

*Making a Difference...*



**contact** *For families  
with disabled children*

Our Voice sponsored by the Department of Education via Contact

## Welcome... to our Spring 2025 Newsletter

Our Voice has had another busy six months since our last newsletter in Autumn 2024

We have continued to run a busy programme of more than 30 events for parent carers and families, from our ever-popular Christmas party and our 'Emotional Wellbeing and Your Child' conference for parent-carers, to smaller drop-in sessions and online information events. This work not only gives parent carers opportunities to build their own networks of support, and to become better informed about everything to support their children and young people, and their own wellbeing, but gives us plenty of opportunities to hear your views so we can make sure that we represent these accurately when we meet with local service providers.

We've continued to be involved in many different projects, including the Positive Behaviour Support work we have done in collaboration with the Joint Service for Disabled Children, the last in our series of Healthy Parent Carer courses, and starting work on the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools project with the five participating schools in the Borough.

We're working on our plans for the rest of the year including our Spring and Summer family parties, an event for teenagers and much more!

Make sure you watch our events page [HERE](#) and



*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 regular emails for details. If you're not already on our mailing list, then please join! Details on how to are at the bottom of this page.

Our other big project this Spring is formally registering Our Voice as a Charity (Charitable Incorporated Organisation or CIO). As our work has grown, we've outgrown our status as an unincorporated body, and this work is important to put us on a firm footing, as well as hopefully opening up new avenues for funding, so we can

continue to expand our activities.

Our core work remains making sure that parents' views are fed back to the Local Authority and Health as services are developed and reviewed, and we've continued to be as busy as ever with this work. It's important that we continue to reflect your views in this way, so please keep feeding back to us whenever you can, through our events, discussions and surveys, or by emailing us or calling our helpline.

## Join Our Voice 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 of our mailing list, you will:

- Hear about our events before we communicate these to everyone else, 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 they're often fully booked within a few days and never get 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 of 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 opportunities to have your say on changes that affect SEND services locally and nationally. You can join the mailing list via the contact details below.

**Contact:** Khilna or Jackie on 07516 662315 E-mail: [info@ourvoicenfield.org.uk](mailto:info@ourvoicenfield.org.uk) [www.ourvoicenfield.org.uk](http://www.ourvoicenfield.org.uk)  
chat to us [facebook.com/ourvoicenfield](https://www.facebook.com/ourvoicenfield) [Follow us @enfieldourvoice.](https://www.instagram.com/ourvoicenfield/) [instagram.com/ourvoicenfield/](https://www.instagram.com/ourvoicenfield/)

Please pass our newsletter on to others – parents and service providers who might find it useful.

# OUR VOICE UPDATE

## Our Voice highlights

Between July 2024 and February 2025, Our Voice ran or attended more than 30 events for parents which included:

- 'Our Voice presents: Emotional Wellbeing and your child' with the Educational Psychology Service and My Young Minds Enfield.
- The last cohort of our 6-week Healthy Parent Carer course and a celebration event for former participants.
- Our family Christmas party.
- Continuing our new drop-in service at the Ponders End Youth and Family Hub (5 sessions), including sessions with SEN Services and Short Breaks.
- Two 'Introduction to Positive Behaviour Support' Workshops and 6 drop-in sessions to discuss individual behaviour issues - part of a joint project with the Joint Service for Disabled Children.
- Six online information sessions on 'Choosing a Primary School for your child with additional needs', 'Choosing a Secondary School for your child with additional needs' and 'Wills and Trusts'.
- Organising five coffee mornings and two webinars as part of the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project and attending a further 4 coffee mornings organised by schools.
- Supporting and speaking at a 'Rising to Reception' event run by Enfield's Communication Advisory Support Service.

## Christmas Party

Festive fun was on offer at our ever-popular Christmas party, held at the beginning of December at Russet House School. Attended by over 120 children and adults, demand was extremely high with all places being booked within 2 days of promoting it to our members. Activities included a bouncy castle, a wonderful 'animal experience' show, soft play, sensory room, toys and crafts and PS4.

