

Making a Difference...



contact *For families
with disabled children*

Our Voice sponsored by the Department of Education via Contact

Welcome... to our Spring 2022 Newsletter

Last year was another immensely challenging year for the families of children with SEND, including members of our own team.

So much so, we continued to put a few of our activities on hold including the production of our newsletter (largely because the situation was changing so rapidly), and most of the face-to-face events we normally run for families would not have been allowed under Covid restrictions.

However, we are proud that we have been able to continue to offer wide-ranging support to families throughout this period, with regular updates by email and social media, and a busy series of online events for parents and for families continuing throughout. In fact, adapting the way in which we worked significantly increased the number of information workshops we could run, and meant that more parents than ever have

joined the sessions without the usual issues of travel and childcare to contend with.

We ran two face to face events for our members last year, both of which proved really popular, and reminded us just how important it is for families to meet and share experiences in the inclusive environment our events provide.

We've obtained funding for some important new projects including our new 'Healthy Parent Carer' course and other initiatives to support the wellbeing of parent carers, who have been under even more pressure than usual.

The important work we do, in listening to your views and ensuring that these are fed back via our regular virtual meetings with the Local Authority and Health, continued, and were particularly vital during these difficult times. Your views were also fed back both regionally and nationally, to support discussions between the National Network of Parent Carer



The Our Voice Management Committee (as at November 2019 and from left to right) Akosua Osei, Tee Richards, Jackie Pummell, Fazilla Amide, Liz Willis, Seema Islam, Khilna Gudhka, Resim Clear, Natalie Sherman, Sonja Ibrahim and Rupali Bhullar

Forums (which Our Voice is a member of) and Government Ministers, as we all navigated the difficult routes through the pandemic.

It's important that we hear your views, so please ensure you keep feeding back to us whenever you can, including through our events and surveys, so that we can feed back to the Local Authority, health and all the services you access for your child/young person.

Introducing our new Chair

Our Voice welcomed our new Chair, Seema Islam, in April 2021. Seema is an experienced member of the Our Voice Management Team, having been a member since 2013.

Seema has three children, and her 12 year old son Samir is autistic with severe learning difficulties. After Samir's diagnosis in 2011, Seema wanted to understand the services and support offered to families in Enfield. This brought her into contact with Our Voice, parent carer forum and other organisations like ENAS (The Enfield branch of the National Autistic Society).

At this time, the implementation of the Children & Families Act 2014 was beginning and Seema was inspired by seeing parents in the Our Voice management team working and campaigning hard to improve services for

all children and young people with SEND in Enfield, so she joined us.

With a post-graduate degree in Autism (Children) under her belt, Seema is trained as a Peer Educator and Sleep Practitioner, is undertaking a diploma in Positive Behaviour Support with the British Institution for Learning Disabilities and is part of the Expert Parent Programme team for the Council for Disabled Children.

Now approaching the end of her first year as Our Voice Chair, Seema has relished the opportunities that this has brought. She says, 'taking over the role during the pandemic was challenging and is still a steep learning curve. Our support to our families has become more urgent and brought into sharp focus the very difficult circumstances they've been dealing with. We have tried to adapt and overcome the challenges the pandemic has brought, so we can continue to work with the LA and for the services to evolve and respond to our

families' needs'

Former Chair, Fazilla Amide, left at the end of her two terms of office (the maximum allowed under our Constitution) and we thank her again for the huge and positive impact she made during her time at Our Voice. She remains part of the management committee and continues her role as London Representative for the National Network of Parent Carer Forums.



