

SEND Conference

Ofsted/CQC SEND Assurance visit – feedback
Draft SEND Strategy 2021 – 2024

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Context of the Ofsted/CQC SEND Assurance visit to Barnet

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are undertaking 18 SEND assurance visits, looking at:

- The impact of Covid-19 on children and young people with SEND and their families;
- Learn from what has happened;
- Identify things that can be approved;
- Findings published after visits to six Local areas
- Not an inspection of the Local area
- 3 day visit to Barnet, 12 – 14th October. Three inspectors: 2 Ofsted and 1 CQC;
- Surveys to parents, children and young people; four case studies; meetings with practitioners.

Key findings

- We have listened to the views of families of children with SEND, and have a good understanding of the issues faced by many families during the pandemic.
- Strong partnership working across health, education and social care in Barnet have helped to enable services to work differently and target the needs of families.
- Statutory and other processes have kept going, including Education, Health and Care Needs assessments and issuing of EHC Plans. New Plans have been audited to ensure quality is maintained throughout. Placement panels have taken place. 'Virtual' annual reviews have been held.

Key findings

- Regular contact and communication from trusted practitioners has been a 'lifeline' for many families of children with SEND;
- The delivery of most services has been disrupted by Covid-19;
- Online support has its benefits, but there are limitations when it comes to assessment and teaching of some children with SEND. Most services have now moved to a 'blended approach' – using a combination of online support and face-to-face meetings.
- For some young people, particularly those with profound and significant special educational needs, they will have 'lost learning' and may have regressed in some areas of their development.

Our response to Covid-19

- Wellbeing groups and workshops delivered by the Barnet Integrated Clinical Service (BICS), with a focus on returning to school as part of our Back to School campaign.
- Strong public health support to all schools in Barnet including sign off of risk assessments.
- Expanded KOOTH (our commissioned online counselling service). KOOTH counselling hours have increased by 37%.
- Increased CAMHS contacts and established a 24 hour Mental Health crisis line.
- Laptops provided for vulnerable children/young people to access on-line learning.

Our response to Covid-19

- Maintained business as usual approach to EHCP processes (over 95%) and quality assurance of new EHCPs. Held conferences and training sessions for SENCO's and Teaching assistants in schools.
- We have finalised the Autism strategy and planning has started.
- 'Open spaces' project for families of children/young people with Autism/learning difficulties across four venues from April 2020. 101 sessions have been taken up by families, some using the spaces multiple times.
- We have further developed the Local Offer, including information on Home learning; Person-Centred Planning Tools; 'Learning from Lockdown'; Barnet Transition Passport.

Our response to Covid-19

- EP team ran training for school staff on loss, bereavement, and anxiety and supporting schools that suffer bereavements in their communities e.g. death of pupils, staff and parents.
- We have worked together across 0-25 Team, the voluntary sector and SEN Transport to develop and deliver Autism packs to children/young people with Autism. Resources for Autism created Home Isolation packs (sensory equipment/anxiety activities/ positive behaviour strategies) for 159 families that were delivered directly to families using Barnet SEND transport.
- Barnet took part in a “Lost Learning” project with five other London LAs which involved speaking with schools and students, focussing on Year 5 and 6 in primary and Year 11,12 and 13 in secondary and are using the materials to support “emergency schooling”. The learning will inform next steps in Barnet.

What has been the impact of what we have done?

- 1,580 participants have accessed joint training sessions for schools, parent carers and nurseries run by the EP Team. 99% have agreed/strongly agreed with the positive statements about the usefulness and relevance of the training.
- Increased engagement with the LO (2366 users in March; 3924 in June).
- 83 families were offered a session at the 'Open Spaces' project. 60% took up the offer and 20% returned more than once. 101 bookings have been taken up by families to date.
- Attendance of children/young people with an EHCP in schools is higher than the national average.
- Short breaks provision was adapted to provide support in new ways. 130 families access support from 5 providers, 359 playscheme sessions and 536 1-1 sessions were accessed. 370 families made use of a personal budget to access support.

Priorities for the Local area

- Build on what we do together to further strengthen the voice of children and young people with SEND and their families through co-production and person-centred planning.
- Continue to support families so they feel confident about their child returning to school.
- Extend our 'reach' and engagement with families of children and young people with SEND to ensure their voices are heard.

Priorities for the Local area

- Build on strong partnership working across health, education and social care to enhance information sharing and co-production.
- Building on the 'Lost Learning' report, co-produce new approaches to support learning and development of children and young people with significant and complex needs, who are unable to attend education provision.
- Formalise arrangements for using a 'blended approach', including face-to-face contact for some assessments and for those families who are digitally isolated.

Draft SEND Strategy 2021 - 2024

- We have drawn on feedback and other information over the last 18 months to draft a new SEND Strategy.
- It is a strategy for everyone who supports children and young people with SEND and their families.
- It links with other key strategies, including the Education Strategy, School Improvement Strategy and Life Chances Strategy.
- Consultation on the strategy will be from end of November to end of December 2020.
- An Action Plan will be developed to drive forward the changes and developments. This will be in place early Spring 2021.

Draft priorities

- *Priority 1: To ensure that we are working in a Family Friendly way and co-production is central to our work.*
- *Priority 2: To minimise the long-term impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the attainment, achievement and psychological wellbeing of children and young people with SEND.*
- *Priority 3: To ensure sufficient high-quality provision in borough for children and young people with complex needs, including Autism.*
- *Priority 4: To ensure effective joint commissioning with clear pathways of support from Early Years through to adulthood.*

Draft priorities

- *Priority 5: In line with Resilient schools, develop greater confidence, skills and competencies in mainstream schools to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND.*
- *Priority 6: Champion the educational progress and attainment of pupils with SEND.*
- *Priority 7: Develop resilience in young people with SEND to promote independence.*