

# Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Newsletter

## Barnet Children's Integrated Therapies – Update

The Barnet Children and Young People's Integrated Therapy (CIT) Service is made up of Physiotherapists (PT), Speech and Language Therapists (SLT), Occupational Therapists (OT) and Integrated Therapy Assistants. The work we do is supported by our Children's Integrated Care Liaison Officers (CICLO), and by our admin team.

### Introduction – Raj Guruchandran

I am a Physiotherapist by profession and have been a frontline clinician for over 15 years working across several health care systems in India, Ireland and UK. I have worked mainly in adult neurology and paediatrics and have been a clinical lead in Enfield. During my time there, I led the service redesign project integrating the Physio and Occupational therapy teams and presented this as a part of my PG certification in Leadership at the Middlesex University.

More recently, I was involved in setting up the Rapid response service for Adults and older people in the borough and have been an active participant in a number of North Central London (NCL) adult work streams.

With a keen interest in Service Development and Quality Improvement I joined NELFT as Head of Service for Children's integrated therapies, Barnet in October 2019 and lead on the service re structure and Integration.

I believe in the famous quote by Mark Twain "Continuous improvement is better than delayed Perfection"



### Upcoming SEND Events

Please note, due to the Government restrictions to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, the SEND events will be cancelled until further notice. We are, however developing more online resources and helpful information for families and professionals. These will be put on to the Local Offer website. Please keep looking on the Local offer website for regular updates.



The Children's Integrated Care Liaison Officer (CICLO) is a new role for Barnet CIT. The CICLOs are the first point of contact for parents/carers to advise on the service offer, signpost to available support services, advise on waiting times for the service, and coordinate advice on meeting and treatment appointments across the integrated therapy service. The CICLOs support communication between therapists and parents/carers, schools and other professionals.

Hannah Williams, Kuntumie Carew and Beverly Opoku-Boafo job share two full time roles.



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## Who do we work with?

The service sees Children and Young People (CYP) presenting with a range of needs, requiring PT, OT and SLT who meet our entry criteria and live and/or have a GP within the borough of Barnet. We will see CYP between 0 - 25 years of age:

- 0 – 18 years, up to 19 years if in special school
- 19 – 25 years with an EHCP and therapy provision included

The team works with CYP and parents/carers in schools, Children's Centres, clinics and their homes to assess need and deliver therapy.

## How can a CYP access our service?

CYP are referred to our service by educational professionals, parents/carers, and health care professionals including GPs, paediatricians, Health visitors and allied health professionals. The referral form should provide enough information to demonstrate there is a clear need for support from our service.

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Referral forms should be posted or emailed to the service at Children's Integrated Therapies, NELFT NHS Foundation Trust, 3rd Floor, Westgate House, Edgware Community Hospital, Burnt Oak Broadway, HA8 0AD. For further information and to find our referral form please visit our website.

## Service developments to date

- Single access point for all Children's therapy referrals
- Migrated to a single IT system = remote access for all team members to the online care records system. Clinical records integrated for Physio, SLT & OT to allow an integrated therapy approach
- Migrated clinical records of nearly 5,000 children
- Restructured the workforce to create a clear management structure, and the new roles of CICLO, Transitions lead and Transformation and Training lead
- Developed various care pathways making sure the services are truly integrated
- Implementing new integrated model from Summer 2020
- Introduced regular Parent / Carer forums to better understand the needs of our service users and jointly develop service pathways and provision
- Embedded a range of different Parent Workshops to upskill parents to support the needs of the CYP who are referred to our



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## Barnet with Cambridge Education and Barnet Parent Carer Forum EY SEN conference 2020

The first EY SEN Conference was held on 15 January 2020, jointly organised by Barnet's EY Workstream and the Barnet Parent Carer Forum with a key focus on understanding and supporting children with SEN in the EY in Barnet.

Approximately 100 attendees including parents/carers, and professionals including setting staff attended to listen to key-note speaker Anna Gill OBE and expert parent, with workshops provided on topics including communication, transitions and sensory needs coproduced with parents and professionals.

A number of charities and services held stalls including Barnet MENCAP, Barnet Parent Carer Forum, ADDISS, Norwood, Sense Toys, SENDIASS, Child Development Service, Educational Psychology Team, Children's Centres and Early Help, SEN Team, Integrated Therapies and Health Visiting, where time was made for parents, carers, setting staff and professionals to discuss provision and support available Borough-wide.

Parents provided feedback on:

What Worked Well?

