FamiliesMatter
Autumn/Winter 2025

TOWER HAMLETS

Let's Talk SEND updates and information

Information on previous and upcoming Let's Talk SEND events and updates on the borough's SEND improvement journey can be found at **www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk/pages/local-offer/send/let-s-talk-send**

The Tower Hamlets Local Area SEND inspection

The Tower Hamlets Local Area SEND Inspection took place in June. Inspectors found that children and young people with SEND are valued and recognised that weaknesses identified in the previous inspection have been successfully addressed. The report highlighted key areas for improvement, which matched issues already identified in the Local Area Partnership's self-assessment published **here**.

Following the inspection, the partnership updated its SEND delivery plan. The revised plan, which has been approved by the Department for Education (DfE) and NHS England, sets out how it will address the report's recommendations. The proposed actions will be integrated across the existing priorities of the plan.

The plan is monitored by the SEND Improvement Board, which includes representatives from the Tower Hamlets Independent SEND Parent Forum and the DfE. They will oversee a review of the plan in December to ensure that all the actions remain relevant and fit for purpose.

Read the Local Area SEND Inspection Report **here**. Read the updated SEND Delivery Plan **here**.

For more information, visit **www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk/blog_articles/5376-responding-to-the-local-area-send-inspection**

Let us know what you would like to see in the next termly Let's Talk SEND supplement.

Email: **parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk**

More information on the support available to families can be found at **www.towerhamletsandcitysendiass.com**

www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk/pages/local-offer/send/let-s-talk-send

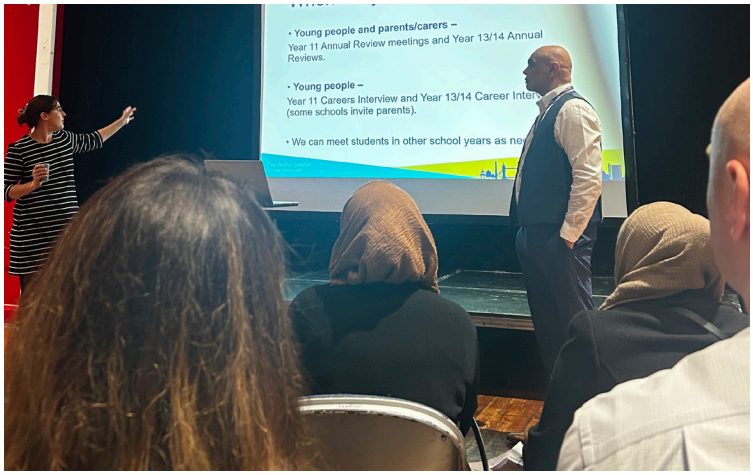
TERMS

SENCOs are also referred to as SENDCOs (Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinators) in some schools.
SENDIASS refers to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service.
Parents – references to 'parents' describes any caregiver responsible for the care, protection and upbringing of a child or young person, including foster parents or connected persons, grandparents, siblings or other family members living in Tower Hamlets.

Let's Talk SEND Post-16 event

The Let's Talk SEND Post-16 event, organised by SEN Preparing for Adulthood Team and SENDIASS, was held at the Brady Arts and Community Centre in October.

The event for Year 11 students with Education, Health and Care Plans and their parents gave an overview of the range of options and support available at this crucial stage in their learning journey. From supported internships and apprenticeships to college placements and other pathways, the event helped families understand what's out there and how to access it.



The event inspired families and helped young people take confident steps towards independence, employment and further education.

Mark Penn, SENDIASS Participation and Co-production Officer

Unreasonable Adjustments project to reduce social isolation

The SEND Parent Ambassadors have won yet another Communities Keeping Well grant for a new project called Unreasonable Adjustments. This new project aims to reduce social isolation of SEND families in Tower Hamlets.

Led by new ambassadors, Shuzina Bilkis and Salma Begum, the project is offering a tour of some of London's most iconic sites. The trip begins at the Tower of London, then on to the cable cars at the Royal Docks and ending at the London Aquarium.

The project will also assist families applying for carers/access cards and inform families about relevant schemes, such as Carers go Free.

For more details, email **sendparentambassadors@gmail.com**

Our Time Inclusive Youth Forum

Our Time is an all-ability youth forum run for, and by, young people between the ages of 14-25 with special educational needs and disabilities.

It has been set up so that young people can:

- Get their voices heard
- Gain new experiences and skills
- Meet new people and build confidence
- Find out about their rights
- Raise awareness and campaign for change.

For more details or to join the forum, email **ourtimeyf@gmail.com**

Tower Hamlets Independent SEND Parent Forum

The Tower Hamlets Independent SEND Parent Forum is pan-disability. Members work with families and professionals from the council and health services to ensure the views of parents, carers and young people contribute to the design and delivery of services.

Join other parents and carers of children and young people with SEND (0-25 years) for coffee and talk about the issues that are important to you.

For more information, call 07498 573872 or email **thesendforum@gmail.com**
www.thsendforum.co.uk

Updates from Our Time Youth Forum

Ofsted SEND Inspection

SEND Inspectors found that children and young people with SEND are valued in Tower Hamlets. We gave young people with SEND a chance to have their voice heard by the head inspector during the inspection.

Welcoming new members

We have some new members who have recently joined Our Time at the café. They had a meal and played games and socialised with forum members.

Let's Talk SEND Post-16

We had a stall at Let's Talk SEND Post-16. We promoted Our Time to encourage more young people to get involved with the forum.

National Youth Conference 2026

We are excited about attending the Youth Voice Matters Conference in Birmingham in February. We are looking forward to going to the different workshops – we may even give a presentation on Our Time at the conference!

For more details or to join the forum, email **ourtimeyf@gmail.com**

Let's Talk SEND co-production event success

More than 100 parents, carers and professionals came together for an event to help further develop the Tower Hamlets SEND Co-Production Charter – a shared commitment to working together to shape future services.

Held at the Town Hall, the event was opened by Steve Reddy, Corporate Director of Children's Services, and included presentations from various services, including:

- SENDIASS
- The Family Information Participation Service with parent experts
- Phoenix Outreach Service
- The Learning Academy (Better Together Framework)
- SEN Preparing for Adulthood Team.

Education consultant, Helen Jenner, also spoke with parents and presentations were given by the Our Time Youth Forum and SEND Parent Ambassadors.

There was also an interactive information marketplace for parents to learn about different services of support. Refreshments and lunch were provided by interns from the Tower Project.

To share your views on the development of the Co-production Charter, email Mark Penn, SENDIASS Participation and Co-production Officer: **mark.penn@towerhamlets.gov.uk**

Let's Talk SEND transition event

For parents of Year 4 and 5 children with education, health and care (EHC) plans

Parents of children in Years 4 and 5 with EHC plans are invited to attend a Let's Talk SEND transition event to support their children with the secondary school transfer process.

There will be a presentation from the SEN department on secondary transfer and information on independent travel training, plus the opportunity to meet with secondary school SENCOs.

The Family Information Service will also be on hand to provide information on services to support families and what is available through the Local Offer website.

Tuesday 24 March 2026, 9.30am-2pm

Brady Arts and Community Centre
192-196 Hanbury Street, E1 5HU

Lunch will be provided.

For more information or to book your place, email **fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk** or call 020 7364 6489.