



WINTER 2024

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Early Years SEND Team Highlights

The Early Years Down Syndrome group

We have over 25 families who attend the EYSEND Down syndrome group every Wednesday at Underhill Children's Centre. The children and families come together to take part in Makaton signing, singing songs and play based learning activities incorporating Down Syndrome specific interventions such as See and Learn, the group provides an opportunity for families to participate in various activities which support their child's development as well as celebrating the successes of the children.

At the end of the term we held our festive celebration, we welcomed new arrivals into the group as well as old friends it was an opportunity for catching up, there was laughter, celebrations at how much some of the children had grown and lots of support and encouragement offered to the new babies and families.



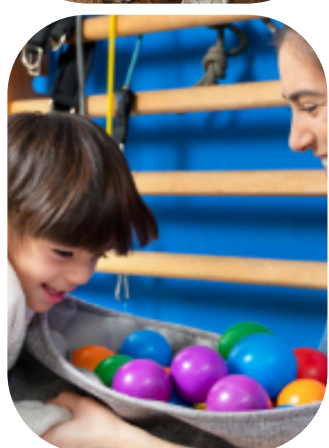
Group Teaching Sessions

This term we have invited over 132 families to participate in our Group teaching sessions across the borough. These sessions take place in our Children's Centres as well as spaces in some of our schools. The focus is on supporting social communication play and interaction. The families and children participate in a variety of structured activities and have an opportunity to ask questions and think about next steps and how to support their children with the team.



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Other Highlights

- 71 families attended our Positive Relationships training led by Lucy Baker and other team members. This was a great opportunity to hear some top tips around developing positive relationships with young children.
- We launched our evening Childminder Training supported by the Early Years Standards Team. This terms focus was on supporting send within your setting, next time we're looking at Makaton signing for young children.
- Congratulations go to our 32 SENCo who participated in our face to face SEND Essentials Training. This was an opportunity to learn and share experiences of being a SENCo in a PVI setting as well as look at legislation, legal requirements, resources, and various strategies and interventions that support children with send including a dive into the Ordinarily Available Provision. We had a further 12 SENCos join the summary evening course.
- Barnet Early Years SEND Team continue to be very busy working with various families, settings, and children across the borough. Do check out further resources, videos, and helpful information on our Early Years Page on the Local Offer and our page on the [Oakleigh website](#).

We are looking forward to our “Spotlight on SEND Early Years” Conference on 16th January 2025 for Early Years Providers and schools. We have brought various teams together and will provide a series of webinars focusing on “How to support and meet SEND needs in the Early Years” . We also have the Council for Disabled Children presenting a key note speak focusing on the Ordinarily Available Provision in Early Years.

SENCO Conference News

Our autumn term SENCO Conference took place virtually on Tuesday 5th November; this was an all-day event.

We were delighted that Sally Franklin joined us as our keynote speaker for the conference. As part of the MITA team and as a School Improvement & SEND Consultant, Sally brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to SEND. In her keynote, Sally drew upon recent research, as well as examples of current practice from a wide range of school communities, to explore the importance of an integrated whole school approach to SEND provision, including the deployment of support staff.



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The day was also a valuable opportunity for our schools to share practice and hear about innovative ways they are developing SEND provision to meet the needs of their children and young people in their settings. The afternoon was an opportunity to hear local updates from services across education, health and social care including the Educational Psychology team, Early Help team and Barnet Children's Integrated Therapies.

Over 90 of our school SENCOs attended the conference making it such a rich and productive day. Thank you to our presenters and to everyone who attended. We look forward to our spring term SENCo Conference in February 2025.



Planning for Adulthood Conference... Save the date!



PLANNING FOR ADULTHOOD CONFERENCE

Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS) are hosting an event for parents and carers of young people with SEND.

Speakers will focus on topics to support young people on their journey into adulthood.



WHEN?

10am-1.30pm

Wednesday 26th
February 2025

WHERE?

