



Bromley Parent Carer Forum

September 2025

We hope you all had a lovely summer break, we know the summer holidays can be challenging but we hope you have been able to have some quality family time.

What are we doing?

We have continued to be part of many meetings with the local authority and other stakeholders to try and ensure families voices are heard and that our children are always the priority when decisions are made. We are very aware that nationally Special Education Needs and Disability is in the spotlight at the moment, we understand how unsettling this is. If you need any help to access support please do reach out to us as we would be happy to signpost you. Please email info@bromleypcf.co.uk and we will be happy to help.

We have attended a meeting with the [speech and language therapy team](#) at [Bromley Healthcare](#) about the new UTS (Universal, targeted and specialist) model for speech and language therapy in schools. They are very keen to start this new way of working in September and they hope this new model will mean therapy services will be available for more children and will reduce waiting list times. Please do share any feedback you have on this model as we would be keen to hear parents views on how the new service is delivered and how it impacts the children and families at ground level. Any feedback we receive can be shared with the speech and language team to help inform their practise..

The new [annual review](#) process started in September. Our forum have not been actively involved in this project. We understand this new process could cause a lot of anxiety and worry about your child's annual review. If you have any feedback you would like to share with us regarding the new process, please email us and we can pass on your feedback. There are 2 meetings planned about the new annual review process. Please see more information about these meetings on the flyer below.

We have been asked to share update you on important changes to [Child Benefit eligibility](#), taking effect from [1 September 2025](#). These changes may affect families you support, and some may also be entitled to [backdated payments](#).

Current rules

Child Benefit usually stops on [31 August after a child's 16th birthday](#) if they leave education or training.

It continues if HMRC is told the young person is staying in [approved full-time education or training](#), which currently means more than 12 hours of supervised study or training each week.

What's changing from 1 September 2025

The definition of [full-time education](#) will be expanded to include:

- [Young people in non-advanced education](#) who cannot meet the 12-hour weekly requirement due to [illness or disability](#).
- [Young people in full-time non-advanced education outside a school or college](#) (for example, being home-educated), whether this started before or after their 16th birthday.

Parents and guardians in these circumstances will continue to be eligible for Child Benefit and can extend their claim through the [HMRC app or online at <https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19>](#)

Backdated payments

An error in legislation in 2014 meant that some families in England missed out on Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit. About 7 million families received Child Benefit last year. HMRC have identified that a very small number, about 500 over 10 years, may not have been paid their correct entitlement. This affected families in England only. As HMRC do not hold records of people who have been affected by this error, they have asked for help in reaching any parents or guardians who believe they may have been one of those affected, to contact HMRC as soon as possible.

Parents and guardians may be entitled to [backdated payments](#) if, between [6 April 2014 and 31 August 2025](#), they had a young person who was:

- Aged 16–18,
- Living in England,
- Receiving education outside a school or college (e.g. home-educated), and
- Where the Local Authority assessed the education as suitable.

How families can check

- [Child Benefit enquiries](#): Call 0300 322 9620 or write to HMRC – Child Benefit Office, PO Box 1, Newcastle upon Tyne NE88 1AA.
- [Child Tax Credit enquiries](#): Call 0345 300 3900 or write to HMRC – Tax Credit Office, BX9 1ER.

Upcoming Events and Groups

SENSORY PLAY WORKSHOP

This event is being run by the forum and we hope a member of the Early Years Inclusion Team will be able to attend as well Please secure your place by emailing events@bromleypcf.co.uk as spaces are limited.



A hands-on sensory workshop to explore some sensory play ideas and understand the important role sensory play can have on your child's development.

Sensory play workshop

Biggin Hill
Children's and Family Centre



16/10/25

10am or 11am

Limited places. To book, email:
events@bromleypcf.co.uk



**Bromley Parent
Carer Forum**

Children welcome
Free
Refreshments available

New Annual review process meetings

Parent/Carer Information Session: Improving EHCP Annual Reviews in Bromley

Is your child or young person supported by an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)? Join us for an important session to hear about improvements being made to the EHCP Annual Review process in Bromley.

A new project is underway to improve how EHCP Annual Reviews are carried out in Bromley.

These session will explain:

- ☒ Why the Annual Review process is being updated
- ☒ What's changing and why it matters
- ☒ How your feedback has helped shape the improvements
- ☒ What the new process will look like
- ☒ How your child or young person's voice will be central
- ☒ What training and support will be available for families

The sessions will take place via TEAMS on the following dates/times:

Wednesday 17th September between 7-8pm

To book your space on this session please use this link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/SKaGGcgcrd>

Thursday 18th September between 10-11am

To book your space on this session please use this link:
<https://forms.office.com/e/HJyHwwFrYA>

Please note that both sessions will be the same and the TEAMS link will be sent via email 24 hours before the event. Any queries? Please email parentengagementservice@yvhs.org.uk.



SEND Local offer live



FREE EVENT

The SEND Local Offer Live is BACK!

ARTS & CRAFTS

DANCE

POP-UP CAFE

ADVICE & SUPPORT

POP-UP ARCADE

DRAMA

MUSIC

INDOOR SPORTS

LIVE!