OUR VOICE UPDATE

The challenges thrown up by the pandemic have had an enormous and often disproportionate impact on the families of children with SEND, so our support and advocacy have been needed more than ever. We felt it was important to keep events running during this challenging time. Running them online had some advantages in that we could run more events than usual, were able to reach more parents who might not usually have been able to attend and our evening sessions were helpful for those working during the day

During the period October 2020 to January 2022 Our Voice ran 45 online events which included:

- Six online sessions for families including four Mr Marvel magic shows and two pantomimes.
- 24 online workshops for parents and carers including our Meet the SEND Heads Q&A session.
- Six Cuppa and Chat sessions.
- Tree of Life Course

Understanding your views



A critical part of the role of parent carer forums like Our Voice, is making sure we understand the views of parents and carers so they're heard in the meetings and working groups we attend with the Local Authority and Health.

We let members know about relevant consultations and surveys we think they might be interested in on a local and national basis.

We find out your views on key issues in a number of ways, including talking to you at events, through our helpline and via emails you send to us. However, one of the most important ways we gather detailed information is through our surveys of which we have run two significant ones during last year.

In our Lockdown Experiences Survey – 132 families told us about their experiences and challenges during lockdown 3 – a period in which many families were under huge stress and struggling with a variety of issues and concerns, from trying to manage home-schooling for children who were unable to engage online, to worrying about the impact of isolation and lack of routine on their children's mental health and development. We compared the results with the responses across 23 other London Boroughs with over 1,700 people participating in total.

As promised, we used the results of this survey to:

- Inform our discussions with the Local Authority and Health Services about what problems families were facing and what actions needed to be taken immediately and in planning for any further lockdowns.
- Feed into national discussions with the Department for Education and the National Network of Parent Carer Forums.
- Share the results with other local voluntary organisations to add to their understanding of the issues.

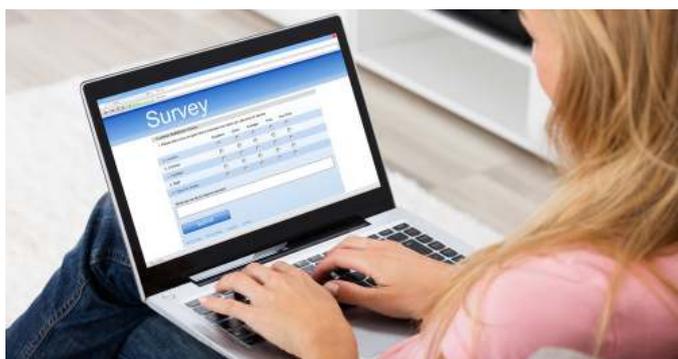
You can see the report from the survey on our website at: <https://www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk/news/show/129>

Our Secondary School Experience Survey looked at parents' experiences when visiting secondary schools for Year 7 entry and asked how welcoming and inclusive those schools were. We compared the results with our

previous survey on this topic in 2017/18.

We had 32 responses commenting on nine different mainstream schools within our Borough (as well as special schools and out of borough schools). There have been some small improvements since our first survey but there's still some way to go, with some parents feeling unsure whether their children would be welcomed and adequately supported at the mainstream schools they visited, and other barriers like lack of wheelchair access restricting their choices. One of our recommendations is for SENCOs to always be present at all open evenings and give consideration to how they can ensure they can talk to everyone who needs them.

The report has been shared with the Local Authority who are keen to use it to continue to push forward their 'Inclusion Charter' work and we are following this up with them. See the report at <https://www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk/news/show/167>



Going forward

We're planning our events for the rest of 2022 and Covid restrictions permitting, we want to run more face-to-face events for families, including our highly popular family fun days. We'll continue our series of online information workshops which have proved popular, keeping you all informed on the many and varied topics which impact us as parents and carers.

Help us decide what events to run for 2022 by completing our short survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/OVevents22>. It'll take a couple of minutes and ensure we offer what works for you.

OUR HIGHLIGHTS

From October 2020 to January 2022 Our Voice ran 45 online events for families and parents ranging from courses, conferences, workshops and family fun sessions.

Magic afternoon

To help reduce the feelings of isolation for children, especially as our normal programme of family fun days was sadly impossible, our ever-popular Mr Marvel magic show became an online event during lockdown. The shows were highly interactive and children got a chance to see and talk to each other, as well as interacting with Mr Marvel. We even found that some of our children preferred online shows to the live ones, which could be a little overwhelming for some.

