BELS Barnet Education & Learning Service

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) newsletter

[Local Offer Annual Report 2024/25](#)

[Latest news - Barnet Local Offer website](#)

[EP Team Nurture Schools Project](#)

[BUDDS update](#)

[Parent Carer Forum](#)

[BACE Holidays](#)

DECEMBER 2025

Local Offer Annual Report 2024/25

Our Local Offer Annual Report has recently been published on our Local Offer website.

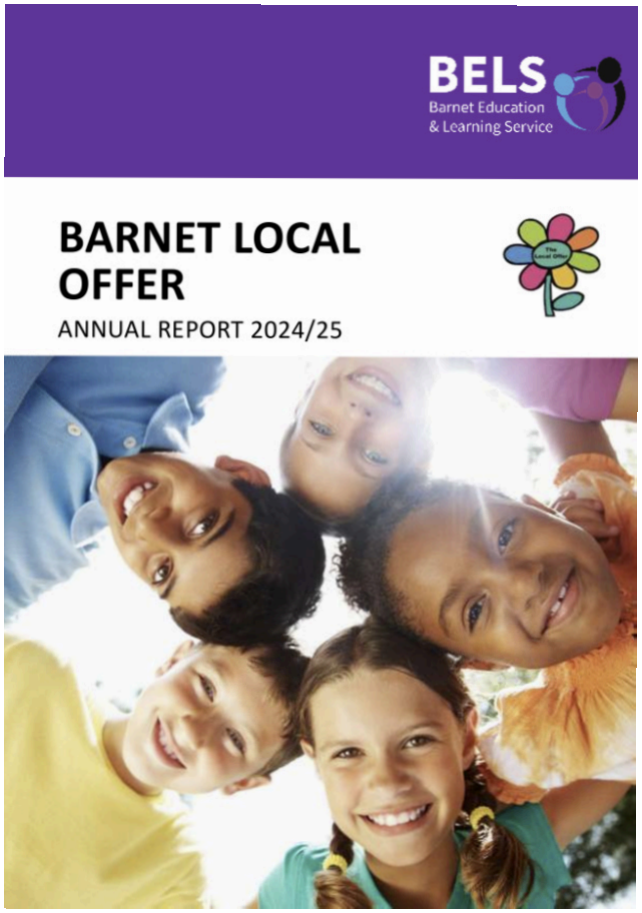
The Annual Report details feedback about:

- What progress we have made with further developing the Local Offer.
- What we have learnt from this and other feedback about how accessible and helpful the information on the Local Offer is.
- Our next steps in further developing the Local Offer.

The report also provides data on how frequently the Local Offer has been viewed to date as well as all the events and activities that have been taking place across Barnet in the last year. To read our recent report click here: **LOCAL OFFER ANNUAL REPORT**

The Annual Report details feedback about:

- ***What progress we have made***
- ***What we have learnt from feedback***
- ***Our next steps in developing the Local Offer***



Barnet Local Offer



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Latest news - Barnet Local Offer website – 'You said, we did'

What you said about our Barnet Local Offer website

Over the past few months, we have been busy gathering feedback from our young people, parent carers and community to hear about their experiences of using the Local Offer website. This has been through a combination of focus group sessions both in person and online as well as a general survey.

In response to this feedback, we recently invited a group of our young people and parent carers to take part in a co-production session to help redesign the homepage of the Barnet Local Offer website: www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk

Purpose of the session

The aim of the session was to improve the homepage to make it more welcoming, easier to navigate and visually engaging while keeping it consistent with the rest of the website.

During the session

Everyone discussed all the different features of the homepage including:

- What works well and what could be improved on the current homepage
- Colour schemes and imagery
- Layout and navigation of key information
- User experience across different devices (phone, tablet, computer)

Both our young people and parent carers shared fantastic and innovative ideas about how we can improve the homepage such as a clear tagline at the top to explain what the Local Offer is and/or a short video tutorial explaining what the Local Offer is and how to use it. A large part of the session focused on how to make information easier to navigate, including the colour schemes and imagery which generated lots of rich discussion.

Next steps

All feedback and ideas shared during the session have directly shaped the new design and look of our new homepage. The proposed new redesign for the homepage has recently been shared with our parents carers and young people, who have given their feedback so we can make those final tweaks!

