

Spring 2024



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



Upcoming events

SEND provider information day

SEND education providers will showcase their offers for SEND learners at the Careers and Social Mobility Team's event at the Ecology Pavilion on Thursday 7 March.

This event will help SEND young people and their parents find out more about their next best steps and the different options available to them.

Open to young people, parents and SENDCOs.

Thursday 7 March

10am-2pm

Ecology Pavilion

Mile End Park

Grove Road, E3 5RP

For more information, email

careersandsocialmobility@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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.

Parents – references to 'parents' describes any caregiver responsible for the care, protection and upbringing of a child or young person, including foster parents or connected persons, grandparents, siblings or other family members living in Tower Hamlets.

Let's Talk SEND transition event

Parents of children in Years 4 and 5 with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) are invited to attend a Let's Talk SEND transition event to support their children with the secondary school transfer process. There will be a presentation from the SEN department on secondary transfer and information on independent travel training, plus the opportunity to meet with secondary school SENDCOs.

The Family Information Service will also be on hand to provide information on services to support families and what is available through the Local Offer website.

Wednesday 24 April

9.30am-2pm

Brady Arts and Community Centre

192-196 Hanbury Street, E1 5HU

Lunch will be provided. For more information or to book your place:

Email: towerhamlets&city.sendiass@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Tel: **020 7364 6489**

Let us know what you would like to see in the next 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

Inclusion framework document

Tower Hamlets Council continues its partnership with the Council for Disabled Children and key stakeholders across education, health, and social care to co-produce a Tower Hamlets Ordinarily Available Provision document or Inclusion Framework.

The aim of this initiative is to co-produce a document that sets out what must be made available for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities attending mainstream school settings.

The document will help schools to reflect on how their inclusive practice and early intervention benefits all children and young people, including those with SEND.

It will outline a set of expectations to help improve consistency and practice across all settings so that the needs of children and young people with SEND are met. In addition, the document provides useful signposting to key services, guidance and training to support schools become more inclusive.

A series of working groups have taken place with stakeholders across education, health and social care. The experiences and voices of children and young people have been captured by SENDCO partners and initial parent and carer discussions have begun.

For more details and to get involved, email lindsey.kelly@towerhamlets.gov.uk



ARE YOU A YOUNG PERSON AGED BETWEEN 11 TO 25 WITH SEND?

Join us at a brand-new series of sessions, dedicated to young people with mild to moderate levels of SEND.

These sessions aim to support SEND young people with their development, including physical, social, and emotional skills and raise their self-esteem, self-confidence, and independence.

There are also a range of activities available including, sports, fitness studio, homework club, health, wellbeing, employability and more.

WHERE?

Haileybury Youth Centre:
Ben Jonson Rd London E1 3FQ

WHEN?

Every Tuesday, starting on 9 January 2024, from 6.30pm to 9pm

There is no need to book, you can just turn up.



This is your chance to meet and socialise with other young people from your area, so don't miss out. Scan the QR code to find out more!

Contact

Team Manager, Gary Treasure: **07745 745 660**
Or email: YTH_London@towerhamlets.gov.uk

For a suitability assessment, please contact Iqbal on: **07961483199**

Follow us on Instagram and X: [@YTH_London](https://www.instagram.com/YTH_London)

Let's Talk SEND: Overview of autumn 2023 events

Let's Talk SEND Year 9 event

The Year 9 Let's Talk SEND event in December was attended by over 45 people including young people, their parents and carers. The event provided information and guidance from Young Workpath, Family Hubs and Barnardo's support stalls.



Abzal Ali, Deputy Head of Tower Hamlets Young People's Service, speaking at the Year 9 event



Our Time All Ability Youth Forum

Preparing for Adulthood Team

The event began with an introduction to Preparing for Adulthood and a presentation on the importance of the Year 9 Annual Review. It explored how young people could be supported as they prepare for adulthood and independent living.

Attendees also shared their views on the issues that are important to them. They felt reassured that schools and the council will ensure that all plans for transition will have high aspirations that will prepare young people for bright futures.

Contact: jenny.quiller@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Youth Service provision

This was followed by the Young Tower Hamlets service who introduced the new SEND Pilot Youth Session. This is planned to start early 2024 at the Haileybury Centre and will be specifically for young people with SEND.

See the flyer on these new sessions on page 25.

Contact: YTH_London@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Young Workpath

The third presentation at the event was delivered by career specialists from Young Workpath. This service offers information, advice, and guidance to young people between the ages of 13 and 25.

