

Making a Difference...



contact *For families
with disabled children*

Our Voice sponsored by the Department of Education via Contact

Welcome... to our Autumn 2024 Newsletter

Our Voice has had another busy six months since our last newsletter in the Spring.

We've continued meeting more families at our events including our Spring and Summer family parties and at our first-ever Teen party, which was enjoyed and given a big thumbs up by the young people attending.

Our new 'Our Voice presents: Get to Know...' events for parents have been hugely popular, with the third in our series focusing on Health and Therapies, being held in March.

Our new drop-in sessions at the Ponders End Youth and Family Hub and our coffee mornings at local schools and other organisations, have allowed us to meet more parents at lots of smaller events. See pages 2,3,4,5 and 6 for more information about our past and future events.

We've continued our series of Healthy Parent Carer courses, with our latest sessions including options for translation into some of the most widely spoken community languages in the local area, including Turkish, Somali and Bengali. This has allowed us to be more inclusive and for the wider community to benefit. See page 6 for more information.

Our new joint project with the Joint Service for Disabled Children focuses on Positive Behaviour Support (PBS)



Some of the Our Voice Management Team from left to right: Jackie Pummell, Fazilla Amide, Khilna Gudhka, Natalie Sherman, Liz Willis, Resim Clear, Seema Islam, Natalie Newman, Tee Richards, Rupali Bhullar and Akosua Osei.

Our training workshops for families and drop-in sessions focusing on PBS have already benefitted many families. These events will continue this term and into Spring 2025, so do watch our events page and regular emails for details. If you're not on our mailing list already, please see page 2 for information about joining.

Our work as Parent Carer Forum has grown hugely over recent years and we're starting to restructure our organization to make sure

we're ready for the challenges ahead.

We've continued to be very busy with our core work, ensuring that parent carer views are fed back to the Local Authority and Health, as services are developed and reviewed. It's important that we continue to reflect your views in this way, so please do make sure that you keep feeding back to us whenever you can, through our events, discussions and surveys, or by emailing us or calling our helpline (details below).



New team member

We are delighted to have welcomed a new member to the Our Voice team

We're delighted to welcome new member, Kate Faxen to the Our Voice team. Kate joined us earlier this year and both her teenage children are neurodiverse. Describing herself as a values-led person, who is driven by a desire for social justice, she seeks out opportunities to make systemic changes that can positively impact SEND children. Kate works at Westminster City Council where she has the goal of reducing the gender and ethnicity pay gaps through targeted leadership development and talent management initiatives.

As part of the Our Voice Management team, Kate attends meetings and works with us to make operational improvements so we can increase our impact in a sustainable way.

OUR VOICE UPDATE

OUR VOICE, OUR STORY



left to right: Kate Faxen, Seema Islam, Jackie Pummell, Tee Richards, Khilna Gudhka, Fazilla Amide, Natalie Sherman, Natalie Newman, Ayan Hassan and Akosua Osei.

Who are we?

We're the recognised Parent/Carer Forum for the London Borough of Enfield: a voluntary, parent-led organisation supporting and bringing together families with children/young people aged 0-25, who have a SEND (Special Educational Need or Disability) within the borough.

We aim to improve services for our families in Enfield by collaborating with the Local Authority and Health, as well as Voluntary Sector Organisations and Schools.

We're funded by the Department for Education via Contact (a national charity) but most of the team work on a voluntary basis. Our Voice is part of the national organisation, the National Network of Parent Carer Forums.

How do we represent you?

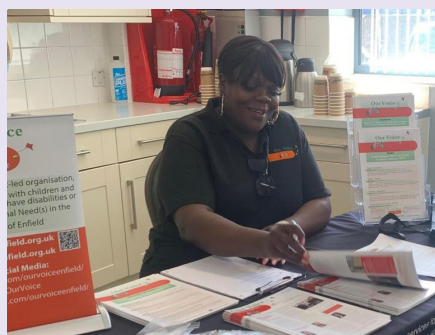
Under the Children and Families Act 2014 it's a key duty for Local Authorities to fully involve families, children and young people in the decisions that affect them.

Therefore we:

- Provide opportunities for the LA and Health to consult with families
- Represent our members' views on key issues at meetings
- Run successful parents' conferences annually for the last 7 years and now smaller and more frequent conferences focusing on specific areas
- Collaborate to problem solve, support and overcome challenges
- Help shape service provision where possible

What do we do for families?