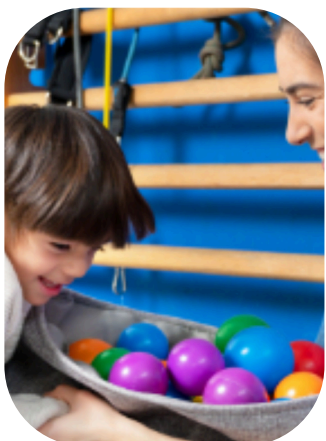
Online

Sign up details and agenda to follow.



Save the date.

We look forward to welcoming you!



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London Change Partnership Programme (London CPP)

The London Borough of Barnet has been selected as the Lead Local Authority for the London Region, working alongside Camden, Enfield and Islington, to test the DfE initiatives as part of the SEND and AP Improvement Plan.

We have been working for the past year with the Department for Education (DfE) to pilot the SEND and AP Change Programme, sharing practice and learning from the other 8 regional areas nationally.

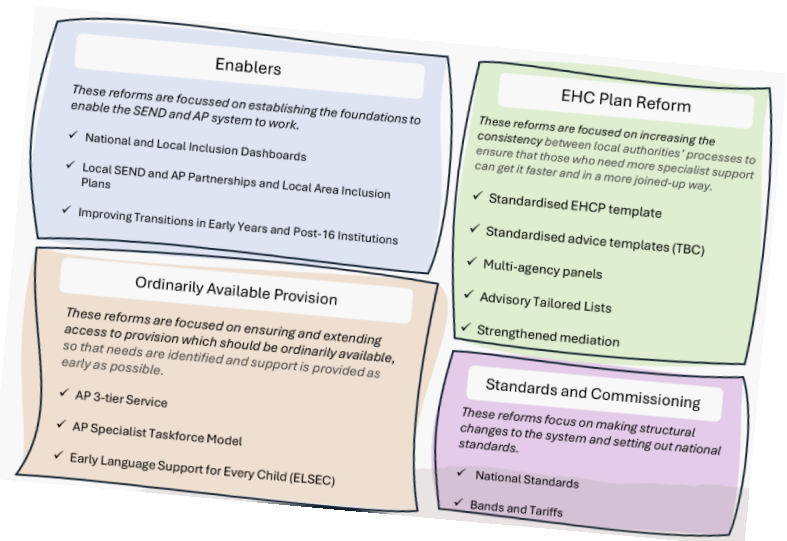
What are the Reforms?

Over the past 12 months, the Change Programme has been testing a package of reforms that focus on critical elements of how SEND & AP services operate in local areas. DfE need to know about how each reform works and what it takes to implement it, but also how they interact and work together to influence outcomes in local system.

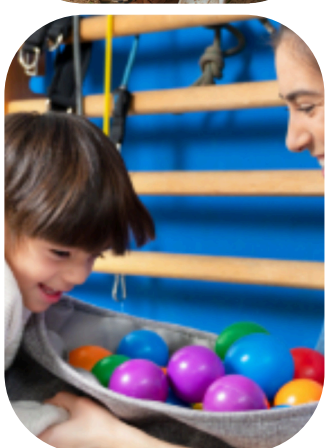
The areas of focus have been:

- Local Area Partnerships and Local Area Inclusion Plan

- SEND and AP Inclusion Dashboard
- EHCP Standardisation
- Multi-Agency Panels
- Strengthened Approaches to SEND Mediation/ Local Dispute Resolution
- Alternative Provision Reform – 3-Tier Model
- Bands and Tariffs
- Advisory Tailored Lists
- Early Language and Support for Every Child (ELSEC)

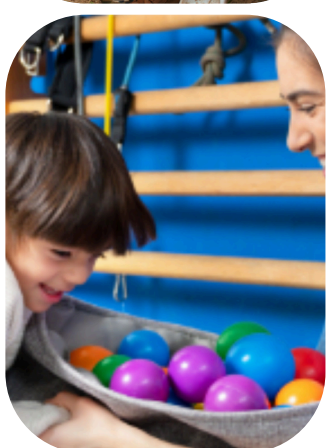


Through testing the SEND & AP reforms, local areas have been able to evidence which interventions are working and parts of the system that need further development, helping the DfE to understand what it will take to ensure more sustainable change in the SEND system.



