

Let's Talk SEND updates and information

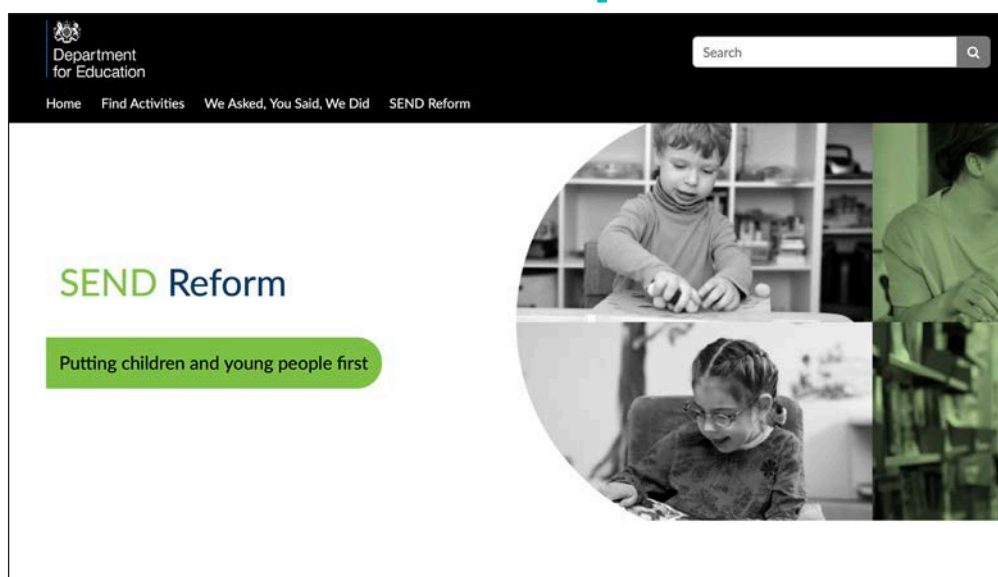
Information on previous and upcoming Let's Talk SEND events and updates on the borough's SEND improvement journey can be found at

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



SEND Reform: Schools White Paper

The government is seeking views through a formal consultation on proposals for SEND reform, alongside publication of the Schools White Paper. The consultation document outlines proposals to improve children and young people's outcomes, make support more consistent, timely and accessible and explain what changes could mean for children and families and those working across education, health, care and local government.



For more information, visit www.gov.uk/dfe/send-reform
www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-send-reforms-sheets

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.

Progress on the Tower Hamlets SEND Co-production Charter

Work to shape the new Tower Hamlets SEND Co-production Charter is moving forward with energy and collaboration. Families, young people and professionals from across the borough have been coming together to help define a shared vision for how services should be designed and delivered — working as equal partners every step of the way.

Information event at the Town Hall

A key highlight was the Let's Talk SEND co-production information event held at Tower Hamlets Town Hall. The event brought together parents, carers, SEND professionals and community organisations for a day of learning and discussion. Attendees heard presentations from Children's Services, SENDIASS and education, health and social care teams, all focused on strengthening local co-production. Information stalls, refreshments and opportunities for conversation helped make the day welcoming and accessible for all families.

Listening to parents, carers and professionals

Co-production depends on meaningful engagement.



As such, the partnership has continued to expand its outreach with families and practitioners. The SEND Co-production Charter working group includes a diverse mix of parents and young people with different needs and experiences. Their insight is shaping key principles of the emerging charter.

Alongside this, SENDIASS has been running Let's Talk SEND co-production information sessions, designed particularly for parents and carers who want to understand co-production and contribute to the development of the borough-wide charter. These sessions provide an accessible

starting point for families to get involved and share their views.

What's next?

As development continues, the charter will move into wider consultation across education, health and social care, ensuring all voices — especially those with lived experience — shape the final version.

By embedding participation into every stage of the process, Tower Hamlets is strengthening its commitment to delivering SEND services that are inclusive, user friendly and built around the needs of local families.



To complete the SEND co-production survey, scan the QR code or click [here](#).
For more information, email mark.penn@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Our Time Youth Forum

Our Time is an all-ability youth forum run for, and by, young people between the ages of 14-25 with special educational needs and disabilities.

It has been set up so that young people can:

- Get their voices heard
- Gain new experiences and skills
- Meet new people and build confidence
- Find out about their rights
- Raise awareness and campaign for change.

For more details or to join the forum,
email ourtimeyf@gmail.com

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 designed to support families with the secondary school transfer process.

