

Autumn 2023



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 at

www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk/pages/local-offer/send/let-s-talk-send



TERMS

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.

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

More information on the support available to families can be found at www.towerhamletsandcitysendiass.com

Let's Talk SEND information event

Parents and carers are invited to the Let's Talk SEND information event this autumn, with stalls and updates from services which support children with SEND or an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Co-produced with the Tower Hamlets Independent SEND Parent Forum, the event is an opportunity for parents and carers to be updated on the borough's SEND improvement journey and its future plans. They will also be able to meet a range of education, health and community service providers.

Let's Talk SEND Information Event

Thursday 30 November

10.30am-1pm

(with updates from senior leaders from 11am)

Brady Arts and Community Centre,
192-196 Hanbury Street, E1 5HU

For more information, email

parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Upcoming SEND workshops for parents

Education, Health and Care Plan workshop

The Tower Hamlets and City SEND Information, Advice and Support Service will be delivering a workshop for parents that will explain about the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHP) process.

The workshop will explain:

- What is an EHC Plan?
- What is the purpose?
- What is the process?
- What makes a good EHC Plan?

Tuesday 10 October
10am- 12.30pm

John Smith Children's and Family Centre,
90 Stepney Way
E1 2ES

'What is SEND?' workshop

SENDIASS are offering a workshop for parents to discuss key issues about SEND.

The workshop will:

- Define SEND
- Discuss the law and guidance regarding SEND
- Outline the support available for children with SEND.

Thursday 2 November
10am-12.30pm

Wapping & Bigland Children and Family Centre, Richard Street
E1 2JP

For more details or to book a place, email:

towerhamlets&citysendiass@towerhamlets.gov.uk

towerhamlets.gov.uk

Tel: 020 7364 6489

Tower Hamlets 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.

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

www.thsendforum.co.uk



Inclusive play for SEND parents and young people

Public Health want to hear from parents and children and young people with SEND on what inclusive play looks like for them.

If you are interested in getting involved, would like to invite Public Health to speak to a group on this topic or for more information, email

kevin.siaw@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Highlights from Our Time All Ability Youth Forum Newsletter

Join Our Time Youth Forum

Come and join Our Time, the forum for all young people in Tower Hamlets, aged 14-25. We meet regularly to play games, have trips and do arts and crafts. We also have the voice to speak to leaders about what you want to see happening to make changes for young people in Tower Hamlets.

Youth Voice Matters Conference in Manchester

We attended the Youth Voice Matters conference which helps young people to develop their participation skills and recognise the impact that they can have when taking part in local and national decision-making about SEND.

The SEND Improvement Board

The SEND Improvement Board is a group of leaders in Tower Hamlets and community representatives who work together to improve life for people with SEND and their families.

At the board, Our Time representatives, Sornally and Yaomin shared updates about the work we did in the last year and our views about how things are for young people with SEND in Tower Hamlets.

Let's Talk SEND Post 16

The Tower Hamlets SEND department and Tower Hamlets and City SENDIASS hosted a



Our time members arriving at Manchester for the Youth Voice Matters Conference

Let's Talk SEND Post-16 Options event in May.

Parents, carers and young people with SEND met senior leaders in Tower Hamlets and to hear from different professionals and services about the support available when preparing for adulthood. Our Time talked to young people and their parents about opportunities for them to get their voice heard.

Connection Coalition – Loneliness and Mental Health

Yaomin Ali, Vice Chair of Our Time, represented Our Time and shared ideas about how to challenge loneliness for young people with SEND. We heard ideas from different services about how to address loneliness and mental health challenges.

Every Chance for Every Child Forum – Bullying and Mental Health

Every Chance for Every Child is

the name of the Tower Hamlets Children and Families Strategy 2019 – 2024. This is a plan to help improve lives for children and families.

This forum is a chance for different leaders, professionals and community representatives to see how well the plan is going.

Members from Our Time did a presentation about what are some of the issues young people with SEND face when it comes to bullying and ideas for how this can be improved.

To find out more or to join the Our Time Youth Forum, email ourtime.yf@gmail.com or call **020 7364 7127**.

Read the latest Ourtime Youth Forum newsletter [here](#) or click on the QR code.



Our Time priorities for the year

Our Time achieved a lot in 2022/23, including:

- Being part of the disability fun day
- Running sessions at Spotlight Youth Centre
- Meeting with the Education Scrutiny Committee
- Meeting with Mayor Lutfur Rahman
- Going to the Youth Voice Matters conference in Manchester
- Attending the PAN London Strategic Managers Group, the ALDCS Health Professionals meeting and the London SEND Summit.
- Some Our Time members won a Youth Achievement Award 2022.



Top five priorities for the year

PRIORITY	DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1. Pan London Strategic Managers Group	We want to work with professionals to develop the SEND support system across London and a pan-London young person's forum.	We agreed to give advice to other councils on setting up a SEND forum, getting young people involved and sharing ways of providing support to young people with SEND.
2. Anti-bullying	We are going to do work on anti-bullying by running workshops at educational settings and youth projects.	We will be working closely with other support services to address any issues related to bullying to support all young people accordingly.
3. Film making/ Our Time	We are going to make films about independent living with SEND, services at YPAC, including Our Time Forum, and being a young person SEND ambassador.	We have had discussions around making these films and how to use them to make SEND more visible. We will get a professional film maker to do the filming.
4. Running a Boys/ Girls Group separately	We want to have separate groups for boys and girls as some young people are more comfortable with people of their own gender.	We will be working on offering sessions to boys and girls separately which may help to make some young people feel more comfortable. In these sessions, we will offer some support and advice on how to stay safe.
5. Promote Our Time	We want to get more people involved in Our Time to increase participation and involvement with the work that we are doing.	We will be visiting educational institutions and other youth projects to recruit more young people. We will consult with young people to find out more about what sort of activities and events they are interested in as they join Our Time.