces for your children during Christmas as bookings are subject to Providers availability.

Spotlight on our Short Breaks Coordinator

I am Carla Visone, the Short Breaks Coordinator in Barnet. I joined the 0-25 Disabilities team 5 years ago. I studied Business and Economics and completed my Master's in Communication; I am also an accredited Associate Project Manager. I speak four languages and have worked in different fields where I developed organisational and customer care skills.



My first job in Social Care eight years ago, was in the Mash Team. This was a wonderful and very intense experience. It was where I learned to recognise signs of potential safeguarding concerns, how to work effectively with other Departments and the Police and developed knowledge on how to support families, whilst being sensible to their personal history and needs.

I am proud of our service and It has been amazing seeing the Short Breaks Service develop and improve becoming more accessible and flexible according to family's needs, especially thanks to parent and young people's feedback. I love my job and enjoy visiting the provisions that we fund during holidays and seeing the enjoyment from our service users; their smiles mean the world to me.



Open Spaces Scheme

Running since summer 2020, the Open Spaces Scheme has gone from strength to strength and so far this year has been used by almost one hundred families. The scheme is open to all families of a child with SEND and allows them unsupervised access to exciting play venues within the borough, including the Greentop Centre in Colindale (NW9) and Oakleigh Park School of Swimming's pool in Whetstone (N20).

At the Greentop Centre, children can burn off excess energy in the outdoor play area, which includes a large grassy area with climbing frames and slides as well as access to the basketball court, which is perfect for scooters and roller skates. On wet days there's a fantastic indoor games room with fun activities including table football tables, while the sensory area is popular whatever the weather. Two friendly staff are on hand to check each family into the centre and clean the space between sessions. Over at Oakleigh Park School of Swimming families have exclusive use of the pool, enjoying a calm and quiet atmosphere which helps even the most anxious swimmers feel confident about taking a dip.



Parents have given positive feedback about both venues, explaining that the scheme allows them to enjoy family activities away from home, without the usual stresses of leaving the house together.

All activities are unsupervised, with parents / carers responsible for looking after children during their session.

How to book a session

Sessions are free of charge and can be booked by contacting

elizabeth.galbraith@barnet.gov.uk

You can also read more about the Open Spaces Scheme on our Barnet Local Offer:

[Barnet Local Offer Open Spaces Scheme](#)



**Barnet
Local Offer**



Interview with Aisha Tijani, Team Manager of Specialist Autism Team (SAT)

0-25 Disabilities Team

Can you give a brief overview of the role of the SAT:

We work with high functioning young people with autism who also present with co-morbidities relating to their mental health, mostly around the areas of depression, anxiety disorder, self-harming behaviours, Oppositional Defiance Disorder (ODD), obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) as well as other psychotic difficulties, undiagnosed conditions as well as children with ADHD. The young people we work with are complex and are assessed as creating a risk to self and/or others with the potential of family and/or placement breakdown.

Many of the young people we work with are in mainstream school and the profile we often see is late diagnosis of Autism. With the late diagnosis, they may be on the cusp of hospital admission and are likely to be known to the Adolescent Crisis Team at CAMHs as their mental health has significantly deteriorated needing further assessment to meet their needs.

What other agencies do you work closely with?

We work intensively with CAMHs (including TCAPS and specialist hospital settings), Education (SEN, SENDIASS, BEAM), Autism Advisory Teachers (AAT) and we have many other teachers and agencies involved with these young people. When they are in the hospital, we collaborate with the teams around discharge planning, putting in a care plan in the community and collaborating with those professionals around risk assessments and safety planning.

We also work very closely with an agency which is for the whole of London which is called the ADITT team. We also work with the CCG commissioners and CAMHs because many of the young people require a multi-agency response and co-ordination; it is very complex and specialist work and involves assessing risk and developing complex care plans within the community to prevent young people to go into hospitals or to support them to come out of hospital and to stay in the community longer term.

Do the SAT work with a particular age range?

We usually see young people from year 6 onwards and many of them have found the transition from one provision to the next challenging and that is when the anxiety level and changes in behaviour increases and they get stuck and this creates challenges for parents supporting them or within the new setting where they find themselves to be struggling with the change. We are getting referrals for younger children as well and we need to look at the early support for families across Social Care.





Interview with Aisha Tijani, Team Manager of Specialist Autism Team (SAT)

0-25 Disabilities Team (continued)

What is the criteria for a young person to open to SAT?

The process of referral is to go through MASH where an assessment or support is required. MASH will look at the referral and where they feel it meets our threshold for the SAT team, the MASH officers come to me for case consultations and when meeting criteria, we can agree for the case to step up. I also do case consultations with Social Workers within Barnet as having autism, does not mean you automatically open to SAT and they can sit within other teams; most of the time, guidance and signposting is required.

Are all of the young people you work with on a Child In Need Plan?

We have the highest numbers of CIN plans in the service and most of our young people we work with are on Child In Need Plans (CIN) and we do also work with young people on a Child Protection Plan (CP) as well as Looked After Children (LAC).

What are your main aims as a service?

The purpose of the scheme is to close the gaps and ensure the right support is in place for the young person early to prevent a placement breakdown and prevent a young person going into care. The level of crisis we have seen since the lockdown and the complexities of such sometimes we have no other option but to support the young person with a residential placement. These therapeutic placements, due to risk factors and mental health are through the recommendations made by the clinicians and health; this is supported by the Social Care Assessment.

How does your team fit into the wider 0-25 team and Social Care for the London Borough of Barnet?

Our team is three social workers, one advanced practitioner and one team manager however, we are all working together; the 0-18 CWD team, the Transition Team and we have case allocations meetings on Friday to look at the cases coming in and agree the pathway and most appropriate team. We also support our 0-18 team with complex cases which require specialist support and case direction using specialist knowledge and experience of the SAT. We share about new developments within the Autism Pathway or health especially around the Transforming Care and Dynamic Support Register or around complex health and medical panels.

In the wider team, I also offer case consultations, case discussions, and attend meetings to support Social Workers in other teams where possible. I am also part of the Resources for Autism pilot working alongside Early Help.



Our Barnet Local Offer Survey

Our Barnet Local Offer website shares key information about a range of services, events, support groups and organisations locally that support children & young people with SEND and their families.

We are developing our search function on our Local Offer website to help ensure that you can find the information you need. We would like your feedback on your experiences of using the website. This survey will take a couple of minutes to complete. Thank you for your time.



Click here for survey link: [Barnet Local Offer Survey](#)

Link Visit our Barnet Local Offer website: [Barnet Local Offer](#)



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
Information Advice and Support Service

With you on your journey

SENDIASS offer confidential and impartial information, advice and support to parents, carers and young people. The service is available to parents, carers and young people aged 0 to 25 with special needs or disabilities, living in Barnet. Visit the SENDIASS website for more information about how the service can support you:

[Barnet SEND information advice and support service | Barnet Council](#)



Opening Event

Tuesday 7 February
2023

1.30 – 5pm

The Old Library

The Concourse,

Grahame Park

NW9 5XA

Health Promotion Roadshows

'Supporting families with children from pre-birth / antenatal to 8 years of age'

We are proud to announce that a series of **FREE** Health Promotion Roadshows are coming to Barnet in 2023.

Each event will be bespoke to the local area and include:

- fun activities
- information stalls
- opportunity to find out about local services
- meet representatives from health, early help and community services
- support with the rise in cost of living

For more information please contact earlyyears@barnet.gov.uk



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