- "I valued the key speaker's message that provide hope and her experience. I felt positive about my child's future. I'm pleased to know there are support bodies for my child's needs."
- "I feel confident my quality of life will improve now I have this info."
- "Very solution focused – strategies offered and lots of knowledge shared."
- "Great event! Very useful information and workshops. The event was very well organised."
- "Mixture of parents and educational professionals."
- "Being a professional new to early years I have found the conference extremely helpful particularly the signposting to outside agencies."

## Diversity & Inclusion SENCO Conference

Our Barnet Spring term SENCO Conference was held on 27 February 2020.

The focus of the day was 'Diversity & Inclusion' and we were thrilled to have Sarah Rose (Children & Young Peoples Programme Manager) from Stonewall as our keynote speaker.

[You can find more information about the day on the Local Offer.](#)

## Covid-19 – Information and Advice

We have collected some links to useful information about the Covid-19 outbreak and published these on the Local Offer.

Please [click here](#) to go to the Local Offer.

## What Didn't Work Well?

- "Not to select the sessions but to be able to attend them all"
- "Location – spacing and stalls – very crowded"
- "More practical tips for teachers"
- "It should be a whole day conference – not enough time"

Some data from attendees who completed the feedback form:

- 98.5% said that they agreed/highly agreed that they valued the conference
- Participants felt that they had moved 2.53 points in terms of their knowledge pre-and post-conference on a scale of 1-10

Further training from parents was requested on the following topics: Living with Autism, Attention Autism, ADHD, support to enhance verbal communication, behaviour support, family support, impact on siblings and family, messy play activities, fine motor ideas, potty training, supporting settings to support children with additional needs, medical needs alongside learning needs, EHCPs, sensory needs and how to get support and cope with challenges



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## Did you know about UNITAS?

The Local Offer has been translated into 37 languages and has been co-produced with parent carers, young people and other partners and our data shows increasing use of the Local Offer as the 'go to' place for information about SEND in Barnet. The Local Offer Workstream Steering Group is established and has active representation from the Barnet Parent Carer Forum, Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) for 0 – 25 SEND, Educational Psychology and Specialist Inclusion Services, the 0-25 Team in Family Services, and schools and settings.

The Local Offer Workstream Steering Group [pictured], was hosted by UNITAS Youth Zone for a meeting in January 2020 and were shown round the facilities available for Young People. This infrastructure of facilities is based upon an OnSide Youth Zones 21st Century Youth Facility Model and young people from across Barnet have access to all these fantastic facilities for a cost of £5 for an annual membership and 50p per visit.

The Youth Zone provides a safe environment where young people can come and enjoy themselves and will enable young people to raise their aspirations and confidence to create a happier and healthier generation.

Barnet Youth Zone, named by young people as UNITAS, is an independent charity and is a purpose-built facility for the borough's young people aged 8 – 19, and up to 25 for those with disabilities. It is located on Montrose Playing Fields in Burnt Oak, near to Grahame Park and Colindale, as part of the redevelopment and regeneration of the playing fields.

Focus between the Local Offer Workstream Steering Group and Young People for the Year ahead includes:

- Further developing the Young People's Zone in the Local Offer - Young people are actively involved in reviewing and developing information on the Local Offer, including the dedicated 'Youth Zone'
- Develop a dedicated post-16 Zone for education provider



Working more closely with Barnet Inclusion Next Generation Group - Our Young People's Voice group, 'Barnet Inclusion Next Generation' (BING), is active, well supported and is influencing (or has influenced) the design and content of the Local Offer, the SEND Strategy and the redesigns of CAMHS, therapies, the Autism strategy, transitions and the youth service.

Here are a few thoughts from Young People from Mill Hill County High School, who recently visited UNITAS with their Teaching assistants:

- "UNITAS is fundamentally a unique and practical place to work and have fun all under the same roof" – *student AV*
- "UNITAS" is great place to learn, exercise and meet new people" *Student AO*
- "A really fun place in which allows you to go out with friends to a safe, productive environment" *Student NA*
- "Pretty cool place, full of diversity. Everyone is so supportive and welcoming. My favourite activity is table sports" *Student HB*

Teaching Assistant Elijah Wöhner :

*"The facilities UNITAS holds are unprecedented in comparison to most other outdated youth clubs across London. With such a variety of activities, UNITAS is complete in accommodating all youth from various walks of life and cultural backgrounds. UNITAS can be pivotal in keeping young people active and off the streets. UNITAS also has the potential to spark new ideas in young people such as undiscovered passions and future goals. "*

