BELS
Barnet Education
& Learning Service

BARNET LOCAL OFFER

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The Children and Families Act 2014 requires that the Local Authority must publish an Annual report on Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

The Annual Report details feedback about:

- *What progress we have made with further developing the Local Offer.*
- *What we have learnt from this and other feedback about how accessible and helpful the information on the Local Offer is.*
- *Our next steps in further developing the Local Offer.*

The report also provides data on how frequently the Local Offer has been viewed to date.

OUR REMIT

Local authorities must publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in their area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who have their needs met at SEN Support and do not have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

PURPOSE OF THE LOCAL OFFER

The Local Offer has two key purposes:

- *To provide clear, comprehensive, accessible, and up-to-date information about the available provision and how to access it, and*
- *To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving disabled children and those with SEN and their parents, and disabled young people and those with SEN, and service providers in its development and review.*

Barnet publishes feedback received on an ongoing basis from Children and Young People (CYP) and parent carers and other professionals on the You Said, We Did page of Barnet's Local offer website.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

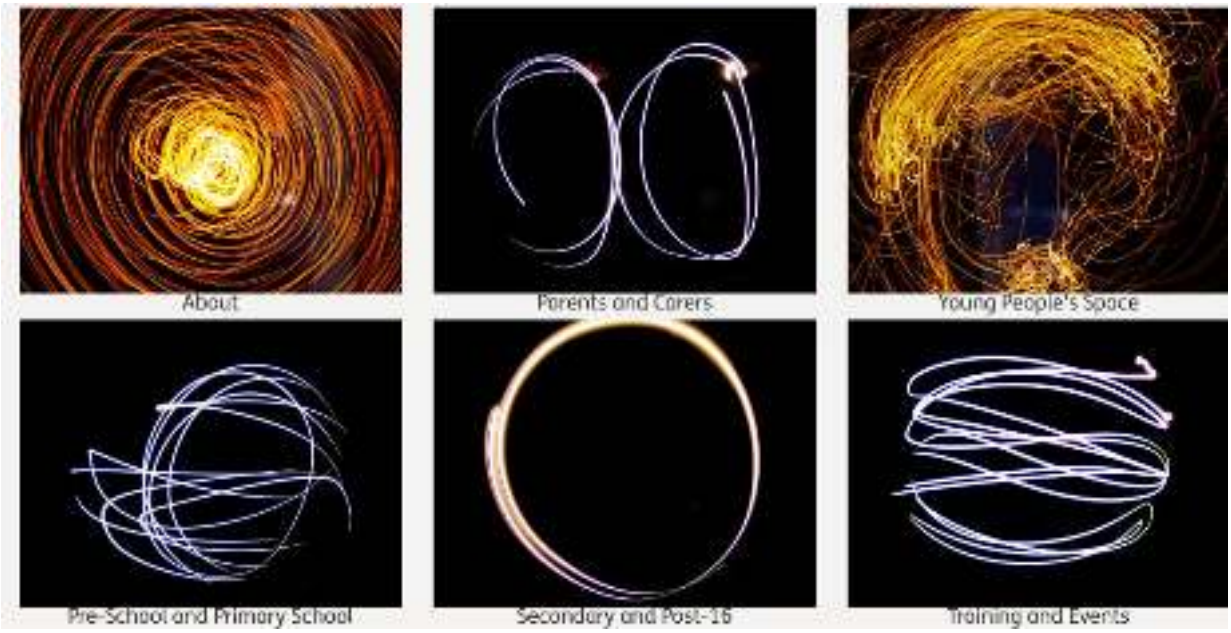
Key Developments

There have been several developments over the past year, which include the following areas:

AUTISM INFORMATION PAGE

Our new Autism Information page was successfully launched. This is a resource and information hub for parents and carers, those supporting Autistic children and young people, and Autistic children and young people themselves. You will find details on this page about the Barnet local offer for Autistic Children and Young people.

The Autism Page is divided into six key sections:



- About
- Parents and Carers
- Pre-School and Primary School
- Secondary and post-16
- Training and Events
- Young People's Space

The involvement of Autistic young people has been central to the planning of the page. The striking tile images were designed and created by a Barnet student following a borough wide competition. The Young People' s Space is currently being co-produced with Autistic young people as part of an ongoing work experience opportunity.



