



NEWHAM PARENT FORUM
Empowering Parents and Influencing Services

Newham Parent Carer Forum

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY & FEBRUARY - 2026

CHAIR'S FOREWORD



Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to thank you all for your continued support and involvement. From our coffee mornings and evenings to community events like the SEND Family Fun Day, it's been inspiring to see so many of you come together to share, learn, and connect.

We've been active behind the scenes too—attending key SEND meetings, pushing for inclusive initiatives, and welcoming new voices to our team. Every step we take is guided by your experiences and feedback.

I'm also excited to introduce our subgroup leads, who will be driving specific areas of our work and ensuring your voices are heard in every part of the forum.

Thank you for being part of the NPCF community. Together, we're building a stronger, more inclusive Newham for all our children and young people with SEND.

Warm wishes,

Yamou

Chair, Newham Parent Carer Forum

NPCF HIGHLIGHTS: JANUARY & FEBRUARY - 2026

THIS TERM, NPCF CONTINUED TO STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY, HEALTH COLLEAGUES, AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS TO ENSURE PARENT CARERS' VOICES REMAIN CENTRAL TO DECISION-MAKING.

BELOW ARE SOME KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS TERM'S ENGAGEMENT:

✓ REPRESENTATION AT SEND MEETINGS

IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, NPCF REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED A RANGE OF STRATEGIC MEETINGS WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY, HEALTH PARTNERS, AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS. THESE INCLUDED:

- SHORT BREAKS MEETING
- LOCAL OFFER LIVE EVENT PLANNING MEETING
- SEND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OT) WORKING GROUP

THROUGH CONSISTENT REPRESENTATION AT THESE MEETINGS, NPCF CONTINUES TO ENSURE THAT THE VIEWS AND LIVED EXPERIENCES OF FAMILIES HELP SHAPE LOCAL SEND SERVICES AND PROVISION.

✓ SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT – PINS PROJECT

AS PART OF THE PINS (PARTNERSHIP FOR INCLUSION OF NEURODIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS) PROJECT, NPCF REPRESENTATIVES HOSTED COFFEE MORNINGS AT:

- HALLSVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL
- ST LUKE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
- LANGDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

THESE SESSIONS PROVIDED VALUABLE OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT DIRECTLY WITH PARENT CARERS, SHARE INFORMATION, AND GATHER FEEDBACK TO INFORM ONGOING WORK.

✓ INTRODUCING OUR PARENT AND CARER SUB-GROUP LEADS

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE OUR PARENT AND CARER SUB-GROUP LEADS – AKLIMA, AISHA AND EDWINA – WHO HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN ON THIS IMPORTANT ROLE WITHIN THE FORUM. THEIR INVOLVEMENT MARKS A POSITIVE STEP IN STRENGTHENING PARENT AND CARER REPRESENTATION ACROSS OUR WORK. THEY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN OBSERVING AND ATTENDING A RANGE OF KEY MEETINGS WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITY, HEALTH PARTNERS, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS. THROUGH THEIR PARTICIPATION, THEY WILL HELP ENSURE THAT THE VOICES, EXPERIENCES, AND CONCERNS OF FAMILIES ARE REFLECTED IN DISCUSSIONS AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES. AKLIMA, AISHA AND EDWINA WILL PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN HELPING TO SHAPE AND IMPROVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SEND. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS THEY WILL BRING AND THE POSITIVE IMPACT THEY WILL MAKE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY.

✓ RECENT NPCF COFFEE MORNINGS & EVENING DISCUSSIONS

WE SUCCESSFULLY HOSTED COFFEE MORNINGS OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS:

- 20TH JANUARY – OVERVIEW OF SERVICE AND HOW LA SUPPORT SCHOOLS TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THEIR INCLUSIVE WHOLE SCHOOL PRACTICE.
- 10TH FEBRUARY – SERVICE UPDATES

EACH SESSION SAW FANTASTIC ATTENDANCE AND MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS, WITH RELEVANT REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE LOCAL AUTHORITY PRESENT.

✓ NATIONAL UPDATE – SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER & SEND REFORM CONSULTATION

THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF PARENT CARER FORUMS (NNPCF) HAS WELCOMED THE PUBLICATION OF THE SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILIES AND PARENT CARER FORUMS TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED SEND REFORMS.

A WHITE PAPER IS NOT A LAW. IT OUTLINES THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED CHANGES. THE GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY CONSULTING AND INVITING FEEDBACK BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISIONS ARE MADE. IF LEGAL CHANGES ARE REQUIRED, THESE WILL GO THROUGH PARLIAMENT BEFORE BECOMING LAW.

FAMILIES CAN READ THE CONSULTATION AND SUBMIT THEIR VIEWS HERE:

[HTTPS://WWW.GOV.UK/GOVERNMENT/CONSULTATIONS/SEND-REFORM-PUTTING-CHILDREN-AND-YOUNG-PEOPLE-FIRST](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-first)

✓ LOCAL UPDATE – EVERY CHILD ACHIEVING AND THRIVING & SEND REFORM

FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF EVERY CHILD ACHIEVING AND THRIVING, THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION HAS ASKED EACH LOCAL AREA TO COMPLETE A SEND REFORM MATURITY MATRIX TO REVIEW CURRENT PROVISION AS PART OF THE SEND REFORM PROGRAMME.