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Local Area Partnerships and Local Area Inclusion Plan (LAIP)

Guidance has been provided by the DfE on how the Local SEND and AP Partnership governance should be set up. This was an area where all four London CPP boroughs (including Barnet) felt was maturing. Each Borough has reviewed the guidance and made changes to governance arrangements, Terms of Reference, frequency of meetings and or Board membership where appropriate to do so locally.

All four boroughs have now submitted their LAIPs. In Barnet, the production of the LAIP was done more as a scientific exercise, bearing in mind that Barnet's new SEND and AP Strategy was agreed earlier this year.

Across our region it was felt to be a useful exercise in terms of experiencing first-hand the extent of the challenges of the range of data to be gathered and its usability in the current format. We are pleased that we were able to provide comprehensive feedback to the DfE from the London CPP.

SEND and AP Dashboards

The London CPP has provided feedback to the DfE and REACH on the National Inclusion Dashboard. We found the dashboard to be helpful particularly with regards

general data comparisons either across our region or nationally. Some data from the dashboard was used to inform the LAIPS. It would be more helpful if the dashboard were able to provide a more comprehensive set of data across all DfE reporting areas and developed its 'usability'.

Additional data could include SEN2, Exclusions and suspensions, attendance, wait times as well as the areas in the LAIP for example. If that data was exportable into word format, and able to be manipulated for comparisons across regions, nationally and statistical neighbours this would free up local area time to focus on what the data is telling us and then act on that data as opposed to the collection and individual analysis of that data.

In terms of Local Inclusion dashboards, the London CPP has commissioned MIME to develop these for the four London Boroughs. This will help with standardisation across the partnership and can inform national developments.

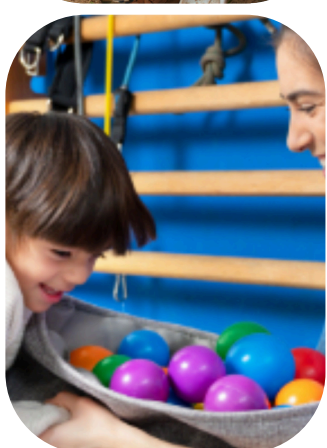
EHCP Standardisation/ Multi-agency Panels/ Mediation/ Local Disagreement Resolution

Each Local Authority was asked to test the EHCP template with a minimum of 80 EHCPs each. In the London CPP we have issued over



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1000 EHCPs on the DfE Pilot Template, with 452 completed by Barnet. Extended feedback has been shared with the DfE and we were also took part to a dedicated session with DfE's EHCP Policy Lead.

All 4 boroughs in the partnership already had multi agency panel arrangements before the start of the programme including parent/carer representation in Barnet. Each area has checked local arrangements to ensure they were in line with the DfE guidance and where appropriate minor changes were made such as to the Terms of Reference. Furthermore, Barnet has provided advice and guidance to other Local Authorities nationally as well as sharing information at the London SEND Network with regard parent/carer representation and involvement in panels.

In terms of Mediation, we looked at the DfE guidance in detail and all 4 boroughs from the London CPP have reviewed their contractual arrangements to ensure compliance with the DfE issued guidance. Given the rising number of appeals to SENDIST, the London CPP is strongly of the view that earlier intervention is needed. To this end, Barnet agreed to trial a slightly different approach through the recruitment of Local

Disagreement Resolution officers.

Early Language and Support for Every Child (ELSEC)

In Barnet, we have been testing the use of pre-registration speech & language therapy assistants to improve the identification and support of children with speech,



language, and communication needs in early years and primary school settings; in turn improving access to and the quality of ordinarily available provision.