One of the Our Voice members says 'A huge thank you for brightening up our day by organising such a fantastic party on zoom. It was brilliant and we will definitely do it again. Our son never used to like entertainers at parties but today I have never seen him laugh so much! His sister joined in too, we thank you so much!'

Another family who Zoomed in says 'A very big thank you for making our son's day! He thoroughly enjoyed the Mr Marvel show again and the laughs, smiles and giggles were a joy to watch.'



Bouncing around

To celebrate the festive season, Our Voice held a trampolining party, our first, large face-to-face event since the first lockdown. Around 50-60 children and their parents attended at Enfield's Jump In Adventure Park. The children had fun bouncing on the floor and wall trampolines, leaping onto the air bag and using the foam pit, trapeze and extreme slides. Parents tell us how much they value the opportunity to take their children to an event where they're included and don't have to constantly worry about what other parents think.



Full steam ahead

Our Voice and ENAS put on an exclusive Track Play session, with tickets selling out in a day. Children enjoyed 90-minutes on an amazing layout of giant, super-charged train tracks with tunnels, stations and character motorised trains.

Track Play run play sessions throughout the country (trackplay.co.uk), but our exclusive event made it a far more comfortable and fun experience for our kids.



SEND youth club

Our Voice is pleased to see the opening of a new SEND youth club for children and young people age 11-25 years, as we'd been asking for this for some time. Taking place on Tuesday evenings at Bell Lane Youth Centre, the club offers a place to hang out with friends, fun activities, sports sessions, life skills, personal safety and healthy relationship workshops. To book a free place for your child/young person go to the Youth Enfield website <https://youthenfield.taptub.co.uk> and select venue: Bell Lane, and you will then see the booking link, or for more information see page 5 of the newsletter.



OV Parents' conferences

We have been running our annual 'Meet the SEND Heads' Conference at the Dugdale Centre Enfield since 2017 and the event has gone from strength to strength over the years. When the pandemic hit, we knew that bringing together over 100 parents and at least 40 professionals wasn't viable and our format had to change.

So, we focussed on the most important and popular aspects of our conference – the large Q&A session with the Heads of all the different LA and Health departments relevant to families of children with SEND, and the opportunity for parents to have one-to-one sessions with key members of these teams and our online parents' conference took place on 26th March 2021, attended by almost 90 parents.

We normally also run a choice of workshops on the day of the parents' conference – this year the workshops were virtual and were throughout the year.



Diary date

This year's Meet the SEND Heads Q&A is on Friday 11th March, 2022, from 10-11.30am, via Zoom

To answer your questions, we will be joined by the Heads of all the different Service Areas looking after children and young people with SEND from across the LA and Health. This will include Heads of SEN Services, Social Care, Joint Service for Disabled Children, Education, Early Years, Transport and Travel Brokers, Health, Health Therapies, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Educational Psychology Service and Integrated Learning Disability Service.

As part of the booking process, you'll also have the opportunity to book one or more 15-minute, one-to-one sessions, with representatives of these different areas, to discuss individual issues specific to your child in more detail.

Book your place here <https://ov-parentsconfmar22.eventbrite.co.uk>

Cuppa and Chat

For 2022 we're planning to continue our online Cuppa and Chat sessions, each with a specific theme. The sessions have a relaxed coffee morning feel and proved a lifeline to parents and carers who found themselves isolated during lockdown, offering the chance to share experiences and connect, especially when not everyone understands the specific challenges that parents and carers of disabled children and young people faced during the pandemic. One parent says, 'It's so good to be able to talk to other parents/carers and know they are going through similar experiences and just to connect with them.'



Join Our Voice

Our membership has grown steadily over the last five years - and particularly during the last two years as we have provided so much support through this exceptionally challenging time.

