Barnet's Local Area SEND and AP Partnership Annual Survey for Parents and Carers: You Said, We Did

Overview

Following insights from parents and carers in the Local Area SEND and AP Partnership Annual Survey 2026, several recommendations and next steps which aim to improve family lived experiences of the Barnet SEND system are proposed. These insights have been shared with professionals across the partnership. The following recommendations will be continually incorporated into improvement work. We will continue to provide opportunities to provide feedback and share updates.

Proposed Recommendations and Next Steps

1. Barnet services are looking forward to continuing work on the SEND reforms with families as key partners to develop meaningful support and provision.
2. Communications regarding support available must be strengthened. These should be accessible for families and shared across services to promote joined-up working.
3. An improved training offer to build competence and confidence of school/setting colleagues and wider service professionals when supporting families of young people with SEND.
4. Revise communications and support regarding transitions, particularly with a focus on input from Social Care.
5. The local authority strongly support the use of universal language around SEND and should work towards this across schools, settings and services.
6. Strengthen the need's-led based offer in Barnet to support young people without a diagnosis and their families.

1. SEND Reforms

Barnet's response:

- We have been engaging the Barnet Parent Carer Forum (BPCF) to ensure members of the wider Barnet community are engaged in the workstreams around the reforms.
- In October, Barnet Education and Learning Service in collaboration with the BPCF hosted a SEND Reforms Q&A for parent carers. Attendees were invited to contribute to discussions around what they would like to see from Barnet's offer.
- The full slides and key themes from discussions can be found on the Local Offer SEND Reforms page. Click here to view the page
- We are looking forward to continuing to work closely with parent carers as we begin to implement Barnet's Reform Plans. Click here to view Barnet's SEND and AP Reform Plan
- We will update families with further opportunities to share their ideas and feedback via Barnet's Local Offer.

2. Communications regarding support

Barnet's response:

- We have developed a video that showcases programmes taking place as part of our Local Inclusion Support Offer (LISO). Click here to view the video
- There has been substantial work taking place on the Barnet Local Offer website to improve accessibility of information. This includes:
    - The launch of the new Local Offer homepage which has been co-produced with families and young people
    - Appointment of a dedicated Local Offer Coordinator to oversee improvements
    - Ongoing review of the entire site
    - Strengthening representation at the Local Offer steering group to ensure a partnership approach to improvements and communications
- A series of half-termly Q&A sessions are taking place for parent carers on a range of topics with the opportunity to contribute to discussions. Click here for the full schedule
- We are committed to strengthening communications across the partnership to ensure information reaches parent carers from multiple sources.

3. Improved training offer

Barnet's response:

- Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS) have developed a new learning platform that will be free to access for Barnet professionals. This will bring together training resources and lived experience contributions to support high-quality, person-centred practice. The platform is due to launch in Autumn term 2026.
- We will continue to develop a comprehensive training and support offer, including:
    - Barnet Autism Course for Parents and Carers (BACPAC) and Barnet Early Autism Model (BEAM) sessions, which are open to professionals
    - SEND navigators and specialists embedded in Best Start in Life Family Hubs
    - Collaborating on event delivery with Resources for Autism at the Barnet Children and Families Autism Hub

  - Inclusion Advisory Team annual training calendar
  - SEND Early Years training offer
  - Modelling and support from specialist services in the school environment for projects relating to the SEND Reforms
  - School Improvement and Standards Team projects
  - Educational Psychology Team projects, such as the Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) project
  - Embedding the Early Language Support for Every Child (ELSEC) with a dedicated team within BELS
  - Autism Advisory Team Train the Trainer projects
- Barnet value families' contributions as experts by experience to help develop training and in some instances, training is delivered in partnership with parent carers.
- We are committed to ongoing development of meaningful training for professionals across the partnership. We welcome feedback from families and professionals to identify potential gaps in our training offer highlighting areas for improvement.

4. Communications regarding transitions

Barnet's response:

- The annual Planning for Adulthood Conference has successfully been running for two years. This features contributions from young people, parent carers, external agencies and teams with the partnership, including social care. The conference is redesigned each year to incorporate parent carer feedback. Click here to view the 2026 conference slides
- In October, Family Services led a multidisciplinary (including parent carer representatives) Preparation for Adulthood Workshop. Attendees were encouraged to collaborate with a focus on improving the transition for families.
- The Specialist Inclusion Services host an annual Year 6-7 Transition Conference for parent carers. Click here to view the 2026 conference slides
- The Cognition and Learning Leading Edge Group are carrying out work to identify ways that services can improve communications and engagement with transition events.

5. Universal language

Barnet's response:

- This is a continual work in progress. We are working towards this through embedding and implementing universal language in workstreams. Click here to view Barnet's SEND Reform Plan where you can find details about the workstreams
- This is to be addressed by the Experts at Hands workstream and through a task and finish group on the seven areas of need.
- Once agreed, updated position statements will be developed and shared on the Local Offer.

6. Strengthened needs-led based offer

Barnet's response:

- This is a work in progress, to be prioritised across the next three years.
- Reform workstreams, advisory services and Early Help will continue to share and signpost resources available to young people on a need's-led basis.
- We will continue to work closely with organisations that do not require a diagnosis and work well to signpost families appropriately, such as:
    - Barnet Parent Carer Forum
    - SENDIASS
    - Barnet Children and Families Autism Hub
- The NHS Waiting Room highlights support you can get for your wellbeing if you are living in Barnet. It includes local NHS services, community organisation, and SEND-specific support for a range of ages. Click here for the NHS Waiting Room website