- Provide trusted information and informal advice, guidance and signposting via our website, helpline, email or social media. See right for all Our Voice contact details
- Deliver regular workshops and information sessions (online or in person) on topics such as helping your child manage and communicate emotions, choosing a primary school, sleep, wills and trusts
- Hold parent carer conferences focusing on specific areas such as Health, SEN Services or Social Care. These crucial events give parents and carers an unparalleled opportunity to put their views and concerns directly to the decision-makers in the LA and Health
- Offer vital drop-in sessions at the Ponders End Family Hub
- Run courses such as the Healthy Parent Carer Programme
- Run social events and family fun days
- Attend coffee morning sessions at schools, voluntary sector organisations and coffee shops.
- Provide information through our weekly updates and our twice-yearly newsletter



Join our Mailing list

Members of the Our Voice mailing list get regular weekly updates with information useful for the families of children and young people with SEND. As a member, you will:

- Hear about our events before we communicate them more widely, giving you a chance to book early. This is important because places are often limited and some of our events (like our parties for families) are very popular, meaning that they are sometimes fully booked within a few days and never offered more widely.
- Get to know about other events and activities including local play and leisure activities for children and young people with SEND and information events and support groups for parents and carers.
- Be informed on updates to changes in SEND services from the Local Authority and Health, and on national developments that will affect children and young people with SEND and their families.
- Have your say on changes that affect SEND services locally and nationally.

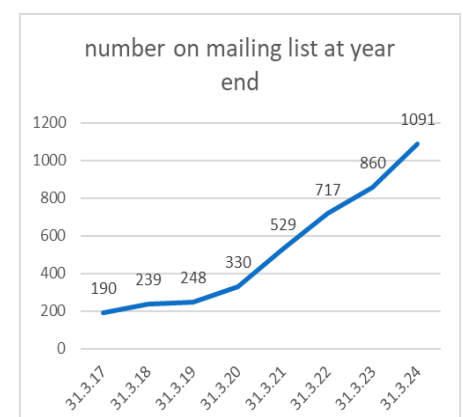
You can join the mailing list in several ways:

email info@ourvoiceenfield.org.uk, call 07516 662315 or sign up at our website at https://www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk/contact_us

You can also follow us on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ourvoiceenfield/> and on Twitter@EnfieldOurVoice and our Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/ourvoiceenfield/>

Membership report

Our numbers have grown steadily over the years from 190 members in March 2017 to 1,091 in March 2024. Our following on social media has increased across Instagram, Facebook and X/Twitter and we're delighted to be welcoming more and more families to Our Voice.



OUR VOICE UPDATE

NNPCF and Contact National Conference

Our Voice is part of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) and it's important for us to work with the broader national organisation and the other forums from across the country – there are more than 152 in total.

Held annually, the NNPCF and Contact national conference is a fantastic opportunity to engage in discussion of important national issues relating to children and young people with SEND and build relationships and learn from representatives of other forums.

This year's conference was in Newcastle at the end of February and Our Voice Chair, Seema Islam and coordinator, Jackie Pummell attended.

For more information check out NNPCF's article about the event Conference 2024 – National Network of Parent Carer Forums C.I.C (nnpcf.org.uk)



Our Voice highlights

Between January and July 2024, Our Voice ran new events and firm family favourites which included:

- 'Our Voice presents: Get to Know SEN Services' in January and 'Our Voice presents: Get to Know Health and Therapies' in March this year
- 3 courses of our 6-week Healthy Parent Carer course.
- Spring and Summer parties
- Continued our new drop-in service at the Ponders End Youth and Family Hub (9 sessions).
- 3 Introduction to Positive Behaviour Support Workshops plus 4 drop-in sessions to discuss individual behaviour issues, as part of a joint project with the Joint Service for Disabled Children.
- Supported and spoke at several LA events for parents including two 'Preparing for Adulthood' events and two 'Rising to Reception' sessions run by Enfield Communication Advisory Support Service (ECASS).
- Attended 12 coffee mornings at schools and in a coffee shop (organised by parents).

Party fun

Around 70 children and parents joined us in March for our Spring party at Russet House School. There was a bouncy castle, magic show, soft play, sensory room, arts and crafts activities, food and drink and party bags.