Rising from 190 members in 2017 to around 650 today, our members get regular weekly updates with information useful for families of children and young people with SEND. As a member of our mailing list you:

- ▶ Hear about our events before we communicate these to everyone else, giving you priority to book early (places are often limited).
- ▶ Can book our exclusive events just for members, including our online children's magic shows, Track Play events, discounted pantomime trips and parties.
- ▶ Get opportunities to have your say on changes that affect SEND services locally and nationally.
- ▶ Get 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.

You can join our mailing list in several ways, by email info@ourvoicenfield.org.uk, by phone 07516 662315 or sign up at our website https://www.ourvoicenfield.org.uk/contact_us

You can also follow us on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ourvoicenfield/> and on Twitter @enfieldourvoice

Parental wellbeing project

We commissioned the Tree of Life (Narrative Therapy) parent group workshop in the summer 2021 term. Led by Claire Collins, Educational Psychologist, and co-delivered with Seema Islam from Our Voice, six parents regularly attended to learn about their own strengths and skills, to think about their future hopes and enhance their own wellbeing. In the final celebration session, members of the group shared their thoughts.

'At first, I thought it was a bit hippy-dippy, draw a tree and all that. I thought I don't know if that's for me, but it's the best course I've been on in terms of special needs, by far! What helped was remembering who we are and reminding ourselves of our hopes and dreams. You can't think about this stuff normally. I thoroughly enjoyed it and can't rate it enough. I've been able to build a nice network, it is the first time I've had a network I can connect with in Enfield. It's the first time in five years I've felt helped.'

Another parent says 'I liked the structure and time to reflect. The ground rules enabled us to feel we had a safe space to share, where we could be open and frank. I met a wonderful group of women, it was excellent and was great to realise that you're not alone, to share stories and know that it is not your fault. This

was a journey we all enjoyed. It really is a lifeline. It enabled us to face the dark parts, call them out and deal with them. It was inspirational and I was so uplifted by the forest session. Through sharing strengths, I felt better.'

Sharing her thoughts a parent says 'I've found this really helpful in more ways than I'd expected. I didn't know what was going to happen then I found I was looking forward to it every week. It was a place where I could share my story, where it made you feel safe and understood, you're not alone. We are so busy running and we had time to breathe and step back and see what we have. We are able to be strong. I wouldn't have changed anything about it.'



TREE OF LIFE

NEWS FROM THE JOINT SERVICE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN



Sue Roberts, Head of the Joint Service for Disabled Children, updates us on what's been happening in the borough.

We continue to meet with Parent/Carer forum representatives and colleagues from education, health and social care in Enfield and across London to share good practice and consider how we can continue to develop services and support in Enfield.

Matt Gratton is now the Service Manager in the Joint Service for Disabled Children (JSDC). Having worked with the Short Breaks and Family Support Team, he completed his Social Work degree and became a Social Worker, Advanced Social Work Practitioner, Team Manager and now Service Manager at JSDC. 'I'm looking forward to working with Our Voice and Enfield's Parents and Carers to continue to develop our partnership and improve the experiences of Children and Young People with Disabilities,' says Matt.



SEND youth club

In March 2021 the JSDC's online 'play and leisure survey' wanted to find out what play and leisure activities children and young people were currently accessing and what new ones they wanted to access. Responses were fantastic, 337 parents took part (about 10% of the SEND population). Although young people were encouraged to complete the survey, the responses were low, with only 24 young people completing the survey.

It highlighted that for those young people aged 12–17 years, 30% wanted more opportunity to go to social clubs, rising to 58% for those aged 18–25 years.