The Autism information page shares vital information about our Barnet Offer for Autism including the new Autism Hub and pathway document. This outlines available support for children, young people, and families.

Click here to access the document: **A guide for professionals and families of services across Barnet pre and post autism diagnosis**

SENCO ZONE

We have continued to develop content on our SENCO Zone and there have been opportunities to co-produce this with our SENCO community through our local SENCO forums.



In the last year, we have continued to develop resources for schools such as our toolkits which offer a range of practical strategies that can support settings with developing their inclusive

classroom practice and wider school approaches. The content continues to be updated to ensure it remains relevant and supportive to the needs of our SENCOs. Our data analytics show that this continues to be one of the most visited areas of the Local Offer website and is a valued resource by our school and professional community.

BARNET LOCAL OFFER SEND NEWSLETTER

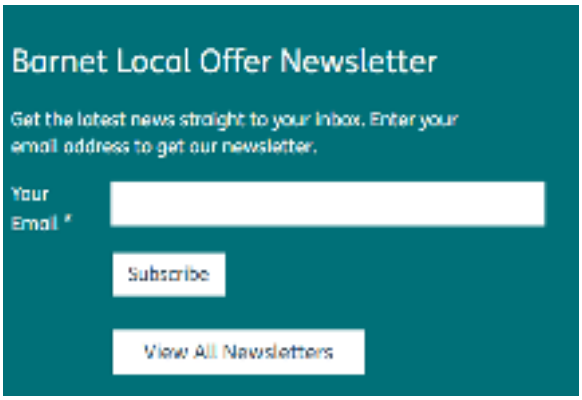


Our termly Barnet Local Offer SEND Newsletter is an opportunity to share news and updates in relation to the support available for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and their families. It provides valuable information about activities, events and services that are available locally.

The Barnet Local Offer SEND newsletter has been given a refresh with a new improved and updated format. This has been designed to improve our reader's experience and accessibility. The front page now has listed contents with hyperlinks to make it easier to navigate the newsletter and read features that are of interest or relevant. Readers can also easily zoom in or out to read the newsletter. The design aims to make content more engaging and accessible for everyone in our local community.

Key dates, events and up-to-date news items are shared to highlight the wide range of activities and events taking place locally as well as vital key information across our local services and organisations.

Subscription to the Barnet Local Offer newsletter is signposted on the home page of the Local Offer website, along with signposting to published newsletters.



CONFERENCES

Conferences

There have been a wide breadth of conferences taking place throughout the year.

SEND IN EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE

In January we ran a highly successful SEND in Early Years Conference. This saw us collaborating with the Council for Disabled Children, our Therapies Team, BEAM, the Early Years Standards Team and Barnet Mencap. The focus was Developing your Ordinarily Available Offer to meet needs in your setting. We had over 184 logins to the sessions. Resources and slides from the day are available on the Local Offer in the SENCO Zone - Early Years: Barnet Local Offer :: Home / Senco Zone / Early Years

BRIDGING THE GAP: SUPPORTING TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

The transition conference held online by Specialist Inclusion Service BELS team, supported a significant milestone in supporting our young learners as they prepare to move from primary to secondary education. The event was attended by young people, parents and carers, teachers, and education professionals, and offered a comprehensive insight into available support from our teams and services in Barnet. This included dedicated sessions for parent carers with guidance from professionals on supporting children during this period of change. The event was attended by over 100 people with extremely positive feedback on the day.

PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD CONFERENCE

In February 2025, the Specialist Inclusion Team in hosted an online dedicated Planning for Adulthood Conference for parents and carers of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The event brought together families, professionals, and local services to share valuable information and guidance on preparing for the transition into adulthood. The conference focused on empowering families with the tools and knowledge needed to support their young person's journey through and beyond school.

Speakers included professionals from education, health, social care, and employment services, who shared practical advice and answered questions from families. The event also featured real-life stories from young people and parents, offering insight into the challenges and successes of planning for adulthood.