72% of those completing our feedback form rated the event as 'excellent', 22% as 'very good' and the remainder as 'good' and 100% said that they would come to a similar event in the future.



## Your feedback matters

One of our aims in holding these events is to reduce the feeling of isolation that many parent carers experience. In our survey we asked about this topic, and it gave additional evidence for our belief that many parent carers feel very isolated, with 87% of those responding saying that they did feel isolated (including 37% who felt isolated most of the time) 100% confirmed that Our Voice events were extremely or very useful in helping them feel less isolated.

## Our Voice Parents' Conference 2024

Our recent parents' conference 'Emotional Wellbeing and Your Child' was held on 19th November at Ponders End Youth Centre. Our Voice and representatives from the Educational Psychology Service (EPS) and My Young Minds Enfield (MYME) came together and 32 parent carers attended. The conference began with an overview and a Q&A session with answers from a panel of senior professionals from EPS and MYME.

A presentation focussing on supporting your child with their worries and fears hosted by MYME and pre booked one-to-one appointments with a member of the EPS team to discuss issues specific to your child in more detail, were hugely popular.

'67% of those who completed feedback forms had never attended an Our Voice event for parent carers before. This is an unusually high figure for our events suggesting the broad appeal of the topic. The event was well received with ratings of 'excellent' or 'very good' from 95% of those at the panel session, 86% of those at the workshop and 100% of those having 1:1 appointments. For more information about the event including the presentations, additional resources and the feedback report, see our website [HERE](#)



# OUR VOICE UPDATE

## Coming up

Our Voice are busy planning our series of events for the rest of 2025. These will include:

- An information and networking event for all parents and carers of neurodiverse children and young people on Wednesday 5th March. See PINS Project article below or our website [HERE](#) for details.
- Our popular face-to-face family parties.
- An event for teenagers – following on from our successful event last Spring – 29th March.
- Our regular drop-in sessions at the Ponders End Family hub – our events page [HERE](#) has dates and speakers of the sessions coming up.
- More online information workshops keeping you all informed on the many and varied topics which impact us as parents and carers.
- To continue our series of 'Our Voice presents...' events focusing on specific areas of the Local Authority and Health – with a second Health-focused event.
- The last sessions of our Positive Behaviour Support programme including our drop-in session on 7th March and our final Introduction to Positive Behaviour Support workshop-date to be confirmed.
- Holding another Healthy Parent Carer Network meeting before Easter.

Subscribe to our mailing list to get the earliest opportunity to book for all our events (details for joining are on the front cover of this newsletter) Our Events page [HERE](#) has information on all the upcoming Our Voice events.



Our Voice SEND friendly teen party held last Spring



Our Voice drop-in session at the Ponders End Family Hub

## PINS project

The Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) is a national programme that aims to support the education and health needs to neurodiverse children in schools.

Our Voice is supporting parent carers for the PINS project, which is backed by a £13 million investment and is a partnership between the Department of Health and Social Care, the Department for Education, and NHS England. It will bring together integrated care boards (ICBs), local authorities, and schools, working in partnership with parents and carers to support schools in meeting the needs of neurodiverse children better. The programme is expected to reach around 10% of mainstream primary schools and Our Voice is working with the five participating schools in the Enfield area: Capel Manor Primary School, Lavender Primary School, Prince of Wales Primary School, Starks Field Primary School and Houndsfield Primary School.

The partnership aims to:

- Work with schools to deliver five days of intervention per school based on the needs of the school.
- Enable parent carers to share their knowledge and experiences of support and services via parent carer forum representatives, so that senior leaders can support improving the experience for families.
- Identify and promote opportunities where parent carers can contribute to service design and review with support from the parent carer forum and school.