In response, we're piloting a new SEND Youth Club at Bell Lane Youth Centre, combining the expertise and jointly staffed by the Youth



Service and the JSDC. It's a place where young people, aged 11–25 years, can spend time away from their parents, make new friends, take part in activities and learn independence skills for adult life. The SEND youth club started in November 2021 and has 17 places available. It's crucial that children and young people get involved to ensure its success. We hope to develop a Youth Club for young people who have more complex needs in the coming year. To book a free place for your child/young person go to the Youth Enfield website <https://youthenfield.taptub.co.uk> and select venue: Bell Lane, and you will then see the booking link

More activities

Other activities that have taken place or are being planned as a result of the survey are:

- The JSDC in partnership with the Youth Service held inclusive Climbing Wall sessions at Craig Park Youth Centre.
- The Summer University programme was extended to offer more opportunities for young people with SEND, and over 70 young people accessed it.
- Two new playscheme providers, Endorphins and Brighter Light Support (BLS) delivered holiday playschemes. BLS also delivers a regular Saturday club.
- Working with the Formont Centre and Fusion Leisure about offering SEND specific swimming sessions. An on-line survey will find out more about people's experience of using local swimming pools.
- We produced a booklet of SEND holiday activities which is available on the Local Offer website <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/children-and-education/local-offer/>



Participation squads

We're setting up a network of Participation Squads in schools and youth groups across the borough to get the views and opinions of a wide range of children and young people with SEND in developing services, support and projects that affect them.

Consulting with children and young people in the groups that already exist, the Participation Squads will act as focus groups that the JSDC and other Council officers can work

with to carry out surveys and other forms of engagement.

We've held a competition for young people to come up with a name for our 'Participation Squads' so check out the Our Voice website <https://www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk/news/show/177> for the result.

Next we'd like young people to get involved and design a logo for the group. So get creative and email entries to Alasdair.Gillies@enfield.gov.uk for the chance to win a £50 Amazon Voucher.

Local Offer website

The Local Offer website is getting a redesign which we hope will go live during the Spring Term. To make it more user friendly, the look and feel will be more visual and the search engine much improved.

We promote the Local Offer to ensure that as many parents and professionals are aware of it and that they're using the most up to date information available.

Young leaders

Working in partnership with the Youth Service, we are encouraging young people aged 16-19 with SEND to sign up to the Young Leaders programme for 2022.

They'll take part in a 2-day AQA accredited course in leadership skills. Once completed, the young people will work with the Youth Service to decide how £60-£70K is allocated to youth programme during the summer holidays and work on the design of the Summer Uni booklet. For more information, please email yemi.akinfenwa@enfield.gov.uk



Annual health check

GP Annual Health Checks are available to young people aged 14+ who have a learning disability and/or autism. Check with your GP that your YP is included on the GPs learning disability register, and they should then be automatically called for the Annual Health Check or you can make an appointment

Data indicates that take up of these checks is low in Enfield. Therefore, in partnership with our colleagues in the NHS and Waverley School we are running a pilot between January and April, 2022 to see what the barriers are and people's experience of the Health Check. The results from the pilot will help to inform how we move forward to ensure that young people are accessing this



very important check, and that we keep our young people healthy and well. The Annual Health Check was introduced to address the health inequalities faced by people with a learning disability and autism and gives them time to talk about anything that is worrying them, and parents/carers time to discuss any concerns they have and how the GP can support you.

On your bike

In partnership with Healthy Streets and Bike Works, we set up and funded a free summer holiday cycling club at the safe cycle track in Bush Hill Park for children and young people with SEND during summer 2021.



Children and young people could bring their own bikes, but specially adapted bikes were also provided. The sessions gave children and young people with SEND disabilities develop their confidence and independence and to be physically active. One parent says 'Great bike activity and a great way to interact with other children. I didn't know what bike might suit my daughter and now I do. I would love to see



Transition from childhood to adulthood

Moving On

Our Moving On events help parents and young people prepare for and successfully transition into adulthood. Currently taking place online, all parents are welcome, but we particularly encourage parents of young people aged 14 (Year 9 and above) to start to thinking about transition to give you time to work with your young person and help them decide what they want to do. The events help you to be prepared, understand what will happen and what the options are.

Attendance at the main events has improved, with between 12 and 22 parents attending the sessions on Supporting Parents and

Carers during transition, Understanding Welfare Benefits and Personal Budgets.

