

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

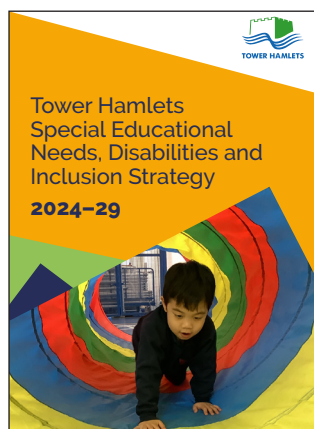
www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk/pages/local-offer/send/let-s-talk-send



Special Educational Needs, Disabilities and Inclusion Strategy 2024-2029

The Tower Hamlets Partnership signed off its new SEND and Inclusion Strategy in September. It sets out how the council will deliver the right support at the right time for children and young people with SEND and their families.

The strategy will be launched in November. The partnership thanks all the young people, families and professionals who shaped the strategy.



The strategy covers six priority areas:

1. Timely, effective and well-coordinated support
2. User-friendly services
3. Early identification and support for the under-fives
4. Effective education and support for school-age children with SEND and additional needs
5. Opportunities and support for young adults with SEND and additional needs
6. Children and young people with SEND and neurodiversity are valued, celebrated and supported to thrive.

For more information email childrens.strategy@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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



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.

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.

Our Time All Ability Youth Forum update



The Our Time All-Ability Youth Forum is based at the Young People's Advice Centre in Whitechapel. The forum encourages, advises, and supports all young people in Tower Hamlets with SEND.

The forum offers a wide range of opportunities for young people to participate in informal activities, such as having fun and socialising with other members of the forum. They can then gradually get involved in something more formal, such as working as a Young People's SEND Ambassador or working with professionals and senior managers at a strategic level. This provides young people with a voice and can lead to significant changes being made in developing a better SEND support system in Tower Hamlets.

Meetings are held regularly, with Saturday sessions taking place fortnightly. These provide a friendly and fun space where members can express themselves, play games, and connect with one another. Occasionally, they also enjoy day trips or participate in activities like bowling.

Our Time All Ability Youth Forum are always happy to welcome new members. They also offer a one-to-one pre-meeting for newly joined members.

Below is an update of their recent activities:

- **SEND Summit at Guildhall** – delivered a presentation and talked to professionals about SEND. Sornnaly, Yaomin, Luca and Sarah were the forum members who attended
- **London SEND Leadership Programme at Coin Street Conference** – delivered a presentation to professionals talking about SEND awareness, concerns related to bullying and shared own experiences
- **SEND Parent Conference, Town Hall** – promoted the youth forum and services available for people with SEND from the SENDIASS
- **Family Hubs Spring Fun Day, Halley Primary School** – promoted the forum and services available for children/young people with SEND from the SENDIASS
- **Working with other London boroughs** – started working with the London Borough of Hillingdon to share ideas and make suggestions on how they can form their own SEND youth forum. Also worked with the London Boroughs of Lambeth and Bexley in a similar manner.
- **Ongoing work and promotion to attract new members**
- **Tower Hamlets Annual Let's Talk SEND Transition event** – delivered a presentation to parents, young people and professionals
- **Spotlight Q&A (with Deputy Mayor/Director of Children's Services)** – Sornnaly attended to represent young people with SEND as the Chair of Our Time Forum and the Youth Cabinet Member for Equalities and Social Inclusion
- **Working with George Green's School** – once a month sessions similar to Spotlight
- **Increasing use of social media**
- **Bowling at Surrey Quays**

Newsletter

To get the latest news and updates on what the Our Time Youth Forum have been doing, read their latest newsletter on the Local Offer, scan the QR code or click [here](#)



To find out more and to join Our Time All Ability Youth Forum, email ourtime.yf@gmail.com or call 020 7364 6489

Supporting SEND parents at Bow School

Bow Secondary School recently hosted a creative workshop for parents. It successfully engaged a range of parents, including parents of children with SEND and those with children who attend the Phoenix satellite provision at Bow School.

Creative workshops can develop participants' skills and confidence and support their wellbeing. They can also help schools build positive relationships with parents and carers.

About Phoenix satellite provision

Phoenix is a well-established special school dedicated to serving children and young people with autism. It has three main sites complemented by two satellite provisions, including a satellite at Bow Secondary School.

The satellite at Bow School currently has three classes comprised of students aged 11 to 16. Many of them have come from Phoenix while others have come to the satellite from local mainstream primary schools.