Although careers advice is provided to young people in school, parents were encouraged to contact one of the specialist careers advisors if their young person needed additional support or help achieving their career goals.

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/youngworkpath

Our Time All Ability Youth Forum

Two members of Our Time gave an update on their work achievements. Our Time is a youth forum run for and by young people between the ages of 14 and 25 with SEND. They are the voice of young people in the borough and work hard to raise awareness about the challenges many young people with SEND face. They play a key role in supporting the council to improve the SEND offer for children and young people in Tower Hamlets. Young people at the event were invited to join the forum.

www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk/organisations/23749-our-time-youth-forum

Hearing from a young person's journey to employment

Shakil closed the event with a description of his programme, the support he receives at work and the impact his programme has had on his life. Shakil is currently employed as an apprentice with Tower Hamlets Council and is based at the New Town Hall in Whitechapel.

Shakil started his 15-month SEND Apprenticeship within the Commissioning Service in February 2023 and is already known for his excellent work and presentation skills.

All young people on the TH SEND apprenticeships have an opportunity to achieve a qualification, gain valuable experience and skills and earn a wage. He will also receive a qualification at the end of the apprenticeship. SEND apprenticeships are new to the



Shakil is currently employed as an apprentice

local authority but plans are apprenticeships in March 2024 being made to offer more SEND and beyond.

A big thank you to all parents and carers that attended the event – the feedback they gave will support the borough's SEND improvement journey.

Let's Talk SEND information event

Parents and carers attended a Let's Talk SEND information event in November. The event, held at the Brady Arts and Community Centre, featured stalls and updates from services that support children with SEND or an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Co-produced with the Tower Hamlets Independent SEND Parent Forum, the event provided parents and carers with valuable updates on the borough's SEND improvement journey and their plans for the future.

Parents and carers also had a chance to meet a whole range of education, health and community service providers.

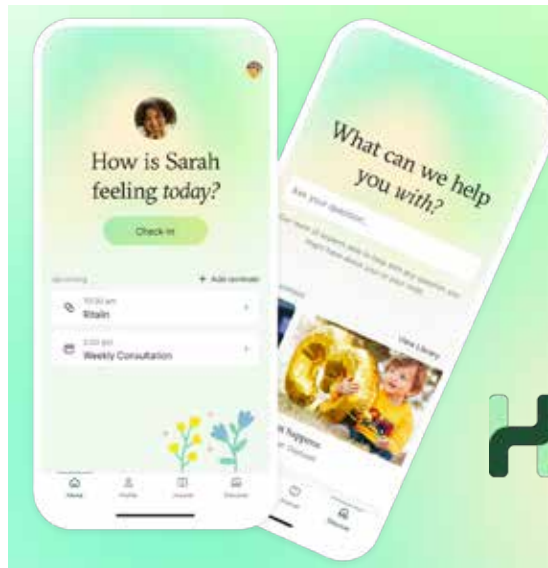


To find out about future Let's Talk SEND events, email towerhamlets&city.sendiass@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Hibi app helps parents feel in control of child's care

Behind every child with health conditions, there is a family at home working to navigate their care. Parents must manage, store and share huge amounts of information, as well as navigate a system that is split across health, education and social care. This can be overwhelming for many families.

Hibi is a free app for families of children with developmental differences and health conditions. It provides access to care management tools, allowing families to track symptoms, set up medication reminders, share information and analyse trends.



Hibi is an app providing families access to care management tools and expert guidance.

Download & try for free today.

 Hibi



It was designed in consultation with families and care professionals across the UK, including the Tower Hamlets

Independent SEND Parent Forum. It is hoped that with the app, parents will feel more in control of their child's care.

For more details, visit <https://hibi.health>

Tower Hamlets Local Offer focus group

Parents are invited to join a focus group discussion about the Local Offer website on **Monday 26 February, 10-11.30am** at the Parent Advice Centre, 30 Greatorex Street, E1 5NP. The website provides information and advice to families with children aged from birth to 25. For further information and to book your place, call 020 7364 6495 or email localoffer@towerhamlets.gov.uk. www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/localoffer





SEND Support Group

- Come and meet other parents
- Share information
- Younger children welcome
- Monthly guest speakers
- No diagnosis needed

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
🌐 www.towerhamletsandcitysendiass.com



We meet fortnightly, Thursday, Term time only
10am-12noon
at Tower Hamlets & City SEND IASS

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
call 07498 573872
www.thesendforum.co.uk