In October 2024, a parent-carer survey was sent out, and 190 parents/carers replied, 63

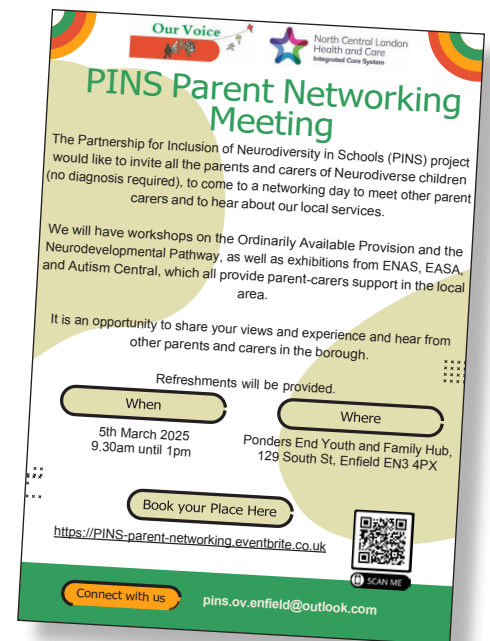
of whom had Neurodivergent children. The survey looked at how welcoming the school was, how included parents and children felt in the school community, communication, reasonable adjustments and support from the school.

We found that for most parent carers the schools were doing well. However, we identified a few key themes with a mix of satisfaction levels: engagement between schools and parent carers, awareness of the possible support available for their children, and mental health and emotional support for parents and carers - so we focused our support for parents on these key areas.

We're running more coffee mornings for parent carers in the participating schools and hope they'll continue after the PINS project ends. We have held a webinar for parents and carers who belong to the participating schools in the PINS project around developing a collaborative home-school relationship.

As part of the project, we'll also be holding a face-to-face networking and information event, open to all parent-carers of neurodiverse children and young people in our Borough, not just those in the project (see the flyer top right). The event includes speakers talking about the Ordinarily Available Provision and Neurodevelopmental Pathway in Enfield for children under 6 years old. In addition, we're writing newsletters with information and resources to help parents navigate local and national support.

Furthermore, several of the schools have taken up the opportunity to deliver peer disability awareness training to their pupils. Over the next few months, we'll visit classrooms to deliver training for Year 3 to Year 6 pupils on what it's like having a disability and help inform children who do



not have a disability to understand the strengths and challenges that disabled children may face in the classroom.

We will be running a networking and information event for parents as part of this project, but open to all parents of neurodiverse children - see <https://www.ourvoiceenfield.org.uk/events/show/224> for details and book [HERE](#) or using the QR code on the right.



## 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 Our Voice?

Our Voice is 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 years, who have a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND) living or attending an educational setting within the borough.

Our aim is to improve services for our families in Enfield by working with the Local Authority and Health, as well as Voluntary Sector Organisations and Schools, to ensure parents' views are heard.

**Our team are all parent carers of children and young people with SEND, meaning we understand the challenges that all our members face.** The majority of our team work on a voluntary basis, alongside two part time co-ordinators who help keep everything running smoothly. We're funded by the Department for Education via Contact (a national charity) and we're part of the national organisation, the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF), which supports 153 Parent Carer Forums across England.

### What do we do for families?

- Provide trusted information and informal advice, guidance and signposting via our website, helpline, email, social media and our drop-in sessions at the Ponders End Youth and Family Hub
- Deliver workshops and information sessions (online or in person) on a range of useful topics
- Hold parent carer conferences focusing on specific areas such as Health, SEN Services or Social Care, giving parents and carers an unparalleled opportunity to put their views and concerns directly to the decision-makers in the LA and Health
- Run events for families and young people such as our termly family parties
- Come along to events run by schools and the Local Authority
- Provide information through our weekly updates and our twice-yearly newsletter

### 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:

- Attend a wide range of different meetings to give a parent carer perspective on existing services and proposed changes
- Provide opportunities for the LA and Health to consult with families, including running events such as our parent carer conferences where you can speak directly to service heads
- Collaborate to problem solve, support and overcome challenges.



## News from Joint Service for Disabled Children

### After School and Holiday Clubs

The Joint Service for Disabled Children (JSDC) recently undertook a survey of parents of children and young people with SEND to find out if there's interest in your child or young person attending an afterschool football 5. We're also surveying the children and young people themselves via the special schools, SEND Youth Club and Cheviots to find out their views. We're working with colleagues in the Sports Development Team as well as the Middlesex Football Association and Enfield Town FC to develop this provision utilising the newly refurbished astroturf pitches at Southbury Leisure Centre.