So far, 15 Primary schools and 2 Early Years Settings have taken part in ELSEC. We will be inviting further 10 Private Voluntary and Independent nurseries to join the ELSEC programme. The project has collaborated with the Barnet Early Years SEND team to co-ordinate this. Starting in January, we will be supporting 14 additional settings and providing further assistance to a setting that received EYFS support in June 2024.



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Our ELSEC team has trained teaching staff to screen children's speech, language and communication skills. So far, 1036 children have been screened. The screening has shown that 47% of children present with communication needs.

In November, we have extended our parent support offer and have run several story time sessions with children attending nursery/ reception and their parents. Parents have reported that they've learnt new tips about how to share stories with their child at home.

Moreover, 10 staff members attended Makaton training. A further 12 staff members will be attending training in January.

Alternative Provision Reform (3 Tier Model)

All four London CPP boroughs have the three tiers in place although these are at differing levels of maturity. This is a welcomed area of the reforms and in Barnet we have been working on reviewing our Alternative Provision System. We will update you on our progress in 2025.

Bands and Tariffs

DfE have asked us to review 6 case studies and feedback on how these would be allocated funding to inform the policy thinking around this strand. All four LAs have provided feedback. There has been no further guidance in this regard to any CPP.

Advisory Tailored Lists

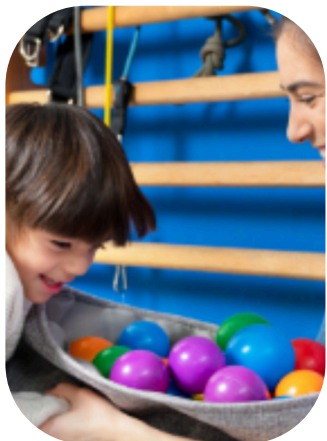
The London CPP has concerns with implementing this reform. These concerns have been echoed by colleagues across the national CPP. We understand that nationally 7 of the 32 LA involved in the pilot are currently testing ATLs. As a result, in London we have not tested Advisory Tailored Lists.

What's Next?

Moving forward, the new government has made clear their vision of further enhancing the level of mainstream inclusion for children and young people with SEND. As a result, in 2025 the London CPP will be focusing on inclusive practices and are designing an ambitious programme of stakeholder engagement sessions in early 2025 across the 4 boroughs: children, young people, parents, carers, headteachers, SENCOs and the wider professional network will share their views on the drive for increased mainstream inclusion.

These sessions will enable honesty about the challenges of increasing mainstream inclusion, as well as sharing best practice. The work will provide a robust evidence base which clarify for central government what needs to happen in order for the government vision of greater mainstream inclusion to become a reality.

Please look out for the dates of these sessions on the LO webpages.



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Post-16 Update

This summer, we celebrated another cohort of interns graduating from their Supported Internships programme. A Supported Internship is an employer-based learning programme. The aim is to support SEND young people aged 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care plan who want to find work to develop the skills, knowledge and experience to progress into employment. To access the programme, young people must want to find work at the end of the programme and be able to complete 400+ hours of work experience. Young people are given an opportunity to develop crucial employability skills to get ready for the world of work. The programme partners with a range of providers and businesses to offer interns a 'real world' job experience, nurturing their confidence, professional behaviour and interview skills to set them up for success in paid employment.

Providers we work closely with include Mencap, Choices College (Royal Free & Stanmore Hospital); Harington; Ambitious About Autism (Whittington Hospital), City of Westminster; West Lea.

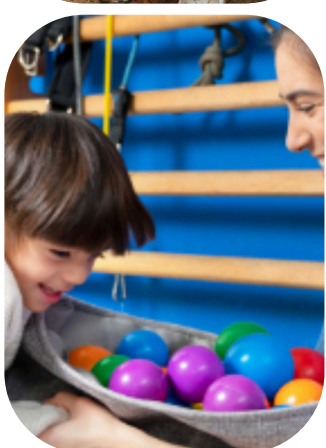
Learners completed placements with employers including Goldman Sachs; Greene King; Brent Civic Office; Royal Free Hospital – various departments; Bella Italia; Royal Sun Alliance; Fair Shot Café; MITIE; Kings College; Westminster City Hall.

