

Barnet PCF Session on London CPP FAQs

Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend one of our information sessions about the London Change Partnership Programme (CPP) and implications for parents and carers on the 20 of March. We will continue to engage with families and children and young people as part of the programme to ensure we can report back your experiences to the DfE.

Below are some of the questions that were asked at the sessions. We will add to these as we go through the programme.

Q1- How do families know what is available in Barnet in terms of support for children and young people with SEND?

In Barnet, there is a wealth of information on our Local Offer webpage - <https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/> . This website helps children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and their families find the information and support they are looking for from across the Barnet local area.

There is also a wealth of information and support offered by our Barnet Parent Carer Forum (<https://barnetpcf.org.uk/>) and by Barnet SENDIASS (<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/children-and-families/barnet-send-information-advice-and-support-service-sendiass>)

We will work at promoting these more widely in the community in the future.

Q2 – Families worry that Mediation can be used to delay their right of appeal. How can we increase parent/carers confidence?

In Barnet, the mediation service is provided by KIDS SEND Mediation Service. They are an independent mediation and disagreement resolution service, which is free of charge for parents/carers and young people. Their service helps to settle disagreements between parents or young people and local authorities and schools or other education providers. These disputes are often about the special educational needs and disability (SEND) of children and young people, and how best to meet their needs.

We will work with KIDS to better understand family feedback about the service they receive from them, in order to improve confidence in mediation.

As part of the CPP, we will work on increasing our capacity in Local Dispute Resolution. This is a mechanism through which disagreements can be solved without the need to go through formal mediation or appeal. This is faster than formal mediation and builds local relationships.

We would very much like to hear feedback about this process as part of the Change programme.

Q3 – Advisory tailored Lists - Why would a family 'opt out' of receiving one if they are only advisory? What is the implication of opting out? Or of receiving the list but then pursuing an off-list preference?

The DfE are asking Barnet to test Advisory Tailored Lists as part of the Programme.

We can see the advantage of this for many families who are not sure of the schools in our local area and would like tailored information about this.

Families have the option to opt out. We would encourage families to be part of this as it does not impact on their right to ask the LA to consult with a school of their choice that is not on the list.

It is important to know that the list is advisory and even where schools are on the list formal consultation processes with all schools will still happen.

Q4 – Would National Standards standardise the support children receive? Will it not be individualised?

The DfE is looking at building national standards that relate to policy, processes, staff training and knowledge (in education settings), so that there is equity across the country in what should be available in all education settings to support children to thrive regardless of their ability.

An EHCP will remain individualised, and person centred, so that it can meet the individual's needs and strive to achieve their desired outcomes.

Q5 - I would be interested if this National Dashboard helps parents make choices for the right school knowing their child's needs?

The National Inclusion Dashboard will provide information about the local area and compares that to other local areas. It does not relate to individual school performance. The dashboard will report on nationally available statistics regarding outcomes (e.g. progress, attainment, destinations), family experience (e.g. tribunals statistics) and performance data (e.g. 20 weeks timeliness of the EHCNA). For individual school performance please have a look at their OfSTED report -

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Q6 - What intel are you using to create the advisory tailored list? Is this by your child's case worker based on their understanding of your child's individual circumstances?

As part of the EHCNA process, we will ascertain your preferences and needs. This will help inform the Advisory Tailored List. We are currently in the process of developing the criteria through which education settings will be added to an ATL. Some of these criteria will look at:

- a. Proximity to home.
- b. The capacity of the school to meet needs.
- c. The right to Mainstream education.
- d. Efficient use of resources.

Q7 - At what point will the parents be given an advisory list?

Families will be informed about the ATL testing at the beginning of the ECHNA process. If the family does not opt out from receiving an ATL, the list will be received at the same time with the Draft EHCP.