A recent addition to our afterschool activities is free inclusive cricket sessions for all disabilities (12 to 25 years). Taking place on Tuesdays from 4-5pm at Southbury Leisure Centre, find out more about it on the Local Offer Enfield's local offer for SEND

Don't forget that inclusive swimming sessions run at Albany Leisure Centre in their main pool every Sunday, 10-11am (book Albany Leisure Centre online) and at Southbury Leisure Centre, every Sunday from 3-4.30pm (book Southbury Leisure Centre online). All sessions cost £3.60 per person or are free as part of a Better HF membership.

Enfield's local offer for SEND includes more information on these and other activities for children and young people.



### Preparing for Adulthood

In Enfield we like parents/carers to start engaging with the transition to adulthood process, known as Preparing for Adulthood (PFA), when their young person is around 14 years old. Whilst this may seem early, it's important to be well informed about what the potential changes could be so you can support your young person through them.

PfA events cover a range of topics designed to support each stage of transition relating to when young people become adults at 18 years of age. Running from September- June every year, the remaining events for 2025 are listed below. There's no need to book, just turn up on the day. More details about the events can be found at Enfield's local offer for SEND

- Health Services and Keeping Healthy – Friday 14th March 2025
- Day Services – Thursday 27th March 2025
- Getting a Job – Friday 2 May 2025



### SENDIASS service

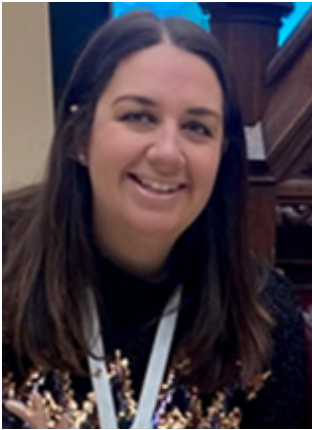
The Enfield Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) is an impartial, confidential and free service that supports Enfield's children and young people with special educational needs, their families and professionals who support these families.

Support is available on wide range of SEND topics and the service can help with

- Statutory duties, eligibility and referrals to local service provision.
- Support with applications, form filling and drafting letters.
- Complex documentation including needs assessment, reviews and Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

- Attending meetings with schools or with local authority professionals (if capacity allows)
- Support with disagreement resolutions – including support with complaints, referral to mediation services and support with appeals.
- Advice relating to school and college placements and exclusions.
- Information on complaint procedures and mediation.
- Independent advocacy around decision making; discrimination; rights and entitlements.

SENDIASS participate in coffee mornings, training partnerships and drop in sessions. For more information or support contact the advice line – 07494 280063 or email SENDIASS@CENTRE404.org.uk



## The National SEND Programme: Delivering Better Value in SEND

Olivia Bray SEND Programme Manager for the DfE initiative updates us.

The Enfield SEND partnership continue to work with the Department of Education (DfE) and Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) on the national SEND programme: Delivering Better Value in SEND (DBV) Delivering Better Value in SEND Programme [dbvinsend.com](http://dbvinsend.com)

The programme aims to support local authorities and their local area partners to improve the delivery of SEND services for children and young people, whilst working towards financial sustainability.

Over the last 6 months there has been progress towards the objectives in all areas. For further information or if you want to get involved in supporting the DVB programme email Olivia Bray ([olivia.bray@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:olivia.bray@enfield.gov.uk))

## Early Years

A competitive tender took place to recruit an independent consultant to support the SEND partnership with the facilitation of the workstream objectives. Families First CIC were awarded the tender.

A review of Enfield's universal and funding offer took place in phase 1, where key improvement areas were identified and the SEND partnership in phase 2, will co-produce an implementation plan to deliver service improvements in these areas.

## Speech, language and communication needs

The SEND partnership was additionally successful following a competitive tender and awarded Better Communication CIC to support with the delivery of the workstream objectives.