The Our Voice Summer party, supported by over 80 children and parents, included the usual fun and games. The Head of SEN Services, SEN Services Manager and Speech and Language came along to provide a drop-in service for parents to discuss their individual issues.

One mum said 'I want to say a massive thank you to the team that organised the party. It meant so much to me and my boys to have an afternoon of fun and chat to other families in this relaxed setting. The boys loved the party bags!'



Family events

All our parties were very popular and booked up very quickly, often in under a week. These events are important

- as a way for families to meet and connect with each other to share experiences and to build networks of support
- for us to hear informally from parents including those who can't make it to our weekday, daytime events and to answer questions from those parents
- providing a supportive and inclusive environment for families to spend time together – particularly those whose children don't get as many opportunities to attend parties as they would like
- reducing isolation for parent carers and children – the surveys we carry out at these events show the majority of our attendees feel isolated some or most of the time and these parties provide opportunities for them to meet other families
- the parties also provide opportunities for parent carers to meet with Local Authority professionals to talk through specific issues

OUR VOICE UPDATE

Teen evening

Hosting a SEND-friendly event for teenagers and young adults has been a long-held ambition for Our Voice. We've always believed there was a demand and we managed to get additional funding for a night where they could have fun and meet with their friends. So, on 17th Feb 2024 around 20 young people joined us at the Ponders End Youth and Family Hub.

The DJ was a young person with Down's syndrome (with support) - there were fantastic and amazing moves on the dance floor. Pizza, popcorn and slushies were served, and quiet spaces were available.

The night was a huge hit and Harshi says, **'It was amazing - I really liked it as I had pizza and dancing - my favourite things.'**

Fin commented, **'It was really nice because I**

was with my friends like other teenagers do.'

Parents were asked to stay on the premises in a separate area and talked to the Our Voice team. Their response to the evening was positive

Oscar's mum, Hollie says, **'Going by what I observed of how happy he was, Oscar enjoyed getting to hang out with one of his best friends of an evening, as well as eating lots of pizza, popcorn and drink slushies! He enjoyed the disco lights and dancing with others to the music the DJ played. Oscar had a thoroughly delightful time.'**

Sam's mum, Seema, says, **'As a parent, I felt confident taking Sam to a party where he was well supported to hang out with his friends.'**

Fin's mum Liz told us **'I felt it was a lovely opportunity for them to be on their own and supported by people that really get our young people.'**



Harshi's trip to 10 Downing Street

This year, the theme of World Down Syndrome Day was 'End the Stereotypes'. Its aim was to discourage people from treating all people with Down syndrome as if they're the same and underestimating them or excluding them.

Young Our Voice member Harshi Gudhka was invited to 10 Downing Street to mark this important day

'On 21st of March 2024, I was invited to a reception at 10 Downing Street by the National Down Syndrome Policy Group, to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD)

WDSD is celebrated each year on 21st

of March as it represents 3 copies of chromosome 21, that people with Down Syndrome, like me, have. On this day, people all over the world, with Down Syndrome, and their families wear crazy and colourful socks. The idea of socks was chosen because socks look like chromosomes.

I was so excited to go to 10 Downing Street to celebrate 'me' on this important day, and I went with my dad. I got to meet Maria Caulfield who at the time was the Minister for Mental Health and Women's Health Strategy. I also taught her some Makaton sign language - she was very good at it. Unfortunately, I didn't get to meet the then Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak or Larry The Cat but I really enjoyed my visit especially as I could raise awareness to others about people who have Down Syndrome.'

OUR VOICE UPDATE

EVENTS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Health Mini-conference

Our new mini conferences have gone from strength to strength and following on from our previous two events, we held our third conference 'Our Voice Presents: Get to Know Health and Therapies' in March.



Our Voice was joined by a panel of experts from across the various areas of health, including the Designated Clinical Officer, Interim Children and Young People Service Lead, Speech and Language, Enfield

Communication Advisory Support Service (ECASS), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Physiotherapy, Dietetics, Continence, Health Visiting, Paediatrics, Specialist Nursing Bereavement and Play, and School Nursing.

As well as the panel session, parents/carers had opportunities to have one-to-one sessions with different health services to ask individual questions. We also had a choice of two informative workshops – 'Building a Connection with Your Child' and 'What you need to know about the GP Learning Disability Register and Annual Health Checks.'

