

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Newsletter

An Introduction to Barley Birney; Head of Specialist Inclusion Services and Principal Educational Psychologist

I am pleased to join Barnet as Head of the Specialist Inclusion Service and Principal Educational Psychologist. I lead a dynamic service with around 50 teachers, support workers and educational psychologists working across Barnet with young people with additional needs.

I'm passionate about enabling young people to speak up for themselves and be actively involved in their plans and supports: sometimes called self-advocacy or person-centred planning.

I've worked for over 20 years in nurseries, mainstream and special schools and community settings, as a teacher, practitioner psychologist and service manager in Westminster, Lambeth and Tower Hamlets.

I love working with families and for several years delivered early intervention home visits to families of pre-school children in Tower Hamlets' Children's Centres. I went on to lead this project, securing ongoing funding for this work which is still flourishing despite other services being reduced.

As service manager I'm there to ensure young people get the right help at the right time, and that our work makes a real difference. This means balancing early intervention, support for all young people and intensive support for those with the most need. I'm working with colleagues to consolidate and extend the fantastic work of our teams in Barnet.



Upcoming SEND Events

Annual SENDiass Conference

Thurs 07 November 2019, 9.30am to 2.30pm
Venue: North London Business Park (N11 1NP)

[Click here for flyer/registration form](#)

Social Care Conference

Thurs 5 December 2019, in the morning
Venue: Ariana Centre (N11 1GN)

Early Years Conference

Wed 15 January 2020, 9.15am to 1.30pm
Venue: Underhill School (EN5 2LZ)



Barnet Parent Carer Forum are holding their AGM on Monday 25 November, 9.30am to 1pm at St Paul's Church Hall, Long Lane N3.

Guest speakers from Michael Anvoner Solicitors who will be giving advice on Wills, Trusts and Power of Attorney, and Peter Ryan from the Department of Work and Pensions giving advice on Disability Benefits. All parent carers are very welcome.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) newsletter



I work in the Vulnerable Adolescents Team for Family Services. Our team supports social workers and other professionals in ensuring under 18's who are vulnerable and at risk of exploitation receive the appropriate support. We provide advice to social workers and ensure everyone works together to reduce the risk of exploitation to individuals. We also raise awareness of exploitation amongst professionals and the public.

Exploitation is when an individual or group takes advantage of somebody else by manipulating, coercing and deceiving them into doing something that they do not want to do or do not have the ability to agree too. The victim may not recognise that they are being exploited and that the act is not consensual. Exploitation can be sexual or criminal.

To find out more about exploitation please see the below links:

- [NSPCC – Child Sexual Exploitation](#)
- [NSPCC - Grooming](#)
- [fearless.org – County Lines](#)
- [Missing People – How we can help](#)

If you think you might be being exploited you can speak to the police on 101 or by going to your nearest police station. If you are above the age of 18 you can contact Barnet Adult Social Care on **020 8359 5000**. If you are under 18 then you can contact Barnet Children's Services on **020 8359 4066**.

Kelly Brown
Vulnerable Adolescents Coordinator

Having presented for Social Care at the SEND conference in June, I was aware that there were many of you who couldn't attend. In my role as Strategic Manager of 0-25 Disability Service I am working on some development projects. At the conference, some parents/carers/professionals approached me with suggestions and offers of support. I want to expand this to the wider community as your personal experiences are central in shaping policy.

Children Finding a Voice. A fundamental aspect in Social Work training is to listen to the child's 'voice' about all aspects of their day-to-day experience. What is it like to attend school, to live in their family, to be with friends and access community activities. Where a child has limited or no verbal communication this can be more challenging for professionals. How can parents/carers help us to better understand and build on our skills to communicate with children to better understand life from their perspective.

Sibling Project. It would be anticipated that having a child with a disability will impact on their siblings' life and development. As a parent/carer what are the strengths and difficulties that emerge for the children? What resources are you aware of that exist to support the siblings? What needs and gaps have you identified and can we shape provision to meet these?

Sleep Deprivation. Disrupted sleep patterns impact on the whole family. I would especially value understanding strategies families have developed to help manage this.

Recruitment of Carers. Within Barnet, and following the national picture, there appears to be a shortage of consistent and experienced carers, including foster carers, available to support disabled children within their home, within the carers home and within the community. How can we recruit and retain skilled and motivated carers? Do you have links through your personal/community networks?

If you have ideas and would be willing to share these please contact me by email on graeme.baylis@barnet.gov.uk or telephone **0208 359 3779**.

Graeme Baylis
Strategic Manager, 0-25 Disabilities Service