To complement the information shared at the conference, a tailored document has been created that expands on key themes discussed and provides direct links to relevant resources. This guide is designed to help families and young people make informed decisions about their future and navigate the transition with confidence. The document and the conference slides can be viewed on the Barnet's Local Offer www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk and Planning for Adulthood Conference slides 2025

This conference will now be held annually and will be coproduced by services and parents/carers. We hope this resource continues to support families as they navigate the important transition into adulthood.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

With Barnet Parent Carer Forum



Our Educational Psychology conference was a success with lots of fantastic psychology shared and rich discussion taking place throughout the different spaces provided. The theme was 'Emotional development through the ages and stages' with keynote speaker Carrie Grant, workshops and Q&A panel providing lots of food for thought for everyone. We were glad to see so many parents and carers and professionals join us for the day and hope reflections and ideas are still resonating.

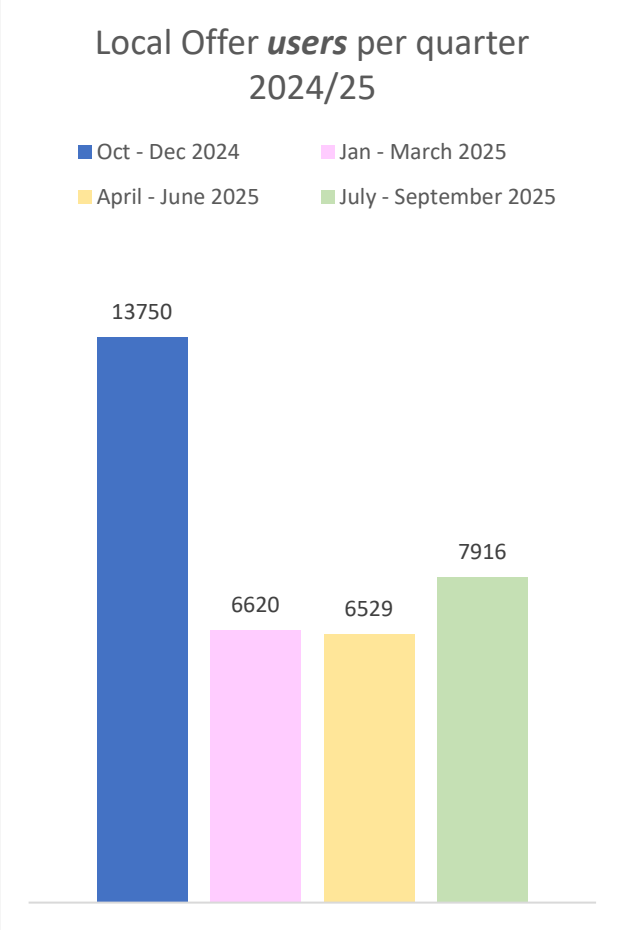
OUR LOCAL OFFER WEBSITE

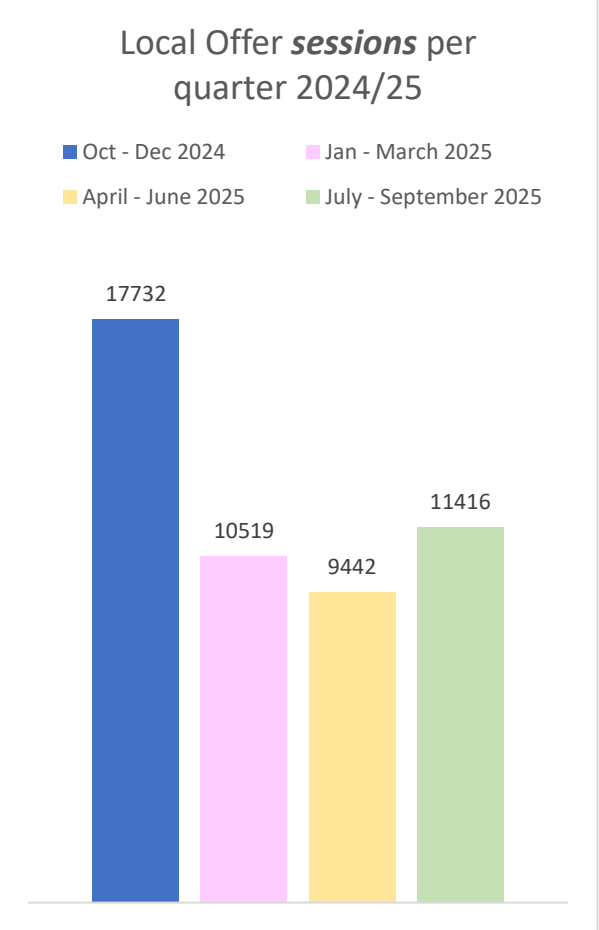
Our Local Offer Website

HOW MANY PEOPLE USE THE LOCAL OFFER WEBSITE?