The event was well attended, and one parent said, **'I entered with no expectation of solutions but to be heard, have a voice and not feel alone in my frustration/challenges - I walked away feeling listened to, understood,**

having provided a snapshot of parental reality to the professionals and with tips and an action plan.'



Another says, *'It was a welcoming, open, and comfortable event and I look forward to attending more in the future. I found it informative, the panel knowledgeable, supportive and community-focused. There was a lot of information gained that couldn't be found by people accessing services online.'*

We plan to run similar events this year starting in the Autumn term.

Drop-in service

Since the launch of our drop-in service at the Ponders End Youth and Family Hub last year, we've been running regular coffee mornings. The sessions are a great opportunity for parents and carers to meet in an informal environment, chat and share experiences with others and discuss any issues, with the members of the Our Voice team.

External speakers come to most sessions to talk on topics of interest. So far these have included speakers from SENDIASS, the Joint Service for Disabled Children, Speech and Language, and the Delivering Better Value programme. More information can be found at <https://www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk/news/show/236>

We're looking at the possibility of opening a second drop-in service at the Craig Park Youth and Family Hub. More information and future dates can be found on our events page <https://www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk/events>



Positive Behaviour Support

The Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) Project also known as Empowering Families and Networks in Enfield (EFNE) is a joint project run by Joint Service for Disabled Children (JSDC), London Borough of Enfield (LBE) and Our Voice Parent Carer Forum.

For our part in the project, Our Voice run Positive Behaviour Support workshops and drop-in sessions for all parents and carers of children and young people (0-25 years) with SEND, irrespective of formal diagnosis, who live or attend school in the London Borough of Enfield.

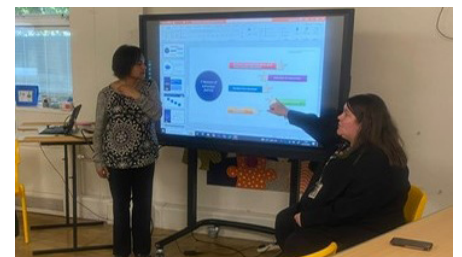
Training workshops are delivered by expert BILD (British Institute for Learning Disabilities) Peer Educators in PBS from the Our Voice team. They have lived experience and the course promotes strength-based approaches in a truly person-centred approach. Both the workshops and the drop-in sessions are supported by members of the JSDC team. Natalie Sherman, a member of the Our Voice team who supported the drop-in sessions, says, *'Parents react well when I share experiences of my SEND parent journey. It feels good to be able to offer tips and to encourage them to engage with the services/professionals and persevere with resources. I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the PBS drop-ins.'*

The workshop provides an introduction and understanding of PBS, to help families prevent and manage behaviours of distress, by

creating an environment where the behaviour is no longer needed and therefore improves the quality of life for their child or young person and the whole family.

We examine how families can work with the network of people around their child or young person, such as staff at their school or social care environments, to enable a consistent approach that encourages engagement in education and the community.

Between April and July 2024, we ran 3 'Introduction to Positive Behaviour Support' workshops and 4 Positive Behaviour Support drop-in sessions for parents and carers, attended by thirty-one and twenty-six parent carers respectively.



We're planning more workshops and dates will be sent out soon for bookings, so make sure you're on our mailing list. The PBS drop-ins will resume in the autumn term, please see our events page for more information <https://www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk/events>

For information on the JSDC's input in the EFNE project see page 9.

Coffee mornings

Members of the Our Voice team often attend coffee mornings for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND.

Most are held at schools, but some are organised by other voluntary sector organisations, while others are organised by individual parent carers at local coffee shops.

These events offer us a great opportunity to reach out to groups of parents who might benefit from our support but don't necessarily know about us.

If you'd like us to attend a session at your child's school, please ask your SENCO to get in touch with us at info@ourvoiceenfield.org.uk



OUR VOICE UPDATE

Healthy Parent Carer programme

Parent carers often overlook their own health and well-being as they prioritise their children's health and caregiving responsibilities.

Our Voice have run this successful 6-week course several times, which is specifically designed for parent carers of children and young people with SEND.

For the first time, Our Voice received funding to offer this course to Enfield's wider community. We translated resources where needed and the course was co-facilitated by parent carers who are Somali and Bengali and translated for Turkish speakers.