Phase 1 of the workstream objectives, will be to undertake a review of the LA's and Health's universal, targeted, specialist & statutory speech, language & communication needs offer. Phase 2 will build on the review recommendations to develop revisions to the current offer and implementing agreed improvement areas.

## Emerging technology

A pilot trialling how technology can be utilised to support students in the classroom with learning / independence and preparing for next steps to adulthood, has started with Russet House.

Additionally, in conjunction with the Change Partnership Programme, Enfield have been allocated ten AV1 Bots that allow students who cannot physically be in a classroom, to continue to access learning via the robot Students in primary and secondary education started accessing the AV1 Bots earlier this year.



## Inclusion in mainstream

We appointed two SEND Impact Advisors, who will work in partnership with primary and secondary schools to provide advisory SEND support. An additional SEND Impact Advisor has been appointed to work with the SEND Partnership to build on the universal offer and further develop the training offer.

## Preparation for Adulthood (PfA)

A candidate with extensive post 16 SEND experience has been appointed as the Strategic PfA Development Officer to further develop the curriculum PfA offer, build on and extend the Supported Internship offer and develop a hybrid transitions offer for young people with complex SEND needs, when transitioning out of education.

## Transitions

In addition to the DBV recruited roles, a SEND Transitions Lead is now in role and appointed with the focus to develop a borough transitions policy, transitions training offer and to work with the SEND partnership to review the current offer and implement revisions to it.

The borough policy has been co-produced with children, young people, parents, carers and colleagues from education, health & social care. A policy launch event will be held for parent/carers in the coming months.

## Local group

The Enfield Branch of the National Autistic Society (ENAS) is a local voluntary group of autistic adults and parents/carers of autistic children and adults, who support each other and strive to enable all autistic people in Enfield to thrive and lead the lives they choose.

ENAS' adult group runs the first Wednesday of each month, either in person or virtually and is celebrating its 10-year birthday this year, so look out for the celebrations that are planned.

Other activities and resources that parents/carers and autistic adults can access for support include our parent /carer coffee mornings 10-11.30am on Thursday 6th March, 3rd April, 1st May and 5th June 2025 at Park Ave Resource Centre, 65c Park Ave Enfield EN1 2HL. ENAS also run activities for children and young people, information workshops and advice on local services. To find out more <http://www.enfieldnas.org.uk>



## Health News

### Universal Therapies Service

#### About us

This new NHS service for Enfield children aged 0-5 and their families focuses on empowering parents/carers, professionals and education staff to facilitate early support and prevention for all children. The team includes Speech and Language therapists, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists.

#### Our aims

- ◆ To improve outcomes and school readiness for Enfield's children
- ◆ Early identification of children that require targeted and specialist input
- ◆ Reduced need for specialist provision and inappropriate referrals
- ◆ To reduce waiting times and be accessible at the point of need

#### What we offer?

We've launched drop-in clinics, held in collaboration with a health visitor, in public spaces across the borough. No appointment is required, families meet with the therapy team and are offered a short initial consultation with tailored advice/strategies provided for caregivers to support their child. We work closely with the Health Visiting Team, Children's Centres and Family Hubs to ensure that the entire children's workforce is skilled in providing advice and support to all young children.

Parent training, online resources and group sessions are in development and will be launched in later this year.

#### How can we help you?

Visit us to speak with a therapist if you have questions or concerns about your child's development. We can discuss your child's progress, provide tailored guidance on supporting their development and signpost you to other sources of support.

Parent feedback is positive with one parent commenting *'Really helpful and professional - a great service to make available as a drop-in.'* Another



*says, 'Enjoyed the session, and ready to take next steps to support my daughter's speech and confidence.'*

Common concerns that may prompt you to visit us include:

#### Physiotherapy concerns:

Questions or worries about your child's physical development or mobility including

- rolling, sitting, standing, crawling, walking, running and jumping
- postural concerns - shape or positioning of their feet, legs, spine
- If your baby has a preference to look to one side, or has flattening of their head
- If your child is moving one side of their body differently to the other side

#### Occupational Therapy concerns:

- Self-care skills; toileting, dressing, bathing and washing, self-feeding, teeth-brushing or following a routine
- Play and leisure skills; riding a bike or scooter, ball skills, engaging in age-appropriate play skills, e.g. turn taking, pretend play
- School readiness skills; mark making and writing, using classroom tools, attention and concentration skills

#### Speech and language therapy concerns:

Delays in speech or pronunciation, in receptive language such as understanding words and instructions or in expressive language - use of words and sentences and non-verbal communication.