We are extremely appreciative of the time and insight our young people's and parent carers gave to the coproduction session, are excited to launch our new homepage in the new year so do look out for this!





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THE NURTURE SCHOOLS PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

- Faciliated by Barnet's Educational Psychology team and funded through Barnet's Change Programme, the Nurture Schools Project supports mainstream primary and secondary schools in embedding nurturing approaches to education

IMPACT OF NURTURING APPROACHES

- Increased social and emotional skills
- Improved attendance and attainment
- Increased emotional regulation, supporting behaviour and reducing exclusions
- Positive impact on the whole school

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Access to tailored training, reflective support, and practical strategies that help develop a nurture group and/or embed a nurturing ethos across the whole school community

UPDATES

- Project presented at Headteacher and SENCO conference
- Increasing number of Barnet primary and secondary schools establishing a Nurture Group and/or nurturing approaches to education

CONTACT

- Scan the QR code to register interest in finding out more
- Email megan.kendall@barnet.gov.uk - Assistant Educational Psychologist





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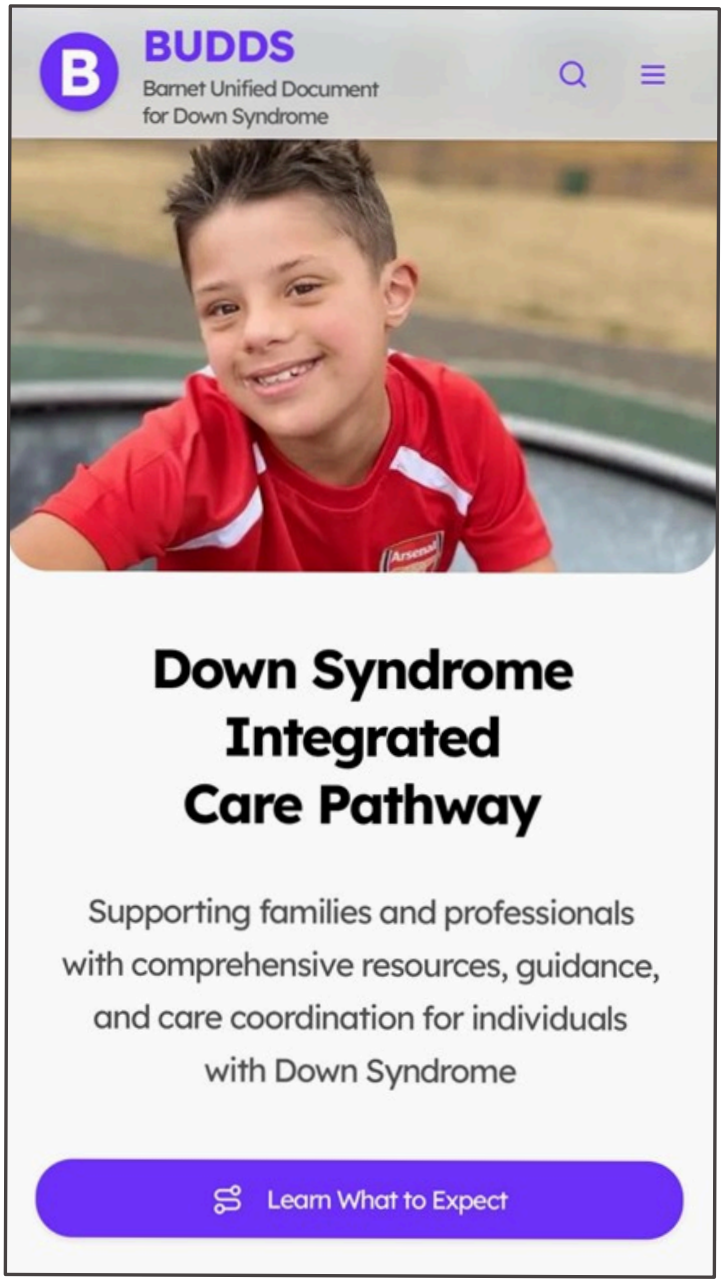






BUDDS update

The Barnet Unified Document for Down Syndrome (BUDDS) pathway was created to support children and young people with Down syndrome, helping families navigate the local Barnet systems across health, education and social care. Co-produced with parents, professionals and those with lived experience, BUDDS aims to ensure families feel informed, supported and connected at every stage of their journey, while offering principles that are relevant to all families of children with Down syndrome.