Co-designed by the Peninsula Childhood Disability Research Unit (PenCRU) and parent carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), the programme focuses on the CLANGERS framework, representing a set of small, universal and evidence-based actions that anyone can implement to improve their health and wellbeing.

The course covers the following key areas:

- CLANGERS: Simple, evidence-based actions to promote health and wellbeing
- Health-Promoting Behaviours: Encouraging engagement in activities that enhance physical and mental health
- Knowledge and Skills Development: Providing strategies to adopt health-promoting attitudes and behaviours
- Overcoming Barriers: Identifying and addressing the unique challenges faced by parent carers in maintaining good health and wellbeing

By participating in this course, parent carers gain valuable tools and support to enhance their health and wellbeing, despite the unique challenges they face. Delivered by peer facilitators in small groups, it allows for personalised interaction and support, discussions about specific barriers parent carers face in achieving good health, opportunities to share their challenges, experiences and advice, foster a supportive community and the development of individualised plans to overcome these barriers, tailored to each participant's unique situation.

Comments from our first community facilitators were positive

Seema says, *'For parents who don't have English as their first language, it's unlikely they can attend this course. So by attending this course, with translation and language support provided for them, they are able to get the same health and wellbeing strategies as English-speaking parents plus the network of support from the other parents from their own community and the wider community.'*

Aabha says, *'It made me think about a lot of things that I wasn't giving importance to and made me realise how one part of my health was affecting other parts of my life. I started to focus more on myself, and it made a difference to my mental health. I think it'll bring communities together and it's a great initiative to break language barriers and give those parents an opportunity to participate in something they wouldn't otherwise participate in.'*

Ayan commented *'I found the course helped me to identify why I couldn't take better care of myself and I learnt small ways I could be taking better care of myself throughout my day. The course will have a positive impact and being delivered in their language will help many parents who would otherwise miss out due to the language barrier.'*

Parent Carer comments included,

'Fabulous wellbeing course for carers – it's a must for SEN Carers.' and *'It was a great course. I would like to say a special thank you for the Turkish translation it really helped me to understand so much more.'*

Finally in answer to *'Was there anything in particular that helped you?'* one parent replied, *'I am not alone in this world.'*



Looking ahead

Looking ahead to our events for the rest of 2024 we have some confirmed and some in the pipeline. These include

- Our Voice Christmas face-to-face family party.
- Our regular drop-in sessions at the Ponders End Family Hub – see our events page for dates of the sessions and the speakers coming up.
- Continuing the Our Voice series of online information workshops keeping you informed on the many and varied topics which impact us as parents and carers.
- Organising more of our series of 'Our Voice presents...' events focusing on specific areas of the Local Authority and Health.
- Continuing to deliver the Our Voice and JSDC Introduction to Positive Behaviour Support workshops and drop-in sessions.

So you don't miss a thing and to get the earliest opportunity to book our events, make sure that you are on our mailing list (see page 2 for details) and visit our Events page [HERE](#) for more information.



The National SEND Programme: Delivering Better Value in SEND

Olivia Bray has joined Enfield Council as the new SEND Programme Manager for the DfE initiative, Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND. Olivia previously worked in SEND improvement and prior to this, worked in primary education for 11 years.

Enfield's SEND partnership is working with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) on the national SEND programme: Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV).

Funded by the DfE it aims to support local authorities and their local area partners to improve the delivery of SEND services for children and young people, while working towards financial sustainability.

Engagement with children/young people, families, education, health & social care colleagues has fed into Phase One of DBV – which supported understanding the root causes of challenges and identifying opportunities and outcomes the local area would like to achieve together.

Analysis of Phase One has identified objectives in six areas:

Early Years offer

- Children to be supported at the right time through SEN Support and will be prepared for their next steps.
- Support to be available for schools, to be better informed to prepare to meet the needs of infants better.
- Early Years' settings and the private, voluntary and independent sectors to have access to different pathways and funding to support children without an EHCP.

Speech, Language & Communication Needs (SLCN) offer

- Review the partnership SLCN offer to provide an offer, which encompasses universal, targeted and statutory provision for Enfield children/young people, to receive the right support at the right time, in the right place.
- Increase therapy capacity to deliver more S&L support.

AI technology

- Explore the use of emerging technology, to provide support for children/young people in education settings.



- Utilise emerging technology options to enhance service efficiency.