Upcoming events are listed below and more information can be found on the local offer <https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/children-and-education/local-offer/moving-on-preparing-for-adulthood-14-local-offer/>

- Day Services, Thursday 17th March 2022, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Going to College, Thursday 28th April 2022, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Getting a Job, Wednesday 18th May 2022, 10.30am–12.30pm
- Mental Capacity, Friday 10th June 2022, 10.30am–12.30pm





Cheviots' update

Clare Redrupp, Manager of Cheviots' Short Breaks & Family Support Service, which is part of Enfield's Joint Service for Disabled Children, updates us

Our team manages after school groups, weekend groups and holiday play schemes for children and young people who have complex care needs, including behaviours of concern and medical needs. We've worked throughout the pandemic to ensure that support continued for vulnerable children and families, and I'm very proud to say that we won a departmental team award in recognition of this valuable work.

Covid-19 continues to have a big impact on staffing, but we're working hard to make sure disruption to services is kept at a minimum, whilst maintaining the safety of the children

and young people attending our groups. Here are a few of the things we have been working on

- Producing a Welcome Pack for parents whose children are new to Cheviots' Short Breaks Services.
- Sprucing up the sensory and soft play rooms.
- Developing our outdoor spaces to include new musical and exercise equipment.
- Work will start on converting one of our changing rooms into a water play room. Exciting news as so many of our children enjoy water play and it helps them regulate their behaviour and have fun.
- Investing in two large touchscreens to be used by the children and young people and for our training.
- Delivering training to raise awareness of our commitment to reducing the use of restrictive practices.
- Delivering Makaton Safeguarding training to the team.
- Working with our Social Work colleagues to support them with direct work and communication with children.



- Training team members to deliver training in the following: Child Protection and Safeguarding, Moving and Handling, Infection Control and PRICE Physical Intervention.



OTHER NEWS

Educational Psychology Service news



Dr Emma Gore Langton has taken up the role of Deputy Principal Educational Psychologist and Service Manager. She valued working closely with Our Voice's Jackie, Khilna and Seema in her role as Senior Lead EP for Social, Emotional and Mental Health, and is looking forward to joining the Our Voice

conference and meeting more parents in March in her new role.

'Currently we're focusing on our contribution towards children's Education, Health and Care needs assessments. Working closely with the SEN Service, we're quality assuring every advice to make sure that our recommended outcomes and provision contain all the information needed to help children make progress.'

'As the pandemic goes on, we know that children's mental health and wellbeing is a top concern for families. The EP Service and our partners have begun to offer Enfield Trauma Informed Practice in Schools (E-TIPS) to schools, with the goal of making sure that children's needs are always understood in the context of their experiences. Our Voice's Seema is an E-TIPS Champion, representing the experiences of families with children with SEND, and we delivered trauma informed training at Waverley School last term.'

Help line

We continue to offer our popular telephone support line for parents and carers. Educational Psychologists are professionals concerned with the development, learning and social and emotional wellbeing of children and young people. Issues we help you to think about include learning, emotions and managing routines at home.

You can request a call with an Educational Psychologist to talk about any aspect of your child's learning or development, including home-based concerns via this link, EPS helpline

School support

Training of our fourth cohort of Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) has begun. They are Teaching Assistants and Learning Support Assistants from Enfield schools, who are training to offer individual and small group interventions to support children's social and emotional needs. There are now 52 ELSAs working in 29 schools across Enfield.

Support service

Since November 2021, Enfield's SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service) have been based at Centre 404's Supporting Families Team. Centre 404 is a charity that primarily supports people with learning disabilities, autism and their families.



