

Barnet SEND Newsletter

Summer 2018
Issue 1



In Barnet, we have a shared approach to recognising and addressing the needs of those children and young people who have any additional needs.

Across Family Services, Education and Health, and with a wide range of other partners, we are jointly committed to working towards the notion of a “Family Friendly Barnet”. This is across all of our services and in making sure that parents, carers and young people know what is going on and how best to get involved and influence the way services are planned, delivered and evaluated.

With this in mind, as well as the excellent work which some of you are involved in through Barnet’s Parent Carer Forum, we have now agreed to produce a regular newsletter. This is the first edition and will outline what is currently taking

place in the world of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, advise you of any engagement or consultation activities taking place and give you information about any reports or evaluations that have been undertaken.

We are always interested in the views of our parents, carers and children and young people. If you would like to make a contribution to a future issue of this newsletter or have any ideas on what you would like to see in it, please contact SENDLocalOffer@Barnet.gov.uk.

**Kay Matthews, Chief Operating Officer
(Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group, CCG)**

**Chris Munday, Strategic Director of Children
and Young People (Barnet Council)**



Upcoming SEND Events

SEND Conference

- Thursday 14 June
- 9.15am to 2.30pm
- Ariana Hall (North London Business Park, N11 1NP)

A free conference for Barnet parents, carers and professionals.

It has been developed to ensure the Barnet community has an opportunity to gain greater awareness of SEND developments, structures and services in Barnet from key professionals and senior leaders across education, health and social care.

Barnet Local Offer Update

Coming soon! Our new 'Local Offer' website will provide clear, accessible information about the provision available across education, health and social care for children and young people with SEND in Barnet. This includes children/young people with SEND who do not have an EHCP.

The website is aimed at anyone who might be seeking advice or guidance on special educational needs or disabilities, including parents and carers and a wide range of professionals. A dedicated youth section will follow later in the year and we hope to get as many young people as possible involved in developing the content for their own area of the website.

We listened to feedback on our local offer, and the new site will be available in a range of accessible formats, be much easier to navigate and will include a wide range of information covering ages 0-25.

The new website will 'go live' on 14 June. In the interim, we're looking for people to get involved in testing the site. No need for any technical knowledge (in fact, less techie is better), so if you're interested in trialing the test site and giving your feedback, please contact

Janice.horslen@barnet.gov.uk.



Tell us what you think about transitions from children to adult health services

Working with the Barnet Parent Carer Forum, we are looking to improve communication and processes around transitions from Paediatric to Adult Health Services in Barnet for young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND). We will be holding focus group sessions with young people and their families who have recently or will soon go through transition from children to adult health services. Focus groups will be held in the week commencing 25 June and aim to get your views about how we can improve the process of transition and communicate accurate and timely information about transitions in health services. There will also be surveys circulated for young people and parents to complete prior to focus groups taking place.

We'd love for you to get involved- if you are interested in attending a focus group please email Rebecca.Harris@Barnet.gov.uk.

Update from Education

Within SEND and Inclusion we have been trying hard to ensure that there is an extensive offer for our Barnet parent community (e.g. training events, workshops, drop-ins). Also, we are aiming to increase the levels of participation and coproduction with regards to how we design, implement and review our service delivery.

Our parent drop-in initiative started with our Specialist Inclusion Services and Educational Psychology Team. The aim was to provide a regular opportunity for Barnet parents to access a 1:1 session with a professional to discuss any aspect of a concern or issue they may have (to help move the situation forward). These sessions have been hosted by schools and settings across the borough and they occur on a 6 week cycle. Overtime this project has generated interest and grown; we now have professionals across education, health and social care contributing to this initiative. We have asked all parents who access the sessions to provide feedback, which has been overwhelmingly positive so far. We have also ensured parents' feedback informs future planning and development of the drop-in sessions.



“I feel more confident. I know what to do next and I feel relieved to see there are specialists at work.”

“It was so helpful to speak to someone about my concerns. Knowing the next steps and how to move forward.”

For more information our parent drop-ins and other opportunities for parents to access support, please visit the Barnet local Offer events page and also the You Said - We Did page.

New integrated therapies service in Barnet



The new Children and Young People (CYP) Therapies team will bring together staff from Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy to provide services for children and young people aged 0-19 across Barnet, and up to 25 years for young people with an EHCP, bringing all these services under one provider.

From 1 September 2018 Barnet's Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, including Social Care OT will be joining North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT). NELFT already provide an extensive range of integrated community and mental health services for people living in the London boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest and community health services for people living in the south west Essex areas of Basildon, Brentwood and Thurrock.

The priority of The London Borough of Barnet and Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group was to secure the best possible service for Barnet children, young people and their families. NELFT has been appointed following a comprehensive procurement which saw each bid evaluated against a range of criteria which focused heavily on the quality of service which will be provided and how the provider will engage and involve children, young people and their families in their health care.

CYP Therapies will continue to provide support, resources and advice to parents, early years settings and schools.

In selecting a new provider, both organisations have worked with our local community to deliver a truly joined-up, seamless accessible service that will deliver value for money and meet people's needs. This is designed to improve the overall health of children, young people and their families in Barnet. All the organisations involved will work closely together in the run up to early September to make sure that the service transfers smoothly without disruption for our children and young people.

Over the next few weeks and months regular updates on developments including telephone numbers, email addresses and the new referral form will also be made available.

A representative from NELFT will also be at the SEND conference on 14 June and will be able to answer your questions and provide more information about the integrated therapies service.

If you have any questions or queries please contact anita.harris3@nhs.net Children's Joint Commissioning Manager, London Borough of Barnet and Barnet CCG.