Graduated approach & quality assurance

- Review EHCPs in all phases of education, to ensure sections E & F are being delivered and best value is being achieved.
- To work with Local Area SEND Partnership & DBV workstreams to embed the graduated approach and the support offer for children/young people who do not have an EHCP, to ensure this is effectively utilised to meet need.

Preparation for Adulthood (Pfa) pathways

- To co-produce a recommended Pfa curriculum to support children/young people with moving into adulthood.
- Develop a Further Education pathway to support young people moving into employment.
- Develop the partnership pathway for complex learners to transition from education to Adult Social Care at the right time to meet need.
- Build parents/carers' confidence in the transition when leaving education.

Transitions

- Children/young people are prepared and get the right support at the right time for their next steps.
- Via the partnership early intervention offer, education settings access the support to provide an inclusive environment and provide an accessible curriculum for children/young people to transition into.

Phase Two of DBV has now begun, where the priority is to co-produce the delivery plans for the workstreams.

Parent/carer input into the delivery of the objectives is invaluable in shaping the programme. The SEND partnership would appreciate feedback via the survey link below, to ensure the opportunity to improve services for children/young people with SEND in Enfield is maximised through the DBV programme.

Survey link: <https://forms.office.com/e/sZ4R4UwtEU>



Health news

Sally Mordi Designated Clinical Officer (DCO) facilitates joined-up working between health services, local authorities and parents/carers. Sally supports the coordination of services for children and young people with SEND, assisting with planning and providing advice (including reports) to health services regarding the processes involved in EHCPs.

Health staff have been involved in several events over the last few months, including:

- 'Our Voice Presents: Get to know Health and Therapies'
- Our Voice Summer party
- An Our Voice coffee morning
- Local Authority twilight transition event for parents and carers



Annual health check

Every year, people with learning disabilities aged over 14 years are entitled to a free annual health check from their GP. It's an important opportunity to identify any health issues early on and ensure that individuals with learning disabilities receive appropriate care and support.

The NHS has a useful page here setting out the key facts about annual health checks, including what should happen at the appointment. Watch a helpful video here.

This useful easy-to-read leaflet from Mencap will help your young person to understand what will happen. There are also Mencap resources aimed at black, Asian and ethnic minorities with Learning Disabilities <https://www.mencap.org.uk/press-release/mencap-launches-new-gp-resources-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-people-learning>

Key points

- Adults and young people aged 14 and over with a learning disability and who are on the GP practice Learning Disability Register should be invited by their doctor to come for an annual health check.
- The Learning Disability Register covers all ages and lets staff at the GP practice know a person has a learning disability and may need reasonable adjustments. This leaflet, NHS England - Find out more about the Learning Disability Register, helps people think about whether their child or someone they care for, could be considered to have a learning disability.
- If you haven't been offered an annual health check you can ask for one. If the practice refuse, you can ask your local community learning disability team to help you get one.
- The NHS must make reasonable adjustments to help disabled people use health services including providing information in easy read format, booking longer appointments, allowing a carer to be present at your appointment or having an appointment at a less busy time (if you find it hard to be in a busy waiting room). There is a useful video here.

For more information see the presentation from our recent health conference here.

Speech and Language

The Community Service Review has introduced open access to speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and physiotherapy support for pre-school children and their families.

This initiative is available to children, parent carers, and professionals, ensuring the provision of timely and appropriate advice and techniques. Resources can be accessed through open-door therapy drop-in sessions and training for Health Visitors and early years practitioners. Plans are underway to expand these offerings to include advice and support sessions, community outreach, webinars and online information and resources.



Hospital merger

Following years of close working, the proposed merger between North Middlesex University Hospital and the Royal Free London Group is progressing and will be submitted to NHS England for review and approval this autumn. If approved, our hospitals will continue to offer the same local services, including A&E, maternity, intensive care, paediatrics, acute surgery, medicine and community services but by coming together we expect to reduce waiting times, improve specialist care locally and offer better joined-up community services.

The SEND and AP Change Programme

Emily Bartlett from Barnet Education and Learning Service updates us on the SEND and AP Change programme

What is it?

In 2019, the Government reviewed the SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) and AP (alternative provision) system and concluded their findings in a paper published in 2022. The paper, the SEND and Alternative Provision Green Paper, shared ideas on how to make services and support better for children, young people and their families.