## Special School Nursing

Special school nurses (SSN) are specialist community children's nurses who work across Enfield's seven special needs schools.

Provided by North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust, the team supports schools to meet the educational needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), by ensuring healthcare provision is personal and safe.

Combining healthcare with education to empower children, their families and school staff, the team care for children with a wide range of needs including medical, developmental and learning, social and safeguarding.

#### What we offer

Health Promotion is a core part of our role, educating children on hygiene, nutrition, and healthy lifestyles tailored to their abilities. We create Individual Care Plans around students to address specific medical and care needs while children are at school.

Medication Management support is given - we administer treatments

and teach staff how to manage medications safely.

The team acts as a gateway to broader support, referring children to:

- Speech and language therapists.
- Physiotherapists and occupational therapists.
- Paediatricians, psychologists and continence specialists.
- Social care services for families needing extra help.

We support parents by providing advice, emotional support, and guidance to help them navigate their child's care needs. Essential to the role is training school staff, giving them skills to manage medical conditions, emergencies, and equipment like feeding tubes or oxygen therapy.

For questions or concerns, please contact the nurse at your child's school or seek advice from your GP.



## Occupational Therapy in the Early Years

The Early Years SEND team advises, supports, and consults Education staff who work with children with additional needs in Private and Voluntary Nurseries, School-based Nurseries and mainstream Primary Schools, to ensure children develop skills to have an inclusive education that's engaging and prepares them for everyday life.

The multi-disciplinary team comprises highly experienced and knowledgeable Area SENCO's, Speech and Language Therapist and

Occupational Therapist (OT).

The OT provides both universal and targeted support and advice. Universal support includes guiding, advising and training Education staff with regards to developing inclusive learning environments where children can access differentiated learning to promote their development and independence skills. Targeted advice and support involve small group work addressing sensory motor skills. This includes evidence-based motor skills groups 'Tiger Cubs' and 'Tiger Teams' where children's motor skills development is reflected

clearly in their post-intervention scores.

The OT also supports Education staff in Nurture Groups in mainstream schools. Nurture Groups support the inclusion of children with Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties and enables personal, social, and academic progress. Nurture group staff appreciate and value the practical advice and support commenting, *'Your support and feedback could be put into practise immediately, we have introduced wiggle breaks between activities and have seen a positive impact.'*

## Mental health help Online service



The Service for Children and Adolescents with Neuro-Developmental Disorders (SCAN) is a specialist mental health team for children and young people with severe learning disabilities and neuro-developmental disorders, who have mental health problems and attend Enfield special schools.

As part of Enfield's Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) the service recognises it can take some time to get

support following a referral to CAMHS and accessing services can be stressful, has updated its website [nclwaitingroom.nhs.uk/enfield-camhs-scan-and-stay](https://nclwaitingroom.nhs.uk/enfield-camhs-scan-and-stay) to give more information about the team, how they work to help families and professionals understand the process and signposting to services and resources for schools, parents and young people.

The website is a work in progress, so any suggestions or feedback is welcome to ensure its website works for you.

## A Podcast for Mental Health Advocacy

*Our Youth, Our Voice*, a groundbreaking podcast created by The North London NHS Foundation Trust Youth Board, is a step towards changing perceptions, reducing stigma, and fostering community-driven solutions for mental health challenges. The Youth Board's mission is to amplify the voices of young people and address issues that matter most to them. Peer-led advocacy cannot be overstated when mental health


concerns among young people are on the rise, exacerbated by the pressures of social media, academic expectations, and the uncertainties of a rapidly changing world.