During the last year, there have been stable user numbers and new visitors. However, there has been a decline in users when compared to the last quarter of 2024. However, engagement metrics such as session duration and pages per session have improved, indicating that while there may be fewer users visiting, those who do are more engaged.

Visitors to the website primarily come from organic searches, direct searches or referring websites such as Barnet.gov.uk. The recent fall in users highlights the need to focus on further engagement strategies, particularly in relation to how the Local Offer website is promoted and visible to the local community.





TOP LANDING PAGES

Our top landing pages are as follows and include the newly launched Autism Information page:

1. Home Page
2. Information & Advice
3. Search Results Page
4. SENCO Zone
5. Autism Information page

Desktop usage continues to be the most common access point, with generally higher engagement times for users. Whilst mobile devices still account for significant number of visits, these are more prone to shorter sessions.

Maintaining and boosting engagement and improving our users' experiences of using the website, content relevance and understanding user journey experience remain fundamental to next steps. Plans are currently underway to update and redesign the homepage as well as improve the interactive elements of key pages, such as the Information & Advice area, so they include videos, clearer headings and visual content to ensure they are easier to navigate and provide more engaging, relevant and accessible content.



WHAT WE LEARNED

What we learned and how we responded

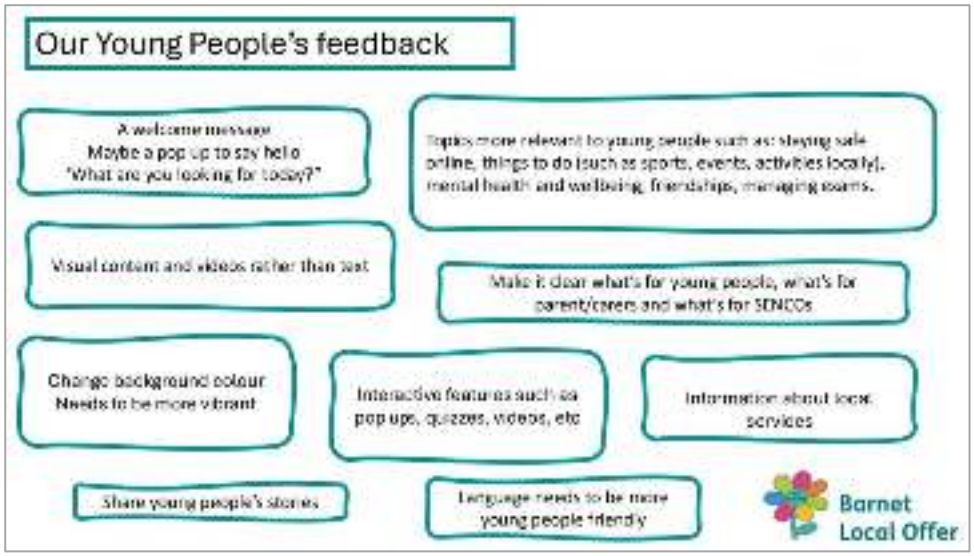
Over the past few months, we have been busy gathering feedback from our young people, parent carers and community to hear about their experiences of using the Local Offer website. This has been through a combination of focus group sessions both in person and online as well as a general survey.