The event will include a presentation from the SEN Department on Secondary Transfer, information about independent travel training, and an opportunity to meet secondary school SENCOs.

The Family Information Service will also be available to share information about services that support families and to highlight what is available through the Local Offer website.

Tuesday 24 March 2026, 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 fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk or call 020 7364 6489.

Changes to speech and language therapy referrals

In 2025, the Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Service changed the way children and families access support for communication needs. These changes were introduced to help families receive the right support at the right time.

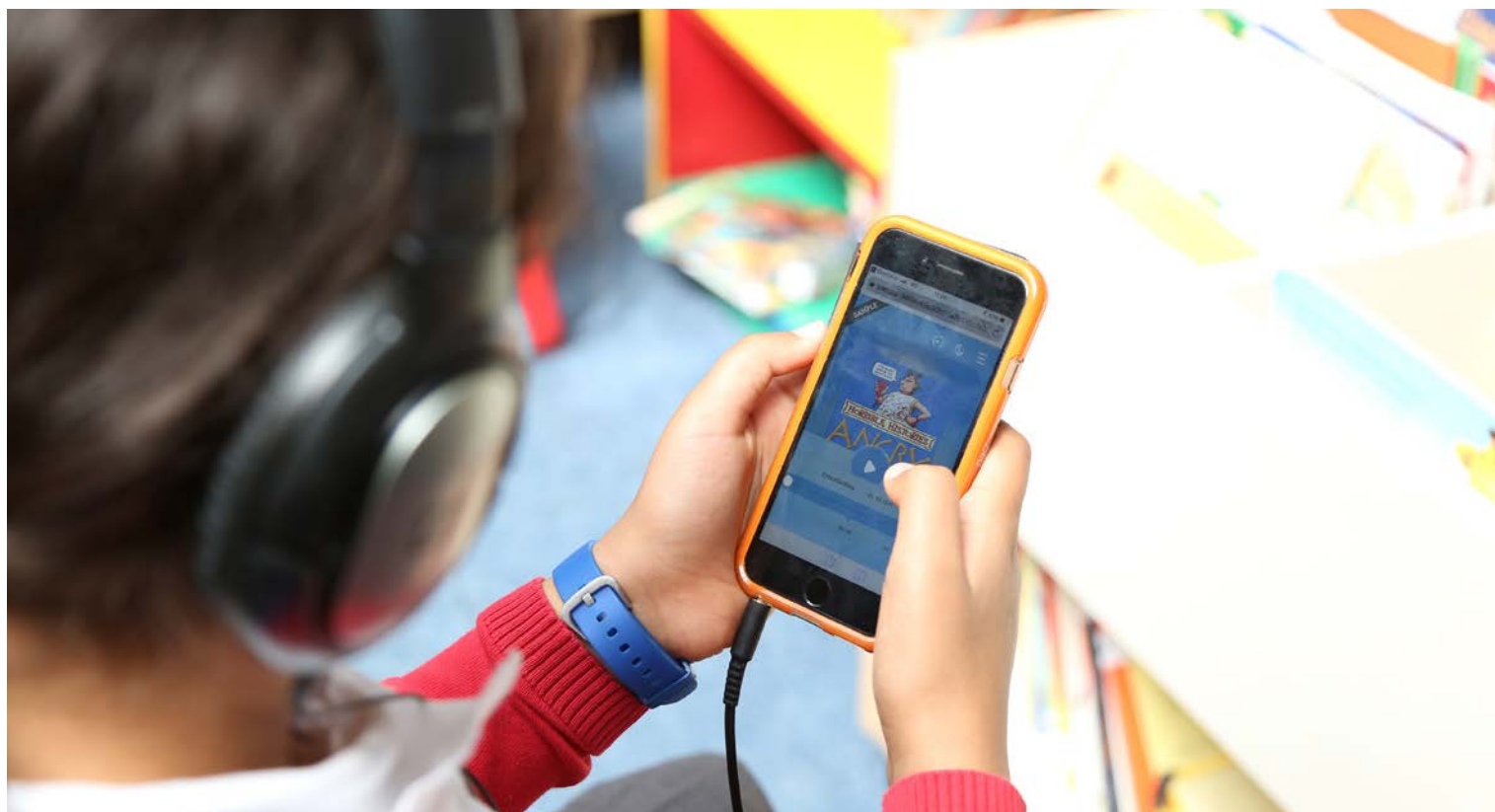
There is now a wider range of support available, from information and advice for families to group sessions and more tailored support for children who need additional help.

Support may be offered online or face-to-face and can be adapted for families who require an interpreter.