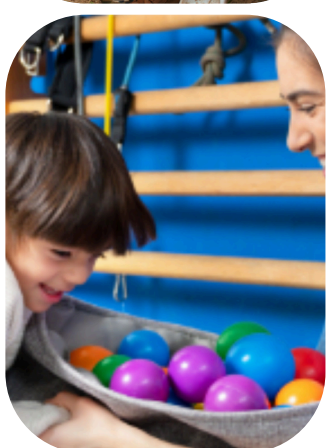
Examples of paid employment roles secured are with the following organisations:

- Tracey Lewis Childcare:** Nursery Asst
- Mandaloun Restaurant:** Hospitality Asst
- Royal Sun Alliance:** HR Administrator
- Harington:** Gardener
- Apprenticeship:** Administration
- Apprenticeship:** Dental Nurse
- Kings College:** Facility Asst
- Royal Free Hospital:** Ward Clerk
- Arts Depot:** Café Assistant & Visitor Services Assistant
- Fair Shot Café:** Events Asst

New 2024 Cohort

Our young people have enrolled on programmes in September and have started their placements which they are enjoying immensely. The Supported Internship Team conduct termly visits to the providers to meet the young people on placement and listen to feedback they have about how they are finding the programme.





In addition to the Supported Internship programme, there is a pre-Supported Internship Programme. This is a study programme that progresses to the Supported Internship in year two. Year 1 is targeted at those who aspire to work but for whom the one-year Supported Internship programme might be too big a step from school or college.

What is included in the programme?

- Minimum of 640 off the job training with Tutor
- Meeting with Level 6 qualified Careers Leader
- Workplace and Employer visits
- Community Impact Project

This year we have 11 learners on the Pre-Supported Internship Programme with Mencap. On Tuesday 19th November, we hosted a cohort who came to visit Colindale Office. These learners met with Neil Marlow, Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning and Herbert McLeod, Mentor Post 16.

Neil provided a comprehensive overview of schools within the borough and the amount of young people BELS assists to achieve their best outcomes.

Herbert delivered a rousing motivational talk on tapping into your potential. They will not forget the illustration of a 25mph Lamborghini!

For further information on these programmes, please contact the Supported Internship Team supported-internships@barnet.gov.uk

Supported Internship Open Day Events

MENCAP

Date: Monday
27th January
2024

Time: 6PM-
7:30PM

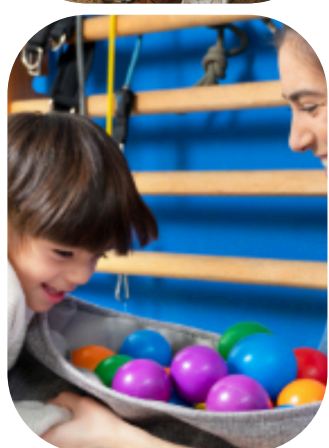
Location: Online

[Link for tickets and more info](#)



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Social Care Occupational Therapy, Children With Disabilities Team

Update on the service:

We continue to have a small but strong and experienced team of three occupational therapists. We assess children of up to 18 years of age generally within their own home, if they have a permanent and substantial disability.

We can provide equipment or adaptations to help a child to be more independent and take part in everyday life more easily or provide assistance to the person caring for them.

Meet the Team

Emma

I qualified from Coventry university with a 2:1 (hons) in Occupational Therapy in 2003 and has worked within management and as a fieldworker within several London Boroughs.

I have worked in Barnet for 7 years and enjoy the different challenges that working within such a diverse borough provides. I have three children who keep me on my toes when I'm not working! I am a keen CrossFit athlete to keep healthy and sane!

Shelley

I qualified in Cape Town in 1995 and has 30 years' experience in a variety of settings, specialising in paediatrics. I like the sun, reading and exercise. I love the diversity of families that I see within the borough and enjoy being part of the team!

Muna

I graduated from South Bank University. I have an extensive experience in working Health and Adult Social Care.