In the first episode listeners are introduced to members of the Youth Board who share their personal journeys and the motivations behind their involvement and their special guest is Ben Mensah, Managing Director of Children and Young People Mental Health Services.

## The Power of Peer-Led Conversations

Research highlights the effectiveness of peer-led initiatives in addressing mental health challenges. Young people are more likely to open up to those who understand their experiences first-hand. Covering topics that matter most to young people: anxiety, depression, identity and the impact of societal expectations.

The Youth Board is actively involved in mental health initiatives across the boroughs, from organising community events to collaborating with local organisations to improve access to resources.

 Listen to the first episode now: <https://lnkd.in/gYaUXG5p>

## Help design our logo

SCAN support young people with diverse needs, and we're keen for our logo to represent that. If you have a budding artist at home, who would like to design a letter to be part of the logo please get in touch on [nlft.enfieldcamhsscans@nhs.net](mailto:nlft.enfieldcamhsscans@nhs.net)





## 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

The team is made up of social workers, reviewing officers and Care Coordinators, who complete Care Act Assessments for adults who have a diagnosed Learning Disability. Four senior social work practitioners, Sarah Jo Ruddock, Zainab Karimu, Racquel Francis-Pryce and Mahmut Osman have recently joined the team.

Support planning in line with a strength-based and person-centered principle in mind, we follow the principles of the Mental Capacity Act, to ensure that the adult with the learning disability is at the centre of the decision making. As part of support planning, we liaise with our clinical colleagues in the ILDS to ensure health needs are also met.

We conduct reviews to ensure care packages meet needs and desired outcomes are met. The team promotes independence and supports moves from the family home to supported living placements or shared lives.



## Join in

If you have a learning disability and use health services, you may want to join the Enfield Learning Disability Health Subgroup. The 'working together' group meets four times a year to discuss ways to improve health services and make them more accessible for people with learning disabilities. To join or for information email [chris.odonnell@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:chris.odonnell@enfield.gov.uk) or [sarah.pope@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.pope@enfield.gov.uk)

## On the move

Herts Ability visited us to discuss their work supporting people with a learning disability with driving. The charity offers specialist assessments for people wanting to learn to drive and offers passenger assessments for people whose behaviour may be challenging in a vehicle. They support a wide range of needs, and anyone can make a referral. These links may be useful:

[Driving with Neurodiversity - Herts Ability](#)

[Special Educational Needs - Driving Mobility](#)

[Client assessments - how to make a referral - Driving Mobility](#)

[Find a centre - Driving Mobility](#)

## Day Centre audits

Enfield Council has started auditing and quality assuring seven of our external Learning Disability Day Centres to ensure they keep people safe, care standards are being met, outcomes for service users are at the forefront of the work and they further people's independence.

Conducted between the Quality Assurance (QA) Team and a manager from one of our In-House Day Centres, visits are unannounced. Two of the Day Centres have had visits with the remaining five being audited within the next 6-8 months.

## Give your views



We are encouraging all to take part in the Change NHS survey, to share your views, experiences, and ideas which will shape a new 10 Year Health Plan for England. The plan will set out how to create a health service designed to meet the needs of our changing population and will be focused on moving care from hospitals to communities, making better use of technology and focussing on preventing sickness, not just treating it. The survey remains open until Spring 2025.

## Useful information

- [My Life Learning Disabilities Home Page \(enfield.gov.uk\)](http://enfield.gov.uk)
- The Learning Disability Partnership Board continues to be engaged across the community and meet to decide what needs to happen to make the lives of people with a learning disability better. See what we've been up to here - [Partnership Board \(enfield.gov.uk\)](http://enfield.gov.uk)
- Our new 'Resource Guide' Learning Disabilities Resource Guide ([enfield.gov.uk](http://enfield.gov.uk)) includes information about what to do in the local area. Use it to plan how to use your Direct Payment (provided it meets assessed and eligible needs)
- ILDS easy read newsletters [Newsletters \(enfield.gov.uk\)](http://enfield.gov.uk)

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.contact.org.uk)

**contact** *For families with disabled children*