When considering a referral, a Single Point of Access (SPA) form may not always be necessary. Families may be able to sign up themselves using QR codes or online forms. However, professionals are encouraged to check whether families need any support to complete the sign-up process.

Scan the QR code or click [here](#) to see the updated pathway. For more information, email bartshealth.earlylanguage@nhs.net





Making reading more accessible for children with SEND

Listening Books is a national audiobook charity that helps children and young people with disabilities, illness or learning difficulties (such as dyslexia or ADHD) access reading. It offers over 10,000 audiobooks for adults, children and teens, including popular fiction, school texts, GCSE/A Level set books and titles to support wellbeing and relaxation.

Membership is open to anyone who lives in the UK with a print impairment. Audiobooks can be streamed or downloaded and can support comprehension, reduce anxiety around reading and help learners engage with school texts at their own pace. Families can join from £25 per year, and free memberships are available for those who need them.

For more details or to join, visit www.listening-books.org.uk/join

SEND Parent Ambassadors available to visit your school or setting

SEND Parent Ambassadors are volunteers who are passionate about inclusion and acceptance of SEND families. The group is pleased to welcome seven new ambassadors, which means there will be even more capacity for outreach work this year.

Ambassadors can visit schools or settings to share their experiences, offer valuable information and signpost families to relevant support organisations.



To request a visit, email sendparentambassadors@gmail.com
For more details, scan the QR code or click [here](#).

Make a difference: Become a Shared Lives carer

Shared Lives carers support adults with learning disabilities from their own homes, helping them to live more independently, take part in their community and manage their health and wellbeing.

Carers are carefully matched with people who share similar interests and values. The role is flexible — either full time or alongside work or other caring commitments. The Shared Lives team provides training and ongoing support.

Carers are paid for the support they offer. Day support is up to £88 for six hours per person. Respite or short-term arrangements pay £82–£106 per night per person. For long-



term placements, carers receive £600–£800 per person, per week, which includes care fees, a rent payment and a contribution towards utilities.

In these placements, the person lives with the carer and becomes part of the household network. Carers can support up to three adults at a time and may benefit from generous tax breaks.

To find out more details, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/sharedlives

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, call 07498 573872 or email thesendforum@gmail.com
www.thesendforum.co.uk

SEND AID FAMILY HUB TOWER HAMLETS

JOIN OUR WEEKLY SEND AID FAMILY HUB SESSIONS IN TOWER HAMLETS

- Sensory and activity rooms for children with autism
- SEND advice clinic; support with SEND law, EHCP, Appeals etc.
- Mother's and Father's lounge
- Siblings activity spaces

FOR CHILDREN AGE 5-16

EVERY Saturday
10.00am – 1.30pm
10th January onwards

OVERLAND FAMILY HUB
60 Parnell road,
Bow, E3 2RU

SUPPORTED BY

Book your place by emailing info@sendaid.org

sendaid.org

 @_sendaid
 Charity Reg No: 1193154

New initiative to support neurodiverse children

The Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) programme is an initiative led by the Department for Education (DfE) that helps schools better understand and support neurodiverse children.

It promotes early identification, timely intervention and stronger collaboration between families and professionals.

PINS brings together the DfE, NHS England, Integrated Care Boards, schools, councils and parent carer forums.

This joined up approach ensures that professional expertise and family insight shape the support children receive.

Staff in participating schools receive specialist training from speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, educational psychologists, mental health support teams and specialist teachers.

During its first year, six Tower Hamlets primary schools took part in the pilot.

Early feedback has been positive and all six schools are continuing into year two, with three more schools joining.

So far, schools have taken part in over 73 hours of training — showing strong engagement from both staff and parents.

The programme supports the Tower Hamlets Strategic SEND Delivery Plan and strengthens the borough's commitment to early, inclusive support for every child.

For more details, email

mehbooba.begum@towerhamlets.gov.uk or
james.courtney1@nhs.net

New autism resource provision opens at Hermitage Primary School

A new, state-of-the-art provision for children with autism has officially opened at **Hermitage Primary School**.

The site, named 'Athena', has been developed following recognition of the need for high-quality, specialist places within the borough, and has been designed to provide tailored support for primary school-aged children with autism.

The facility has been equipped with the latest specialist resources, providing the ideal setting for children with sensory needs and giving teachers the tools to deliver personalised, impactful learning to help all children to thrive.



For more information, scan the QR code or click [here](#).



Tower Hamlets and City
SEND IASS

TOWER HAMLETS

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