SENDIASS is open to Enfield residents up to 25 years with SEN, their parents and carers, and professionals who support these families. The service is impartial, confidential, free to use and includes direct support, information, respite, activities, advocacy, help with personal budgets and form filling, and access to social groups and other local networks. SENDIASS recently ran information sessions for family carers in collaboration with Our Voice. Contact Enfield SENDIASS Service via email sendiassenfield@centre404.org.uk, or call 07494 280063



Speech and language update

Enfield Communication Advisory Support Service (ECASS) adopts an Enfield wide early intervention approach to speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) across its schools to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

Every child and young person with SLCN in a mainstream Enfield School has access to specialist services through their school and together we implement the use of evidence-based approaches and support schools to

Local group

Carers and Parents in Enfield (CAPE) is a group of carers, parents and relatives of adults over 18 years with learning disabilities living in Enfield. CAPE offers support, friendship, advice, information, representation and campaigning.

The group meets every 2 months to hear and discuss the latest changes in the field of learning disabilities at Park Avenue Resource Centre. CAPE also welcomes family members of young people with learning disabilities who are transitioning, so they can share their experiences and learn about adult services. Membership is free and to join or find out more information, go along to a meeting or visit www.cape-ld.org

Covid vaccinations

Belinda Danso-Langley (Neurodevelopmental Community Paediatric Service Lead) gives us an update.

5-11-year-old vaccines for extremely clinically vulnerable and immunosuppressed are being delivered by primary care network colleagues. The Enfield children's immunisations service plan to deliver universal 5-11-year-olds in special schools only from April and will contact your child through the schools if they are eligible, all other children in this cohort can access their vaccinations through the NHS national booking system.

All 12-15-year-olds are now eligible for a second Covid vaccination provided more than 12 weeks have passed since their first dose or a positive Covid test. This will help to reduce the disruption to face to face education and in turn help pupils stay emotionally well and happy.

In Enfield's special schools, school nurses will be present for the vaccination sessions and can provide support for children. The vaccination is only delivered following parental consent. Reasonable adjustments

can be made when vaccinating children and young people with SEND, Autism, Learning Difficulties or needle phobias and senior immunisation nurses are always willing to talk with parents and carers to understand their child's individual needs prior to vaccination. It's also possible to arrange for parents to be present at the vaccination to provide support, or for children to have the vaccination at home.

Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable will receive the vaccine from their GP or be invited into a specialist clinic.



Autism advice

Enfield Advisory Service for Autism (EASA) provides comprehensive advice, guidance and training for those caring for or working with children and young people with autism, both pre and post diagnosis.

Providing a range of workshops, courses and

drop-in sessions, their Autism Training Links and Support Course (ATLAS) is for parents of newly diagnosed young children up to age 6 years and is led by a team of different professionals from health and education services. Visit www.enfieldasa.org.uk for information.

ENFIELD ADVISORY SERVICE FOR AUTISM

further develop enabling environments where communication is everybody's business.

- We are working hard building relationships with our target schools. Each school has been allocated a specialist SLCN teacher and Speech and Language Therapist, who work in partnership with the school on their ECASS journey.
- The team is refreshing ELKLAN tutor training and acquiring new skills to support the school workforce, children, young people and families.

- At our second 'Rising to Reception' Information session, parents heard from our Occupational Therapist about strategies to get their children ready for school. We discussed self-care, developing play skills, writing skills and participation in the classroom routine.
- Our third 'Rising to Reception' session from SENDIASS and Our Voice on parent support during transition, outlined how prepare for your child to start school and how you can be supported by both organisations to access important information and other support.

MEET THE TEAM



Barbara Thurogood, Enfield's SEN Head of Service, updates us

After discussion with stakeholders and parents, SEN made the decision to re-organise the service so that there's more of a focus on the Annual Review process and making certain that we start reviewing the quality of our EHCPs and how effective they are in meeting the needs of children and young people. We are also working on our SEND strategy and will be seeking the views of children, young people and families on this.



SEN Manager

Zukifl Ahmed is Enfield's new manager of the SEN Service. 'The majority of my career has been working in Special Educational Needs within Local Authorities and the private sector.

Excellent work has been done by the team prior to me starting and I look forward to working closely with them to further improve the service that we offer families and in turn improve outcomes for the children and young people.'