The Government spoke to children, young people and their families about the Green Paper. They also spoke to schools, colleges, nursery staff, and health care workers. It was apparent there were multiple issues with the system, such as families not getting information quickly enough and families struggling to get support to meet their child's needs. After listening to parents, carers and families, the government produced a national plan to improve the system. This is known as the SEND and AP Improvement Plan.

We're using The Change Programme to test our ideas and make sure they work well in the real world and improve the lives of children and young people and their families. The Change Programme is working in 32 local areas. These are organised into 9 regions in England and are called Change Programme Partnerships (CPPs). CPPs are made up of local authorities, health professionals, schools and families. The London CPP includes Enfield, Barnet, Camden and Islington.

What are the aims?

The Change Programme gives us an opportunity to test changes to the way the whole SEND and AP system works.

By delivering the right support, at the right time, in the right place, the Government wants to achieve its vision for a more inclusive society with high aspirations for all children and young people. We want to fulfil children's potential, so children and young people can enjoy their childhood, achieve good outcomes and are well prepared for adulthood. We want to build parents' and carers' trust by having an accessible and easy to navigate system of help. We want to provide financial sustainability by helping our local leaders make the best use of budgets to meet the needs of children and young people and improve outcomes.

When will testing happen?

Until at least March 2025, the Change Programme is testing a package of reforms that focus on how SEND and AP services work in local areas. The reforms will all be tested over the next year and evidence gathered and feedback to the Department of Education about what works and does not work. All are in different stages of development with some testing already underway.

Testing the reforms does NOT change any existing statutory rights of the child, young person, parent or carer.

For more details on the SEND and AP Change Programme, including details of the planned changes for testing, please explore:

- SEND and AP Change Programme Key Messages Pack PowerPoint Presentation ([rackcdn.com](https://www.rackcdn.com))
- SEND Review - right support, right place, right time (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan (2023) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Plan (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- SEND and Alternative Provision Improvement Plan (2023): easy read Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) Improvement Plan (publishing.service.gov.uk)

There will be an opportunity for Parents and Carers to sign up to an online session to find more about the CPP and ask questions. This will take place in the Autumn term with details to follow later.

Empowering Families and Networks in Enfield

The Empowering Families and Networks in Enfield (EFNE) project is funded for a year from April 2024 to March 2025, by the Department for Education's Short Breaks Innovation Fund and is being delivered by Enfield's Joint Service for Disabled Children with the support of Our Voice Parent Carer Forum.

The service

Aims to provide enhanced support for children and young people with SEND, and their families, to prevent family breakdown and improve quality of life. Support includes:

- Intensive out of hours support for children, young people and their families.
- Bespoke Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) guided by assessment of behaviours of concern by trained Behaviour Analysts, with timely support from Behaviour Support Practitioners to implement strategies in the family home.
- A consultation telephone line, that parents and carers can seek advice from PBS trained staff between the hours of 5pm and 11pm, seven days a week. This may involve practitioners doing home visits, and/or providing a short break during a crisis, in the home, the community or at our centre.
- Additional short breaks in the form of after-school groups, and care to support the implementation of behaviour support interventions.
- Training in Positive Behaviour Support at three levels – Introduction to Positive Behaviour Support for parents, carers, and professionals; BILD (British Institute of Learning Disabilities) Positive Behaviour Support Practitioner level and BILD Positive Behaviour Support Coach level for professionals.
- Behaviour drop-in sessions run by Parent Carer Forum Our Voice and the Joint Service for Disabled Children, where parents and carers can meet and support each other and get advice from PBS trained staff and other parents.

Who is it for?

The EFNE project will support children and young people aged 4-17 years who live in the London Borough of Enfield and:

- have a diagnosed learning disability and/or who are autistic.
- are displaying behaviours of concern and/or experiencing an acute mental health crisis.
- where the child or young person's care/behaviour is becoming increasingly difficult to manage, there is an increased risk of family breakdown, and/or the child or young person's behaviour is at a point of crisis.

Who can refer?

