

BARNET Special Educational needs and Disability (SEND) Conference - 14th June 2018

Feedback Summary

Collation of information received through Evaluation Questionnaires completed



Barnet launched its first annual SEND Conference in April 2017 and on June 14th 2018, our second annual SEND Conference took place with over a 160 attendees (majority of attendees were parents / carers of children and young people with identified SEND).

Barnet's annual SEND conference for Barnet parents, carers and professionals was jointly organised by education, health, social care and representatives of the Barnet SEND parent / carer community and took place on 14th June 2018. The conference was developed to ensure the Barnet community have 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.

Following feedback from those parents / carers who attended in 2017, an external keynote speaker was identified to present at our 2018 SEND conference. This year we were delighted to welcome Barry Carpenter, CBE, OBE, PhD as our key note speaker who in a career spanning 30 years has held a variety of leadership positions in schools, local authorities and nationally. Barry also brought his perspective as a father to his child with special educational needs to what was a very powerful, informative and well received session titled *'Engaging Learners with Complex Needs; the 21st Century Challenge.'*

The 2018 Barnet SEND Conference aimed to:

- provide an update on the developments from education, health and social care, since the last conference in April 2017 with regards to meeting the needs of children and young people (0-25) with SEND in Barnet.
- launch Barnet's new and improved 'Local Offer' website.
- offer a question and answer panel to provide an opportunity for parents / carers and professionals to pose questions and hear responses from senior professionals across Barnet SEND services
- hear from Barnet's Parent / Carer Forum (BPCF) about their role and work they are currently undertaking
- offer an opportunity for a range of services and voluntary organisations to 'run' information stalls at the conference for parents and professionals to visit during breaks to gain further information

The overall day was evaluated very positively with attendees indicating they valued the conference, it was relevant / purposeful and the information was delivered well. The 74 attendees who completed the questionnaire responded to a number of statements, by selecting a ranking number on a sliding scale of 1-10 (1 indicating 'completely disagree' and 10 indicating 'completely agree'). For the statement *'I would recommend this conference to parents & carers (of children and young people with SEND)'* the average response was 9.0, illustrating how positive and useful the conference was perceived.

Questionnaire – Evaluation of the Barnet SEND Conferences (April 2017 compared to June 2018)

STATEMENT	2017 = 55 responses	2018 = 74 responses
	Average Scaled Score 2017	Average Scaled Score 2018
Attending the Barnet SEND Conference was a positive experience	8.5	8.9
The conference content was relevant and appropriate for the audience	8.5	8.7
The information was presented clearly and effectively	8.3	8.8
There was helpful information that can positively impact my own child’s learning / development	7.5	7.6
I would value more events / training on SEND issues	9.3	9.1
I would recommend this conference to parents & carers (of children and young people with SEND)	8.9	9.0

The majority of areas received a more positive response (indicated by number highlighted green in above table) when compared to the 2017 SEND conference feedback to the same statements. The one area that reduced slightly related to the statement: ‘I would value more events / training on SEND issues’ (average score reduced from 9.3 in 2017 to 9.0 in 2018); however it is hypothesised this is a result of more SEND events and workshops being provided by SEND and Inclusion Services in Barnet and more parents accessing these events.

More specific information / feedback was requested regarding Barnet’s SEND offer. The majority of areas that feedback was requested on, had improved in comparison to the 2017 SEND conference feedback (same questionnaire utilised in 2017 and in 2018). Only one area observed a lower rating and this was the statement: ‘There is clear and accessible information on how to access Barnet SEND services’. The new Local Offer page which was launched on June 14th at the 2018 SEND conference aims to directly address this area and we hope parents / carers will observe tangible improvements with regards to the availability and accessibility of this information.

Although positive progress was observed in the evaluations, feedback also indicates that further work and efforts are required in Barnet to ensure parents and carers of children and young people with SEND are completely confident and happy with the SEND support and provision available. Below is an overview of some of areas highlighted in the parent feedback and the resulting developments / response.

SEND Conference Parent feedback – Developments and Response

Areas	Barnet response / SEND developments
<p>Clear and accessible information is available on how to access Barnet SEND services</p>	<p>Barnet have launched their new SEND Local Offer page which has been designed to create a more effective and positive user experience. The search engine function has been improved, there is a greater visual component to the site and it is designed to be simpler to navigate and find relevant information. The positive features from our previous Local offer page still exist (e.g. local offer events page, choice of languages). Our Local Offer aims to provide clear and accessible information on how to access SEND services.</p> <p>Visit the local offer via the following link: https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/</p>
<p>Opportunities for coproduction with Barnet SEND services</p>	<p>Coproduction continues to be an area that we are committed to develop. Below are some recent examples of coproduction with our parent / carer community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-designing, planning and delivering SEND training / workshops (Annual SEND conference April 2017 & June 2018, Education SEND conferences Sep 2017 and Oct 2018, Health Conference Feb 2018 and Feb 2019, Physical Difficulties Conference Oct 2018) • Barnet Integrated therapies contract procurement • Barnet Short Breaks Offer • Preparing for Adulthood 'Transition Protocol' • Parents / carers integral to our five Leading Edge Groups (driving the SEND agenda in the five focus areas) • How to access services – 'messages for parents by parents' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See the recent Educational Psychology whiteboard video that parents coproduced (and narrated) to explain how to access this service
<p>Achievement of C/YP with SEND in Barnet</p>	<p>National attainment and progress data, indicates that Barnet children and young people identified with SEND (those at SEN Support and EHCP level) attain and progress at higher rate than comparable cohorts nationally.</p> <p>This information is shared annually at SENCO conferences, however it is acknowledged that these figures are not circulated to our parent / carer community. Moving forward we will aim to publish these figures / data on our Local offer page and also provide a link via our SEND newsletter.</p>

	<p>Achievement is also a much wider term and does not only refer to educational attainment. There are other ways we define achievement and this was recently addressed at our 'SEND -Promoting Independence' parent workshop (access via this link) that focused on preparing for adulthood from pre-school all the way to 25 years of age.</p>
<p>Identification of Children and Young People (C/YP) with SEND</p>	<p>Barnet recognise that there is a need for greater consistency in the identification of SEND. We are actively addressing this area and have recently developed and published (on Local Offer page) our new SEND Toolkit to ensure greater consistency across settings and services with regards to the identification of SEND.</p> <p>The identification of SEND has also been a focus at a recent Barnet school SENCO conference (over 80 schools attended) to highlight this area, create awareness and improve consistency.</p>