Review & Transfer Team

Seema Shah is team manager for the newly formed SEND Review and Transfer Team. She initially started working in Enfield with the Early Intervention Support Service and then Cheviots, prior to moving to SEN in 2018.

'My Team are responsible for maintaining the EHCP once issued and making amendments following review for all children in Year 9 and below. There are six SEND Coordinators who each hold an allocation of named schools, mainstream and special, both in Enfield and also out of borough. They're supported by a Case Officer who ensures that all paperwork is received and processed in a timely manner. We also coordinate admission for all Enfield children with an EHCP into School Nurseries, Reception, Infant-Junior and Year 7, which this year totals just over 400 children.

We have introduced a timetable to ensure plans are updated to reflect your child's needs and include SMART outcomes and specificity. We welcome feedback at any stage of the process to ensure that your child's EHCP is truly child-centred.'

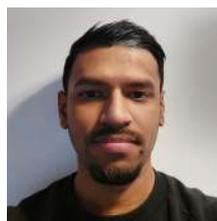


Looked After Children & Vulnerable Groups Team

'My name is Meghi Stavrinou and I'm the Team Leader for our Looked After Children and Vulnerable Groups. I have a degree in Early Childhood Studies and Education, have worked as a SENCo and an Area SENCo and joined the Enfield SEND Team in 2015.

Our team support children and young people who are Looked After to Enfield, who are known to the Youth Offending Service, who attend a residential school and those who are educated at home. Our work involves ensuring that children receive provision that meets their needs to help them achieve their outcomes.

Our team consists of Tanzila Aziz, our Coordinator and Ceyda Ahmet, our Case Officer and we're passionate about supporting our most vulnerable children and strive to ensure the service we deliver caters to the needs of our children, young people and their family.'



Tracking & High Needs Team

'My name is Raju Ahmed and I have recently joined the Enfield SEN Team as a Tracking and High Needs Manager. I have 8 years' experience working in SEN, in line with the SEND reforms and 10 years of working in Local Authorities.

My role involves overseeing the Tracking of statutory compliance with regards to the EHC Needs Assessment process as well as monitoring of the financial operations of the Service. My team includes Our Finance Officer Ivana Finney, Our Project Officer Sue Curry and our Front Door Officers Jackie Wildman & Prafula Katkoria.'



Post 14 Team

Enfield SEND Service has a dedicated team for our Enfield learners in Post-14 and above (aged 14 to 25 years). Melanie Alder is the Team Leader for this newly created team.

'I have a degree in Childhood and Youth Studies as well as a Post Graduate teaching degree and have worked in education for over 20 years. The team has four SEND Post-14 Coordinators, who are highly experienced in Secondary and Further Education. Each has a caseload of approximately 300 young people with EHCPs.

As well as our statutory work such as Annual Reviews and Phase Transfer (Years 11, 12, 13 and 14), we work closely with SEN departments in secondary schools, special schools, 6th Form Colleges and Further Education Colleges as well as colleagues from Health, Educational Psychology and Social Care to ensure a smooth transition to new settings and from Children's to Adult Services.

As a Team Leader I am keen to identify and develop a variety of pathways for our young people and their families as they move on from Education.'



Assessment & Quality Assurance Team

Kerry Beldam is the SEN Assessment and Quality Assurance Team Leader for SEN.

'I moved to the SEN team in 2014, just after the reforms. The service has grown over recent years, both in terms of numbers of staff and also in terms of the knowledge and experience within the team, as a result of a robust 18 month training programme.

The newly created Statutory Assessment Team within SEN is dedicated to ensuring that the LA processes assessment requests in a timely way, whilst having a smooth process in place for both schools and parents.

We ensure that plans are person centred and work closely with our partners to improve on the quality of the advice given. We want to ensure that our parents/children and young people are included in the assessment process and feel that their views are important and they are listened to.'

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 contact.org.uk

contact For families with disabled children