THE MATRIX COVERS SEVEN KEY AREAS ('PILLARS'). WE ARE INVITING PARENT CARERS AND PARTNERS TO SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON WHERE SERVICES CURRENTLY SIT — EMERGING, DEVELOPING OR MATURING — TO HELP INFORM OUR SEND REFORM PLAN AND IDENTIFY FUTURE PRIORITIES.

 DEADLINE: 4TH MARCH 2026

 COMPLETE THE NEWHAM SEND REFORMS MATURITY MATRIX HERE:

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/PAGES/RESPONSEPAGE.ASPX?ID=4WK2NRIX-EAB7ZWVYHDSIOKCG7KLMUZIUB9GZQSPD8ZUMLHRQJNYRFFNVZBNSK41RUK1V1O4RE8WNS4U](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=4WK2NRIX-EAB7ZWVYHDSIOKCG7KLMUZIUB9GZQSPD8ZUMLHRQJNYRFFNVZBNSK41RUK1V1O4RE8WNS4U)

WE WELCOME ALL FEEDBACK.

FOR ANY QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT US.

LORNA FRY

STAY CONNECTED

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE OUR UPCOMING NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL NEWHAMPARENTCARERFORUM@GMAIL.COM TO JOIN OUR MAILING LIST.

OUR RECENT NEWS

Our Latest PINS Project

The PINS project is focused on improving the mainstream school experience for children with additional needs. Through surveys, school collaboration with Through visits, and parents, carers, and school staff, the project gathers feedback on what is working well and where improvements are needed.

This information is then used to shape strategies, support, and services that help children thrive in their schools, ensuring their needs are understood and effectively met.

 Have your say – Complete the PINS Survey:

<https://forms.gle/8HztqcnAdsp8tioq7>

Your feedback is essential in helping us strengthen inclusive practice across local schools.

This term, we have been actively involved in a range of projects and meetings with LA, Health, and other key stakeholders.

Highlights include planning local events, attending SEND Executive Board and OT Working Group meetings, and participating in coffee mornings at Hallsville, St Luke's, and Langdon Primary Schools as part of the PINS project.

Through these activities, we continue to work closely with parents, carers, and professionals to shape services that truly support children and young people in our community.



OUR EVENTS



Tuesday, 20 January 2026
Call us on 07495021062

Newham Parent Carer Forum

We would like to invite you to our upcoming Hybrid **Coffee Morning** on 20 January 2026
From 10.00 AM – 12.00 PM

Topic
Overview of service and how LA support schools to promote and develop their inclusive whole school practice.

Speaker:
Lesley Hare – Principal SEND Officer | Children and Young People
London Borough of Newham.
Members of her Special Educational Needs Inclusion Advisory Team (SENDIAT).

ZOOM Link:
Meeting ID: 894 9468 6868
Passcode: 066958

Send Your Questions Here:
<https://forms.gle/oRydDwDJBffFSSpH9>
Refreshments and raffles for in person only.
Thank You.

SEND Contact us Line
02033736472
0-25 service
02033733280
CAMHS
02077715888

SENDIASS 02033730707
NHS 111
HELPLENEWHAM
02033733799

Newham Parent Forum would like to know what areas our families would like us to cover over the next 6 months

<http://www.newhamparentforum.co.uk>
Keep a look out for our wellbeing events

St Marks Community Centre,
Room 12, 218 Tollgate Road, Beckton
E6 5YA
Tel: 07495021062
Email: info@newhamparentforum.co.uk

Facebook: Newham Parents Forum
Twitter (x): @NPF_SEND_Parent

NPCF Coffee Morning – 20th January 2026 | Inclusive School Practice

On Tuesday, 20th January 2026, NPCF hosted a hybrid Coffee Morning attended by parents and carers both in person at St Marks Community Centre and online via Zoom.

The session focused on an overview of services and how the Local Authority supports schools to promote and develop inclusive whole-school practice. The presentation was delivered by Lesley Hare, Principal SEND Officer for Children and Young People at the London Borough of Newham, alongside members of the Newham Inclusive Education Support Team (NIEST).

The session provided valuable insight into how inclusive practices are embedded across schools, the support available to education settings, and how this benefits children and young people with SEND. Parents and carers had the opportunity to ask questions and share their experiences, helping to shape ongoing discussions around inclusive education in Newham. The event was well attended and offered an informative and supportive space for families to engage directly with Local Authority representatives.



Tuesday, 10th February 2026
Call us on 07495021062

Newham Parent Carer Forum

We would like to invite you to our upcoming Online **Coffee Evening** on 10th February 2026
From 18:00 PM to 19:30 PM
LOCATION – ZOOM

Meeting ID: 857 8127 2344
Passcode: 396698
Link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85781272344?pwd=NKGIZsa17aJSurd37BOaBE0aOMtxL1>

Topic: Service updates
Speaker:
Alexander Webley – Co-Director of Education and Inclusion
Peter Gibb – Co-Director of Education and Inclusion

Send Your Questions Here:
<https://forms.gle/Jwn2eaKcyds9TWc98>
Thank You.