For more information on the satellite provision, visit www.phoenix.towerhamlets.sch.uk/oursites



“Pottery class was therapeutic and very enjoyable. I wish it could have gone on for several more weeks. It's just the right tonic to help reduce mental stress and bring out the artist in yourself!”

Khaleda, Parent of a child who attends the Phoenix satellite provision

A message from the Family Support Partner

Family Support Partner work through the delivery of courses and workshops has been extremely valuable to the success of parental engagement at Bow Secondary School.

Phoenix satellite parents were delighted to be offered places on the course by Bow School.

The emotional, physical, and psychological impact many families face whilst taking care of SEND children is often overlooked. However, parents attending the course felt valued and the course had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

Having worked with many families at Bow School, we recognise there is a correlation between mental health and creative activities. Parents attending the course had improved and strengthened their social skills, confidence, time keeping, self-esteem and emotional wellbeing.

Fahmida Begum, Family Support Partner from the Parental Engagement Team at Bow School

To find out more or to book a creative workshop for your school or setting, email parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk



What's new in speech and language therapy for under 5s?

You may have spotted a speech and language therapist out and about in Tower Hamlets recently – here's why.

The team are working on supporting the Little Talkers programme in children and family centres. This programme is for children aged 18 months to three years who are not talking as much as expected. They have revamped the programme and are trialling it in a few children and family centres before rolling it out across the borough. You will find speech and language therapists in the new Little Talkers sessions along with the early intervention workers.

The team are also keen to talk to people about children's language development. They are developing a campaign called 'Get down, get talking, Tower Hamlets!' to share messages about common topics related to children's early language skills and what families can do to help. They have visited stay and play sessions, Idea Stores, and community events.

Get in touch with the team if you would like to find out more or if you are organising an event where they could engage with families. Email SLTConsultation.bartshealth@nhs.net

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.

Thursday 1 May 2025

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



Tower Hamlets and City
SEND IASS



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



Joining up to support children under 5 with SCD

Young Barts Health have been adapting their service for children aged under 5 who present with social communication differences (SCD) in Tower Hamlets.

The 'social connect' pathway has been created to help reduce waiting times to different services and improve joint working amongst professionals, so families can have access to the right support at the right time. The under 5 Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy service have teamed up with children and family centres and the Health Visiting Team to develop a joined-up offer.

How to access support from children's therapies was changed in September. If a professional or family is worried about a child's social communication, families can access sessions without a referral to the Therapies Team.



This is via Eventbrite:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/barts-young-health-childrens-therapies-75042212983

Families need to access this offer first before a referral is made for further support from the Therapies Team.

If you would like further information, email bartshealth.socialconnect@nhs.net

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

Do you care for a child with special needs and/or disabilities?



Come along for a break, free refreshments & laughter!

**FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
1:30PM - 2:30PM**

SUPPORT
GROUP



MUDCHUTE FARM, PIER STREET, E14 3HP

- Focus on you as a parent/carer
- Join a safe, non-judgemental space. Meet, share and get support from other SEND parents/ carers
- Information, services, resources and local offers
- Experienced SEND guest speakers



The Barkantine - Island Health - Docklands Medical Centre - Island Medical & Woodwharf



For more information:
Speak with your GP practice/Social Prescriber
or e-mail thgpcg.socialprescribingnw8@nhs.net





Tower Hamlets and City
SEND IASS



TOWER HAMLETS

Tower Hamlets & City SENDIASS

(Special Educational Needs Information, Advice and Support Service)

The SENDIASS Team provides free and impartial expert advice to parents of children with SEND and to children and young people themselves who are residents within Tower Hamlets or City of London. Some of the ways we can support you are:

- **Attending meetings with schools/professionals**
- **Applying for an Education Health and Care Plan**
- **Mediation with the Local Authority**
- **Preparing and attending SEND Tribunals**
- **Providing information about other support services and departments**

Our team also runs workshops for parents around the EHCP process, Annual Reviews, and Secondary School Transitions.

If your query can not be resolved during the telephone consultation, we will take a referral and you will be allocated a caseworker who will contact you within 10 working days.

We have a dedicated telephone line, **020 7364 6489**, that you can call to speak to an advisor Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m-17:00 p.m.

You can also email us at:
towerhamlets&city.sendiass@towerhamlets.gov.uk

You can visit our website at:
www.towerhamletsandcitysendiass.com

Your guide to information and services for families in Tower Hamlets

LOCALOFFER

 **@thlocaloffer**

localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk

Guide to information and services in Tower Hamlets for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and **all** families in the borough



TOWER HAMLETS