My clinical specialties are in dealing with trauma, orthopaedic, Neurological injuries including head injury and dealing with complex disability and injury management. I have experience in providing assessment compensatory/adaptive interventions for adults and young children with long term disabilities following injury/illness.

I am a keen gardener, enjoy travelling and taking long walks in my local park.

We work closely with our health colleagues, social workers and housing departments.

We see children with a variety of needs, ranging from those who have sustained life changing injuries, to children with rare life limiting genetic conditions.

We don't have a magic wand, but through thorough assessment and collaborative working with others, we will try to reach a solution which promotes a child's independence and wellbeing.



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Barnet Children's Social Care - Its ALL about ME

We believe that every child has the right to a healthy and happy childhood. Our mission is to create a supportive system that meets the needs of children, young people, and families in our borough. By understanding local needs, leveraging the strengths of our schools, communities, and services, we aim to ensure equal opportunities for learning, fun, participation, and thriving. We prioritise the protection of vulnerable individuals and work collaboratively with stakeholders, involving children, young people, and families in the development of our services.

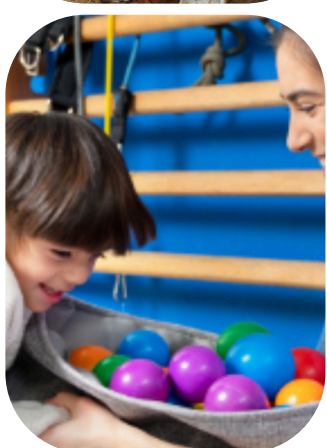


Key areas of our work

- Early help, diversion, prevention and targeted support, statutory assessment and child protection services.
- Multi-agency safeguarding, support for children in need, youth justice, extra-familial harm, working with victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Children in care and care experienced young adults, support for children with disabilities.
- Children and young people's mental health services, parenting support, fostering, support for special guardians and connected carers and a wide range of commissioned services.
- Barnet has one of London largest public library services, providing local cultural venues at the heart of our communities.

We have created a presentation covering how to get in touch, what we do, and many more things we think is useful to know.

[Click here to download and view our complete presentation.](#)

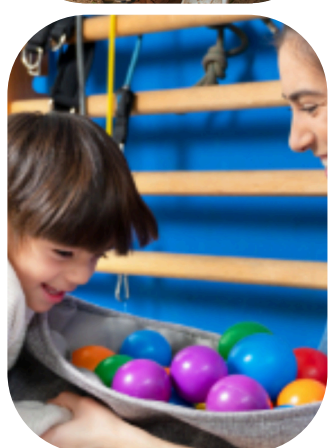


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Interview with Hannah McNally, Autism Project Lead, Barnet Children's Services



I have worked in Barnet since 2016 as a Team Manager in Leaving Care and a Team Manager in the Children In Care Team for the last 6 years. In both of my previous roles in Barnet, I have worked with a lot of children and young people with Autism and wanted to extend on my current knowledge and skillset and continue creating a difference for families and young people in the borough. In January 2024 I became Autism Project Lead for family services.

My role has had several parts. Initially I led on accurate recording of the needs of all children and young people who are diagnosed autistic. This ensured their needs were accurately recorded on the system; providing the service with a bigger picture of the needs of the service users and improved our tracking through assessments.

It has been identified in Barnet that there was a need for more focused work around Autism across the borough. For our families it can be a minefield seeking out what is available across the council for families and young people, whether they are pre or post diagnosis. An Autism Pathway document has been created with input from voluntary services, social care, education and health which will

support families and professionals to be able to access the information, and therefore support they need, at whatever stage they are on in their journey. It is envisaged that this will help in reducing the stresses and pressures on families and clearly identifying what support they can expect to receive at whatever stage of their autism journey. This will improve the support families know they can access in Barnet as well as being a useful tool of information for professionals supporting the families and liaising with the different services through our Local Offer.