Referrals can be made by a professional or service working with the child or young person. To ensure we have the most comprehensive information in the referral, it's best completed by someone who knows the child or young person well, such as their school, Social Worker or keyworker. For more information, or to discuss a referral, contact the EFNE team at JSDC.behavioursupport@enfield.gov.uk, or by phone 020 8880 2313

OTHER NEWS



Helen Baeckstroem, Enfield's SEND Improvement Manager updates us

New team member

Although Enfield SEN service has one of the lowest numbers of tribunal cases in London, we want to ensure we get this part of the service right. So we've recruited Esther Maynard as a permanent member of staff to the team. Esther's background is in Education Law, she has worked in SEN for over 20 years and has a background in parent advocacy.

Current performance

Our timeliness, along with other areas of delivery, are captured through an annual return to the Department for Education (DfE). This is called the SEN2 return, and you may have seen us on the BBC news as Enfield is one of the best performers in England for the academic year 2023/24. Currently ranked 8th in London and 16th in England in relation to completing EHC Needs Assessment within the 20-week statutory deadline. In 2023/24, we met that target 95.6% of the time.

For more information on performance or data about our SEN Support and EHCPs click [Explore education statistics](#)



News from the Integrated Learning Disabilities Service

Charlene Thomas, service manager updates us on services and support.

The Integrated Learning Disability Service (ILDS) delivers specialist health and social care interventions together. We support adults (18+) with learning disabilities, their families, and supporters. Our staff are skilled in working with LD adults and their carers and offer interventions that make a positive difference and promote well-being and independence.

Assessment and Care Management (Social Work)

The Assessment and Care Management Team is made up of social workers, reviewing officers and Care Co-ordinators, who complete Care Act Assessments for any adults who have a diagnosed Learning Disability. We complete support planning and support to implement a strength-based support plan. We follow the principles of the Mental Capacity Act, to ensure people are involved in decisions about their care and support. As part of support planning, we liaise with our clinical colleagues in the ILDS to ensure health needs are also met.

The team promotes independence and supports with moves from the family home to supported living placements or shared lives.

We conduct reviews to ensure care packages are meeting needs and desired outcomes are being met.

We have a new, Assistant Team Manager, Michelle Stewart.

Resource guide

There's a new online 'Resource Guide' with information about what people can do in the local area. It can be used to plan how to use Direct Payment (provided it meets assessed and eligible needs) Learning Disabilities Resource Guide (enfield.gov.uk)

Psychology service

We offer those with learning disabilities support with their emotional wellbeing and mental health where specialist learning disability psychology is needed. Clinical psychology assessments are carried out and we develop a plan for working together with the individual and their support network in a person-centered and evidence-informed way. We recently ran a 14-week anger management group and will offer an "emotional regulation" group later in the year.

Our Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) Team who offer their input when a person and their support network want help with distressed

behaviour. Their primary aim is to improve the person's quality of life, through positive and proactive approaches. Central to their work is a functional assessment to understand why the behaviours of concern happen.

We offer advice, training and consultation to teams and families/ carers to ensure appropriate, psychologically-informed, approaches to supporting people with learning disabilities, including trauma-informed care.

We have welcomed Tehmeena Chaudhry, Psychologist, as lead of the PBS Team, and Kitty Fong, assistant psychologist.

For more information contact Dr Rupa Gone, Consultant Clinical Psychologist rupa.gone@enfield.gov.uk

ILDS award

Outstanding Service Contribution And Recognition Scheme (O.S.C.A.R.S) Staff Awards recognise the amazing work delivered by staff and teams across the North Central London Partnership.

ILDS won Trust Team of the Year 2024 for our ongoing commitment to truly integrated working, delivering high quality standards and person-centered care and support to clients and their families.



Employment opportunities

Equals Employment Service works with adults with Learning Disabilities, who live in Enfield, to gain and sustain paid employment.

The Equals Employment Team are equal top in London with the most people with Learning Disabilities in paid employment. Mandy Bastyan (Employment Support) has been working with employees and employers to maintain a high level of engagement. We're working hard to meet with all our work aspired referrals and source new opportunities for placements to explore work and get more employers engaged in paid work placements. We welcome, Mako Karumazondo (Acting Team Leader), Muna Nur Gelle (Employment Therapist) and Molly Carruthers (OT Assistant, Work Assessor) to the team.



Contact

The Contact free phone helpline offers help and support to the families of disabled children. The confidential service can be contacted on **0808 808 3555** or at helpline@contact.org.uk

The service is staffed by experienced advisers and is intended as a one-stop-shop for parents and family members. For more information visit www.contact.org.uk

contact For families with disabled children