FOCUS GROUPS – YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICE

This is what we explored with our young people:

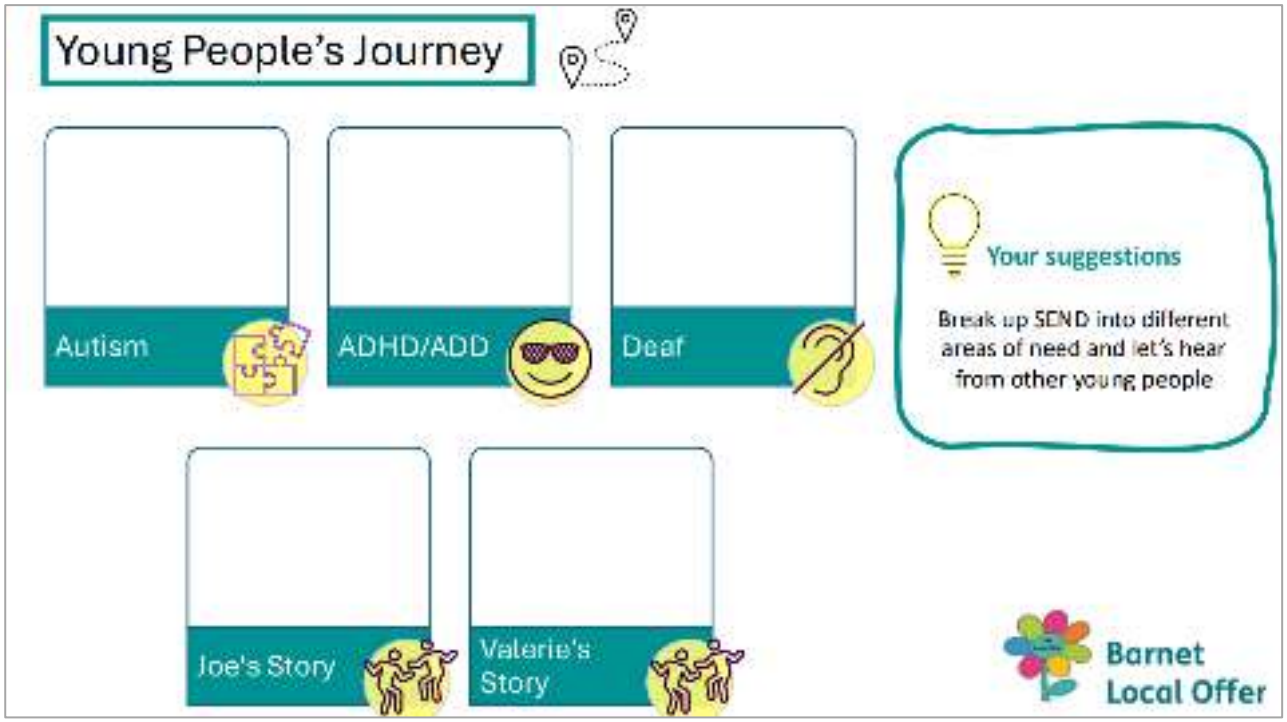
Questions	
Q.1.	Do you know about the Barnet Local Offer website?
Q.2.	What do you think of the Young People's Zone?
Q.3	Is the information clear and helpful to you?
Q.4	How could it be improved?