Information about the Autism Hub and pathway document will be added onto the Local Offer for Barnet in the New Year. The Autism Hub is a partnership with Resources for Autism and the aim is to ensure families have access to support when they need it. The steering group for the hub has included many agencies with input from Resources for Autism, Autism Advisory Team, Barnet Parent Carer Forum, Barnet Mencap, Health and Social Care. Traditionally for families, support has been diagnosis dependent and families and young people can be left waiting for a long time with uncertainty and a lack of



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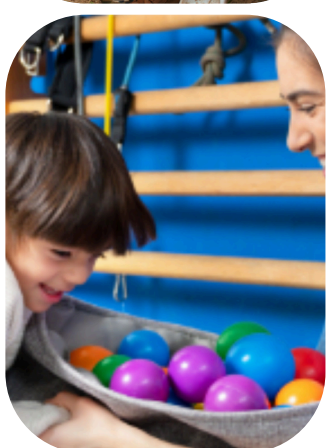


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social opportunities with other parents going through similar experiences and challenges.

The Autism Hub will be a safe place for families to land at any stage, for instance after a difficult drop off at school, a parent / carer can come and be met with someone who can help navigate the challenges they are facing and provide support/signposting. Families will be able to access the support when required and there will be opportunities for support from other therapies across the week. It will be a safe place for families so they do not feel alone and will provide the activities and opportunities to meet others in similar situations. Professionals will support and signpost in different ways to ensure families receive services most appropriate and available through Barnet's Local Offer.

The Hub will be led by Resources for Autism and in preparation for setting up the hub, there has been commitment across the key agencies. Whilst we acknowledge that we are in a time of austerity, we will provide information to parents and signposting. As time goes on, we will continue to build on our services and support we provide to families and adapt to match the needs of those using the hub.

We plan for there to be an administrator, two senior support

workers and a manager as well as a range of other professionals at different times of the week. This will include Social Workers from the Specialist Autism Team and sessions run by BEAM. The hub will be used by a variety of agencies and there will be multi agency input into the support for families. There will be opportunities for children, parent coffee morning, virtual sessions as well as keynote speakers and access to Q&A sessions with different teams; for example, SEN Team and the Autism Advisory Team (AAT).

There will be offers of hybrid and in person opportunities for sessions for families based around need for example, around eating, sleeping and toileting. In the future once the service has developed further our ambition is to be able to record these and put these out on podcasts to ensure these are accessible for all parents to access at a time suitable for them.

The hub will open in 2025, date to be announced. We look forward to welcoming you.



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Children's Integrated Therapies (CIT) Training Menu

CIT are pleased to share with you the universal training menu for Spring Term 2025 · All sessions are FREE and delivered virtually (via Microsoft Teams), by Barnet Children's Integrated Therapy service therapists · Our training for anyone supporting a child or young person with relevant needs.

[Click HERE to download the full training menu with details of how to book all sessions.](#)



Barnet Parent Carer Forum

Who are the Parent Carer Forum?

We are an independent, voluntary group of enthusiastic, committed parents and carers in the London Borough of Barnet. We work with the local authority to ensure that the voices of our children, young people and their families are heard.



Barnet Parent Carer Forum

So, why join us?...

Parent/carer voice

Help represent the views of parents and carers to give us all a stronger voice, raise awareness of our children's needs, and to help shape and improve services

Information sharing

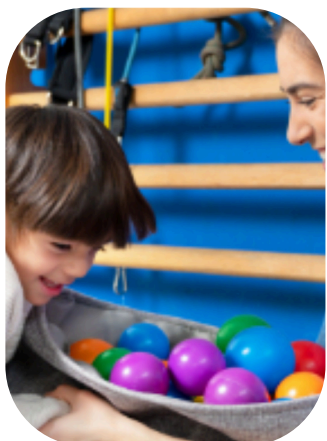
Get timely information on SEND services/support

Events

Hear about SEND conferences, events, consultations, and SEND friendly activities

Contact details

To join us or find out more please visit:
www.barnetpcf.org.uk
or email
info@barnetpcf.org.uk



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