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NPCF Online Coffee Evening – 10th February 2026 | Service Updates

On Tuesday, 10th February 2026, NPCF hosted an online Coffee Evening via Zoom, bringing together parents and carers from across Newham.

The session focused on Service Updates and was led by Alexander Webley and Peter Gibb, Co-Directors of Education and Inclusion. They provided updates on key developments within education and SEND services, outlining current priorities and areas of focus across the borough.

Parents and carers had the opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns, and seek clarification on issues affecting their children and young people. The discussion was open and constructive, helping to strengthen communication between families and senior Local Authority leaders.

The session was well attended and provided an important platform for sharing updates and hearing directly from families.

OUR EVENTS

Upcoming Coffee Morning – 10th March 2026

On Tuesday, 10th March 2026, NPCF will be hosting Coffee Morning from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

This session will focus on a Listening Exercise exploring Occupational Therapy – what is working well, as well as identifying gaps and key issues experienced by families. The discussion will provide an important opportunity for parents and carers to share their views and help inform service development.

Speakers will include Mike Brown, Service Manager (DCYPS Team), and Marion Levine, Service Manager for Disabled Children and Young People. They will outline current service provision and listen to feedback from families.

We encourage parents and carers to attend, contribute their experiences, and help shape improvements to Occupational Therapy services in Newham.



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Tuesday, 10th March 2026

Call us on 07495021062

Newham Parent Carer Forum

We would like to invite you to our upcoming
Coffee Morning on 10th March 2026

From 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

LOCATION - ZOOM

Meeting ID: 810 7431 2457

Passcode: 178169

Link :

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81074312457?
pwd=vnDNL24W9gu7oOfRh9g3FoK48ohtc3.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81074312457?pwd=vnDNL24W9gu7oOfRh9g3FoK48ohtc3.1)

Topic :

Speaker :

Thank You.

OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

GLL Grant

Dear Parents and Carers,

NPCF have been awarded £2100 to provide some extra Leisure activities for SEND families in Newham. (The funding goes directly to the providers)

Parents have previously told us that they would like the option to have SEND friendly swimming and Soft Play Sessions.

After discussions with Atherton Leisure Centre, we can offer:

- Fun Swim – Every Wednesday for six weeks (5:30 – 6:30 PM). Booking information will be shared soon.
- SEND Soft Play – Six sessions (times and dates will be confirmed based on your preferences).

To help us plan the sessions, please fill out this short survey indicating your preferences and availability:

<https://forms.gle/bZsPutzZic3tkKAX9>

We will contact you with booking information for the sessions once the survey responses are received.

Many thanks,
NPCF Team

EVENTS HAPPENING IN NEWHAM

Next Local Offer Live, a welcoming and informative event designed to help families connect with services, speak directly with professionals, and explore what's available locally for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

This event brings together a wide range of support services and organisations under one roof- making it easier for families to access advice, ask questions, and learn about support across education, health, social care, community groups, youth opportunities, and more.

What to Expect

- Meet local services and support providers
- Ask questions and get tailored advice
- Discover activities, resources, and future opportunities
- Network with other families
- Find out more about our short breaks offer and the self-referral
- Re-launch of Newham's SEND Local Offer
- Food and refreshments for all.

Event details

Date: Thursday 26 March 2026

Event time for families: 11:00am–2:00pm

Venue: Shipman Youth Zone, 340 Prince Regent Lane, London, E16 3JH



You're invited!

Local Offer Live

On Thursday 26th March
2026 at
Shipman Youth Zone
10.00-11.00am -
Networking Session for
Professionals
11:00-2.00pm -
**EVERYONE ACCESS
SESSION**

The **Local Offer Live** is an event dedicated to promoting access and awareness of services as part of Newham's SEND Local Offer, for families of children and young people with SEND aged between 0-25.

Find out about Newham's Local Offer for children and young people including:

- Local Offer Website Relaunch
- Launch of Newham Short Breaks Self Referral
- Health and wellbeing
- Disability employment advice
- Support, Advice and Information
- Food and refreshments for all

Shipman Youth Zone,
340 Prince Regent Ln,
London E16 3JH

Please note all under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

Please book here or use the QR code below.



HOW TO BECOME OUR MEMBER

Why Join Us?

- You can connect with other parents and carers.
- You will gain access to valuable information and resources.
- You can help shape SEND services in Newham by sharing your views.

Whether you just want to attend events, receive information, or play a more active role in our work, there's a place for everyone.

Please fill in the following form below to become our member, and we will contact you shortly:

CONTACT US

We'd love to hear from you! Whether you'd like to get involved, attend an event, or just have a chat, here's how you can reach us:

Telephone: 07495021062

Email: info@newhamparentforum.co.uk

We hope you found this newsletter both useful and informative. If you have any suggestions or feedback, we'd love to hear from you – please send your comments to newhamparentcarerforum@gmail.com

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