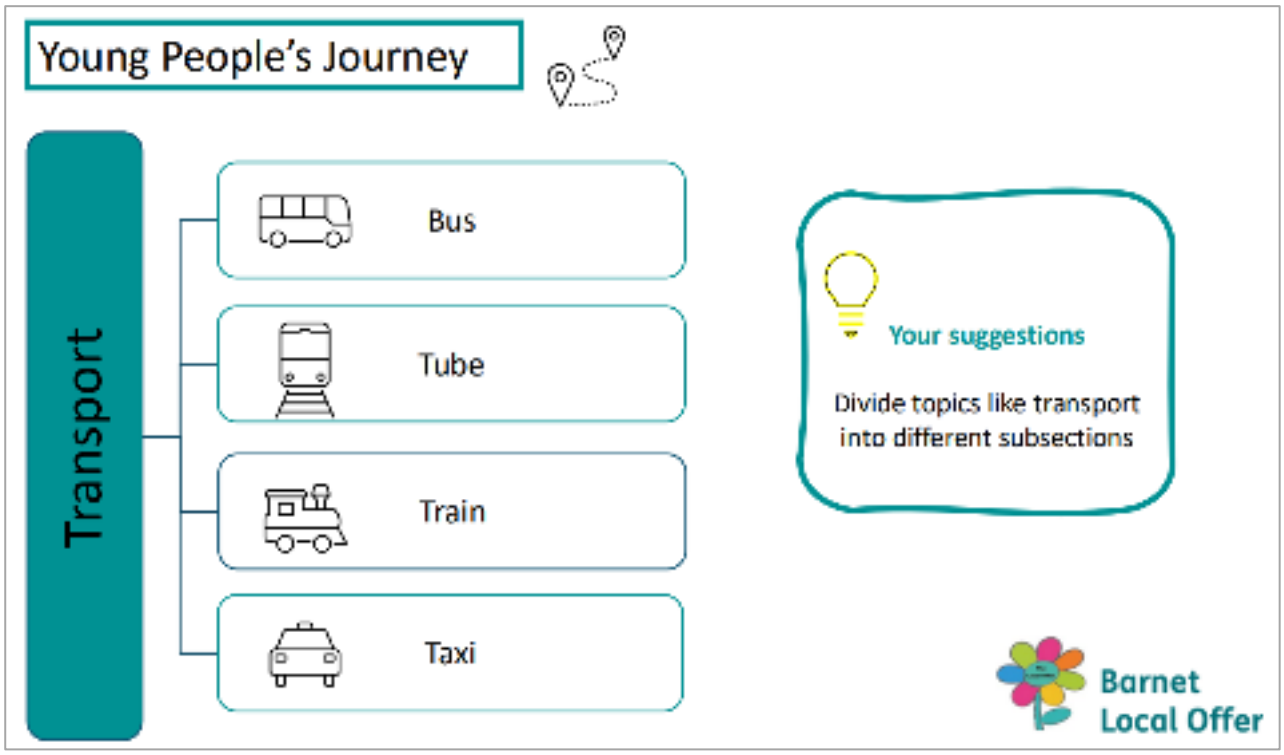
This is what we have learnt:

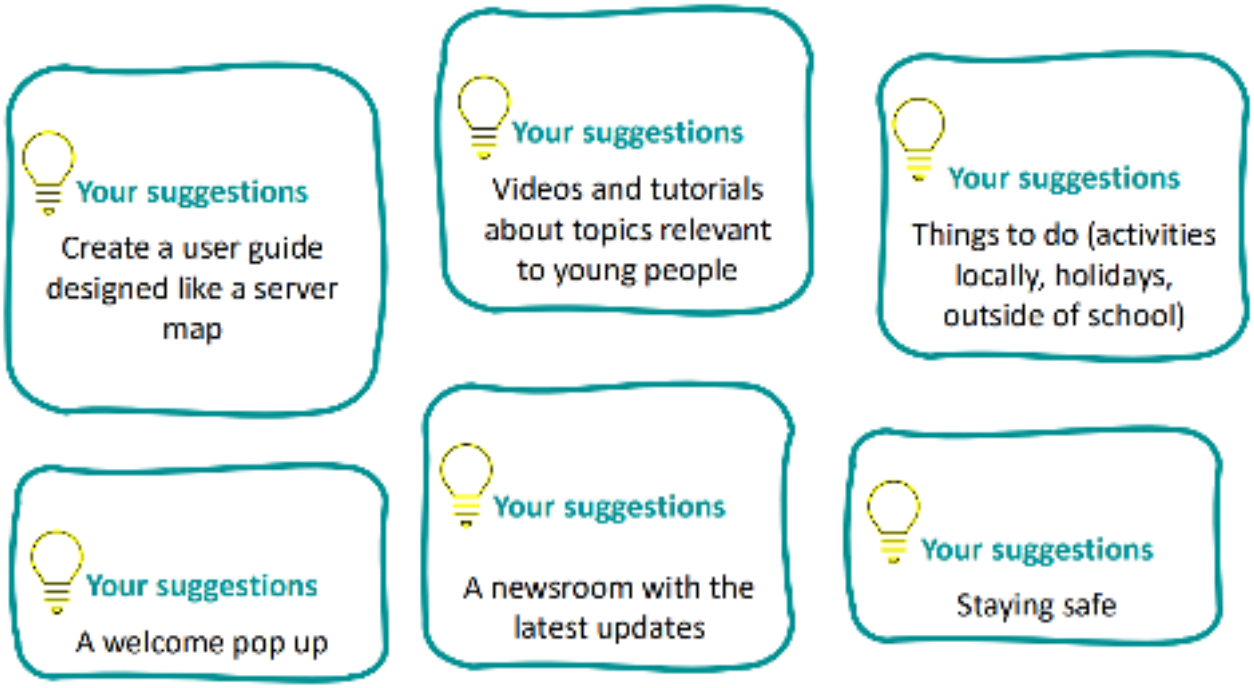


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These were ideas:


Young People's Journey
Autism
ADHD/ADD
Deaf
Your suggestions
Break up SEND into different areas of need and let's hear from other young people
Joe's Story
Valerie's Story
Barnet Local Offer


Young People's Journey
Transport
Bus
Tube
Train
Taxi
Your suggestions
Divide topics like transport into different subsections
Barnet Local Offer



FOCUS GROUPS – PARENT CARER VOICE

This is what are parent carers shared with us:

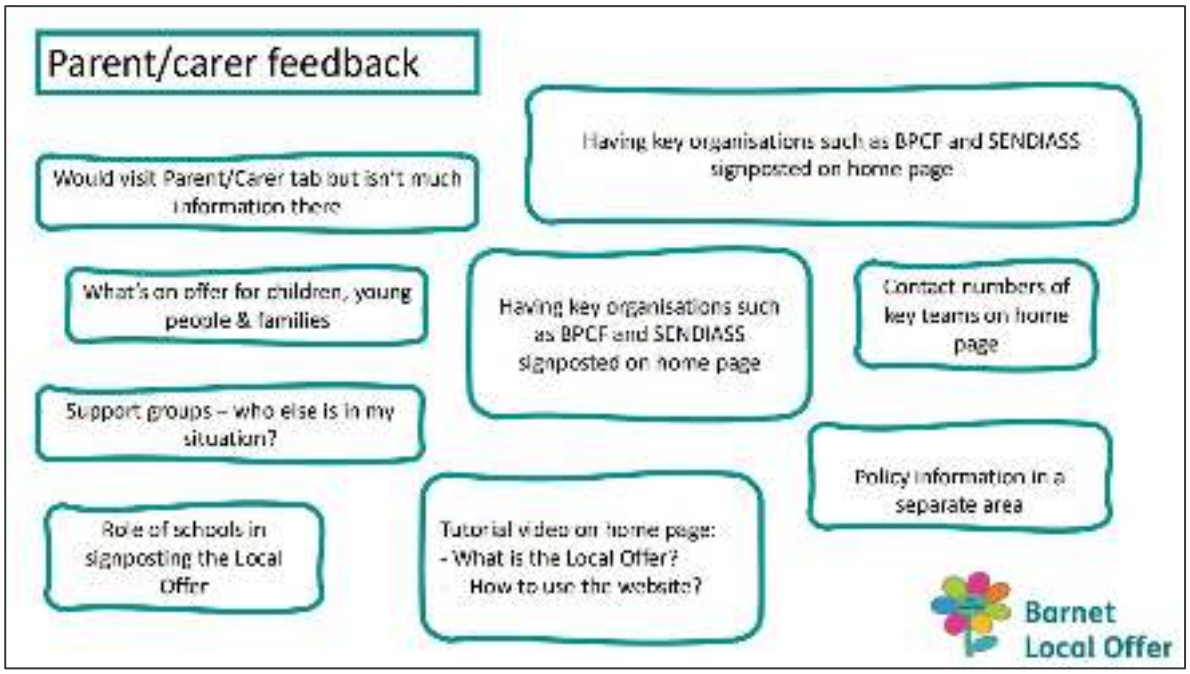
Questions

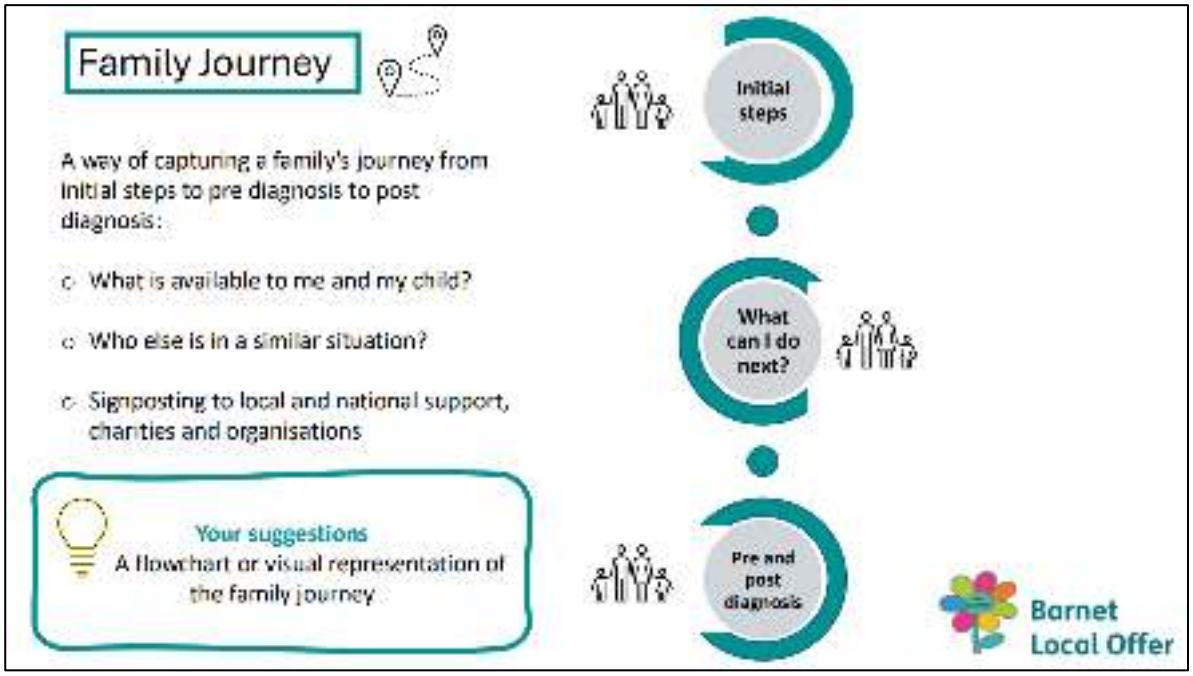
Q.1. Do you know about the Barnet Local Offer website?

Q.2. What are your experiences of using the website?

Q.3 Is the information clear and helpful to you?

Q.4 How could it be improved?





Thank you to all the young people and parent carers who gave their time and feedback to these sessions. It has been invaluable in shaping next steps for the Local Offer website.

YOU SAID, WE DID

‘You said, we did’

In response to this feedback, we recently invited a group of our young people and parent carers to take part in a co-production session to help redesign the homepage of the Barnet Local Offer website: www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk

PURPOSE OF THE SESSION

The aim of the session was to improve the homepage to make it more welcoming, easier to navigate and visually engaging while keeping it consistent with the rest of the website.

DURING THE SESSION

Everyone discussed all the different features of the homepage including:

- What works well and what could be improved on the current homepage
- Colour schemes and imagery
- Layout and navigation of key information
- User experience across different devices (phone, tablet, computer)

Both our young people and parent carers shared fantastic and innovative ideas about how we can improve the homepage such as a clear tagline at the top to explain what the Local Offer is and/or a short video tutorial explaining what the Local Offer is and how to use it.

A large part of the session focused on how to make information easier to navigate, including the colour schemes and imagery which generated lots of rich discussion.

We are extremely appreciative of the time and insight our young people’s and parent carers gave to the coproduction session; all feedback and ideas shared during the session will directly shape the new design and look of our homepage. There are plans to launch this in the next few months.

NEXT STEPS

Next steps

Ongoing feedback from our community, as well as evaluations from our conferences and events, continue to inform next steps that should be taken to improve the awareness of and impact of Barnet's Local Offer website. We remain committed to working with parents/carers, children and young people, and professionals to ensure we respond to feedback and develop ways to improve its accessibility.

Progress to continue to deliver improvements will be shared with the local area community through:

- *the Local Offer website, and*
- *Barnet Local Offer newsletters,*

and will be driven by the Local Offer Steering Group with oversight from the SEND Development Group.