

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 Co-production Charter update

The draft SEND Co-production Charter has now been shared widely with partners, parents, and stakeholders, and has received positive and constructive feedback. Contributors welcomed the clear commitment to strengthening meaningful participation and ensuring that children, young people, and families are at the heart of decision-making.

Feedback has helped to shape several refinements, with suggested amendments incorporated to improve clarity, accessibility and practical application.

Another key development is a co-production workshop that the SEND Parent Ambassadors and SENDIASS will be co-designing and delivering to professionals, families and young people, which will play a central role in bringing the charter to life.

This collaborative approach marks an important step forward in embedding co-production as standard practice across the local area.

If you would like the workshop delivered at your setting, email Mark Penn, Participation and Co-production Officer at mark.penn@towerhamlets.gov.uk or email sendparentambassadors@gmail.com

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



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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.

SEND Parent Ambassadors at Queen Mary University

SEND Parent Ambassadors were commissioned by Queen Mary University of London to create a dedicated sensory space for children attending the Moon Palace & STEAM Activity Fair in March.

The ambassadors created a space themed sensory room featuring a range of interactive elements, including sensory boards, 3D printed fidgets, a plasma ball and sounds.

The space provided a calm, engaging environment for children to explore and enjoy the event.

Feedback from the university, schools and parents was positive, with praise for how the theme was thoughtfully incorporated throughout. The ambassadors look forward to future opportunities to work in partnership with the university.



SEND support group for parents

SEND Parent Ambassadors run a weekly SEND support group every Thursday during term time at the Parents Advice Centre.

The drop-in session offers a chance for parents and carers to connect with others, share experiences and access support.

It can be a helpful way to feel less isolated and learn from families in similar situations. Younger children are welcome, and a diagnosis is not required.

Thursdays
Term time only
10am-12pm
Parents Advice Centre
30 Greatorex Street
E1 5NP

Waiting Well: SEND Parent Ambassadors collaborate for new project

The SEND Parent Ambassadors are working in collaboration with the Autism Diagnostic Assessment Service (ASDAS) to support families awaiting autism assessments.

As part of this work, parent-led workshops are being co-produced and delivered for families on the waiting list. Inspired by Emily Perl Kingsley's poem 'Welcome to Holland', the sessions will offer support and opportunities to connect with others in similar situations.

The workshops aim to create a supportive space where families can share experiences, learn from one another and feel less alone during what can often be an uncertain time. The focus will be on lived experiences, peer support and building better links between families and services.

The first workshop is planned for September 2026, with sessions delivered in English, Bengali and Somali. During the pilot phase, places will be offered to families referred through ASDAS.

For more information on the SEND Parent Ambassadors or to book them for your event, email sendparentambassadors@gmail.com



Understanding Education Health Care (EHC) Plans workshop

Over 50 parents attended an Understanding EHC Plans workshop at the Linc Centre in May, delivered by SENDIASS.

The session brought together parents who were considering applying for an EHC Plan, as well as those reflecting on past experiences. Jenny Miller, Manager, SENDIASS, FIS and Transitions, gave an overview of the process, including eligibility, key steps and appeals, helping to make a complex system easier to understand.

Many parents arrived with little knowledge but left feeling more informed and confident. Those who had been through the process before said the session refreshed their understanding and added new insight.

There was plenty of time for questions, with space to explore general concerns as well as individual situations. SENDIASS staff shared details on how to access further support, which a number of parents followed up on after the session.

Feedback was very positive, with parents appreciating the clear jargon-free explanations and open discussions.

For more information email
TowerHamlets&City.SENDIASS@towerhamlets.gov.uk

New mentoring programme for young people with SEND

SENDIASS are developing a mentoring programme for young people with SEND in Tower Hamlets. The aim is to match mentees with mentors who can provide tailored advice on education, careers and navigating challenges in life, while supporting young people to build self-confidence and self-esteem. The programme will offer flexible and accessible one-to-one support from qualified mentors throughout the year.

It is designed as a dynamic and engaging programme, creating a framework for mentors and mentees to get to know one another and identify areas where support or signposting to partner organisations may be needed.

Mentees will have opportunities to build friendships, expand their networks and discover new hobbies and interests. Mentors will offer experienced and trusted advice as young people explore new opportunities and develop confidence through positive engagement.

For more information contact
Alison McCloskey,
SEND Young People's Development Officer
Email: alison.mccloskey@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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.thsendforum.co.uk

Children processing grief and loss



Local parent Rizia wanted to share a moving poem by her son Sulaiman written after the sad passing of his grandmother.

Grief and loss is a very difficult concept to understand and internalise for all children, but especially for SEND / neurodiverse children.

I wanted to share the thoughts and feelings of my ten-year-old son, Sulaiman, which have been put together as a poem. I hope this can be a precious voice and an advocate for children with SEND.

Rizia

Sulaiman's Poem

Dear Nanu,

I miss you in the apartment.
It feels a little too quiet without your smile in the rooms.
I don't want you to go to heaven now.

I remember in Saudi Arabia,
Your lungs were stronger, your breathing was brave, like a superhero getting better.

When will you come back home? I miss you Nanu. I don't want you to die. I don't want you to go back to Allah. Where are you Nanu? Why did your lungs get weak?

I keep looking at the door, waiting for your footsteps, waiting for your hug.

Until then, I keep you in my heart,
like a warm little light that never goes out.

From your grandson,
Sulaiman Usaid Miah

Supporting children with SEND to travel independently

Supporting children with SEND to travel independently is a key step towards building confidence, safety and everyday life skills.

Tower Hamlets Council's Independent Travel Team recently delivered a series of practical training sessions to help children with SEND feel more confident getting to and from school.

Working alongside Transport for London (TfL) and the police, the sessions focused on real situations children face every day. From learning how to cross the road safely to recognising and boarding a bus, each step was broken down into clear actions.

For many families, travel can be a source of worry. These sessions aim to ease that pressure, helping children build confidence while giving parents reassurance that they are developing the skills to navigate their local area independently. It's part of the council's wider work to support children and young people with SEND to develop the skills they need for everyday life.

To find out more, scan the QR code or click [here](#).

