



# Just Say Conference 13 February 2024

**Barking &  
Dagenham**

## **What is happening Locally**

Elaine Allegretti – DCS and Strategic Director Adults and Children  
Jane Hargreaves – Commissioning Director Education

and Colleagues

one borough; one community; no one left behind

# Elaine Allegretti – DCS and Strategic Director for Children & Adults



- 2652 EHCPs maintained.
- 505 new EHCPs issued in 2023
- 100% increase in EHCPs requests in 2022 – 4 times national
- Positive work across partners including parents to meet needs and improve services.
- Chair of SEND Area Partnership Board and DCS lead for London for SEND.

# Jane Hargreaves – Commissioning Director Education

*Some priority areas for action over the last year.*

1. EHCP and annual review, timeliness & quality.
2. Participation of young people and their families.
3. Access to speech & language support.
4. Training & support for parents.
5. Pathways to Adulthood & Transitions.
6. Increasing specialist places.

# Denise Watts – Head of Statutory SEND Services

- **EHC Assessments:** improvement in performance (20 weeks) from 9% at end of 2023, to 67% in January 2024.
- **EHCP Multi Agency Audits:** multi agency audits started in December 2023, look at the quality of EHC statutory advice and EHCPs issued following assessment and review. Will continue on 4-6 weekly cycle.
- **Annual Reviews:** revision of associated guidance for settings and parent carers, with particular focus on Preparation for Adulthood (Year 8+).
- **Service Recruitment:** SEND Careers Advisors (February 2024) Preparation for Adulthood Lead (March 2024).
- **Family Hubs SEND Drop In Sessions:** SEND Co-Production Lead (Gigi Kwong) working with Early Help colleagues: Dagenham Library (4 March 2024) and Marks Gate Community (15 April 2024)
- **SEND Local Offer:** <https://localoffer.lbbd.gov.uk/> and contact: sendlocaloffer@lbbd.gov.uk

Joy Barter –  
Head of Early  
Years &  
Childcare –  
Education

- Access to Speech & Language support in mainstream schools.
- Support for parents - Phoenix Project & Just Say training programme.
- Quality Assurance visits –ARPs & Schools.

# Training Programme

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## **Autism and Sensory Sensitivities**

**When: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

**Where: The Sycamore Trust**  
22-29 Woodward Road, Dagenham, RM9 4SJ

**Time: 10:00am-12:30pm**

### **What will the session cover?**

This session will aim to explore the sensory needs and sensitivities of children on the autistic spectrum. We aim for you to come away from the session with information, strategies and tips for coping with sensory differences and dysregulation. There will be time at the end of the session for parents to ask the trainers questions, in an informal and comfortable environment.

Contact [justsaybdforum@gmail.com](mailto:justsaybdforum@gmail.com) or 07936 851199 to Register. Further details will be shared via Just Say Parent Carer Forum FACEBOOK.

#### **Future Training Sessions:**

- Supporting children with ADHD
- Puberty
- Why is restraint used in school and what does it mean for my child?
- Understanding short breaks and respite packages.
- First Aid.
- Supporting parents to be better communicators: Hearing the parent voice.
- Supporting mental health for parents and children.
- Helping parents talk to their children about sexual relationships, puberty, online safety and understanding social media.



## Carolyn Greenaway – Head of Disabilities

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### Developments over the last year:






1. Team Structure
  - move to Children's Social Care
  - stability
2. Transitions
  - starting early
  - involving parents and young people
  - joint working with Adult Social Care



### 3. Dynamic Support Register (DSR) and Key Working

## Dynamic Support Registers



-  The Dynamic Support Register (DSR) is a register of children and adults with a learning disability and/or autism who are at risk of mental health hospital admissions.
-  There are separate DSRs and holders for Children and adults. They are held at the borough level by a named lead (either ICB, Health, Social care).
-  The purpose of the DSR is to prevent inappropriate hospital admission, or reduce length of stay where admission is due to a lack of the right care and treatment in the community.
-  The DSRs are reviewed regularly by a MDT group (DSR holders, partners in health, social care, education and SEND) to ensure that there is oversight and accountability for those at risk of hospital admission.
-  Anyone can refer to the DSR, including self-referrals. **However they cannot be accepted onto the DSR without documented consent.**



[DSRReferrals@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:DSRReferrals@lbbd.gov.uk)

[www.nelft.nhs.uk/nel-keyworking-service](http://www.nelft.nhs.uk/nel-keyworking-service)



## 4. CYPD Hub

Based at Becontree Family Hub

Offering support and advice, activities, sensory room, fun, coffee mornings, etc.



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# Erik Stein – Head of Participation Opportunity & Wellbeing

- Strengthened partnership working with Barking and Dagenham College, particularly around improving progression into employment.
- Speak Up! Forum commissioned for young people with SEND, with plan of consultation themes for the year (including issues raised by young people).
- Speak Up! consultation report for libraries was welcomed by libraries and is leading to changes.
- Accelerating Post-16 SEND outcomes action plan in place

## **12 actions achievable within six months across 5 areas:**

- Improving the Annual Review process;
- Widening support for parents/ carers;
- Improving Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance;
- Improving access to supported internships and employment;
- Broadening post-16 options.



## Jane Hargreaves – Commissioning Director Education

### Specialist Places

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- Riverside Bridge – September 2024 additional 30 places plus 6<sup>th</sup> form places.
- Trinity School – Council has committed investment for refurbishment and new area to support parents.
- Oxlow Bridge new 100 place Special School to include PMLD provision with hydrotherapy pool due to open September 2025.



## Some key features of the new school include:

- 16 large general classrooms, each with direct access to an outside covered teaching area, as well as access to additional outdoor areas for play, learning and sensory exploration.
- Ceiling mounted tracked hoists will provide connection between classrooms and adjacent Hygiene Rooms.
- A Hydrotherapy Pool, Life Skills, Art / Music and Sensory & Therapy rooms which will all benefit from having a ceiling mounted tracked hoist.
- A mixture of specialist Sensory and Therapy rooms centrally located for ease of use by all.
- A multi-use Hall which will have a trampoline built into the floor to assist pupils with therapy.
- Large rooflights to provide natural light to corridors and open areas of shared storage areas will help to make circulation spaces feel more comfortable.



Elaine Allegretti –  
DCS & Strategic  
Director Adults &  
Children

**Final comments**