We are delighted to share that a brand-new **BUDDS website** will be launching before Christmas. It has been redesigned to be easier to navigate, more accessible, and packed with updated information for families and professionals. Impressively, the new site has been designed by a Barnet parent (Michael Wallett) who has a child with Down Syndrome, ensuring lived experience is truly at the heart of how information is shared.

This year, BUDDS also received national recognition. **The Government's draft statutory guidance for the Down Syndrome Act** highlighted BUDDS as an example of good practice, celebrating the way our community, professionals and families work in partnership to improve outcomes.





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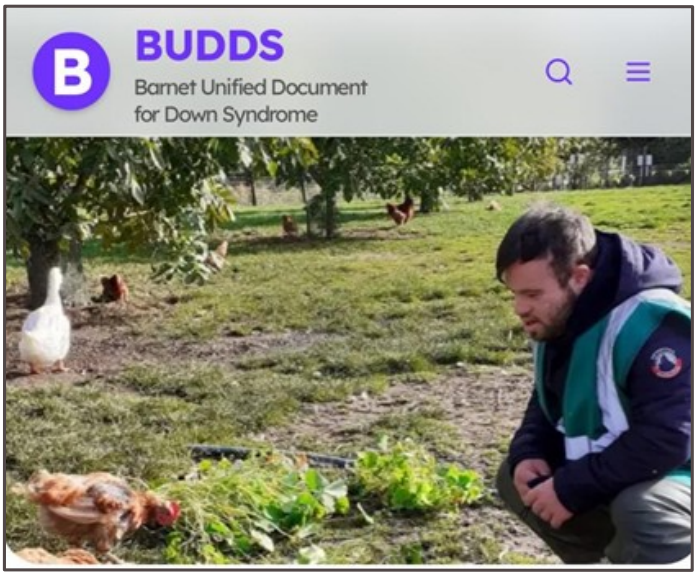






Alongside this, the BUDDS team – driven by Dr Ella Rachamim (Specialist Doctor in Community Paediatrics, Barnet Child Development Team, Royal Free Hospital NHS Trust) and Mrs Sandra Redman (Specialist Down Syndrome Advisor) – has played a crucial role in raising awareness of Down Syndrome Regression Disorder (DSRD). They have developed strong links with Professor Santoro's pioneering team in the United States to help bring knowledge and expertise to the UK. Their work has also helped forge important research collaborations with neuroimmunologists and Great Ormond Street Hospital, bringing hope to hundreds of families seeking answers and support.





None of this would be possible without the strong partnership between families with lived experience and the wider multi-disciplinary team who make up **Barnet's Down Syndrome Leading Edge Group (DS-LEG)**.

We look forward to sharing the new website with you soon – and wish all our families a warm and happy Christmas.

Dr Anna Petsas, Co-author BUDDS





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Who are the Parent Carer Forum?

We are an independent, voluntary group of enthusiastic, committed parents and carers in the London Borough of Barnet. We work with the local authority to ensure that the voices of our children, young people and their families are heard.

Barnet Parent Carer Forum

So, why join us?...

Parent/carer voice

Help represent the views of parents and carers to give us all a stronger voice, raise awareness of our children's needs, and to help shape and improve services

Information sharing

Get timely information on SEND services/support

Events

Hear about SEND conferences, events, consultations, and SEND friendly activities

Contact details

To join us or find out more please visit:
www.barnetpcf.org.uk
or email
info@barnetpcf.org.uk





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BACE HOLIDAYS

PA+ Activities for children and young people all year

Winter Holidays 2025

Now Open for Booking!

Barnet Youth is offering a fantastic range of free winter holiday activities for children and young people across the borough!

Choose from two exciting programmes

Positive Activities – Open to all Barnet young people aged 0–19 (up to 25 with SEND), offering creative, active, and inclusive sessions at local venues. 1 activity per day

BACE Holidays – For children in Reception to Year 11 who receive benefit-related Free School Meals, including fun activities, healthy meals, and wellbeing support. Use your 16-digit Holiday Activity voucher in the cart when booking to verify your eligibility. Up to 4 days of activities (1 per day)

From sports and arts to cooking and festive fun – there's something for everyone!

Book your child's place now here. Spaces fill quickly!







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