BROMLEY SEND LOCAL OFFER

SEND Matters

Special educational needs and disability provision available for years 0-25

Join us to find out more about the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services available in Bromley for parents, carers, children and young people. Taster sessions, fun, games and information for all the family.

Thursday 30 October, 10am to 2pm

 Bishop Justus School,
Magpie Hall Lane,
Bromley,
BR2 8HZ

Scan the QR code to find out more!
Pop-up Cafe onsite or bring a picnic!



Please note: parents and carers remain responsible for their children at all times.

Early Years Soft Play session- 10th November 9.30-11am or 12.30-2pm




10 NOVEMBER

Early Years Soft Play Special

Two soft play sessions at The Pavillion, Bromley Mytime. Scan the QR code to book your free place now!




SEND Matters Live



18 NOVEMBER

SEND Matters Live!

An evening opportunity for parents and carers to meet Senior Leaders in the SEND Partnership and the Bromley Parent Carer Forum.



SEND STARS Awards

Celebrating Bromley SEND STARS Awards



You can make a nomination for Bromley our SEND STARS Awards.

Now an annual event we welcome nominations for our Celebrating Bromley SEND Stars Awards. We want to shine a spotlight and celebrate the children, young people, families, service providers, carers, school staff, teams or individuals and employers who make a difference to our SEND children and young people, and their families.

The successful nominees will be recognised at an event at The Warren in Hayes, Bromley on the afternoon of the **27th November**, which will be hosted by the SEND Programme Team. We will be joined by senior leaders from Bromley Council, South East London ICB, Bromley Mayor and Mayoress elect and partners from the SEND Partnership.

If you know of a child or young person in your school or setting that has gone the extra mile to support SEND in some way, a child or young person with SEND achieving a goal, adults or groups and employers that dedicate time and effort to create positive experiences and possibilities for those with SEND please tell us about them.

The eight categories are:

- Parent/Carer award
- SEND Star Award
- SEND Champion for Peers and Siblings
- SEND Champion for Inclusion
- SEND Champion in the Community
- SEND Champion in the Workplace
- SEND Champion for Employment
- Proudest Moment award
- Lasting Legacy Award

Use QR code below to make a nomination



Use the link below for QR code to make a nomination.

[Celebrating Bromley SEND Stars Award nomination form](#)

We actively encourage nominations from individuals of all backgrounds and lived experiences. We are committed to embracing diversity across a wide range of disabilities and cultures, and we welcome nominations that reflect the richness of our communities.

Please note that due to high numbers of nominations expected we will not be able to respond to each one. Those who have been successfully shortlisted by the judging panel will be notified by 5th November. A separate invite will be sent to those successfully nominated and the person who made the successful nomination.

The **Maypole project** are running two groups one for young carers and siblings and a walk and talk for adults. Please see the flyers below for more information.



The Maypole Project is creating a new club for siblings and young carers to have their own space and to be with other children and young people who are in a similar situation to themselves.

There will be a mixture of various different fun activities each week including table tennis, table football, arts & crafts and cooking & baking.

When: October 2025 Tuesdays 5pm-6pm **Who:**
Siblings and young carers aged 7-11 years
Where: Venue TBC

Register your interest now by getting in touch with one of our team on the methods below.

GET IN TOUCH

✉ Info@themaypoleproject.co.uk
☎ 01689 851 596

M THE MAYPOLE PROJECT

themaypoleproject.co.uk



Registered Charity No. 1120163



Parents/Carers Walk and Talk Group

The Maypole Project provides a walk and talk group for parents/carers of children and young people with complex medical needs, SEN and disabilities.

It is a chance to get together with other parents and carers to talk and walk around the wonderful green spaces on offer in Bromley and SE London.

When: once a month on a Tuesday

Timings: 10.30am – 11.30am **Where:** Various different parks in the borough of Bromley and SE London.

Suggested donation: £5

GET IN TOUCH

✉ phillipprice@themaypoleproject.co.uk

☎ 01689 889 889

**M THE MAYPOLE
PROJECT**

themaypoleproject.co.uk



Registered Charity No. 1120163



CARERS GO FREE

AQUA ACTIVE

Free water based sessions for people with complex needs and disabilities

Enjoy the benefits of the swimming pool with four FREE Aqua Active sessions for children, young people and adults* with complex needs and disabilities.

- Changing Places toilet at each site provide access to a hoist and changing bench
- Specialist wheelchairs available so the pools are accessible
- Floatation aids on hand to enhance the experience
- Practice swim moves or just have fun in the water
- 4 x FREE Aqua Active swimming sessions

For more information and to register visit

www.mytimeactive.co.uk/aqua-active

Use your Aqua Active sessions at any programmed general swimming session at either:

The Pavilion, Kentish Way, Bromley, BR1 3EF or Biggin Hill Pool, Church Road, Biggin Hill

TN16 3LB contactcentre@mytimeactive.co.uk - 0208 323 1765

Check the website for general swimming times: www.mytimeactive.co.uk/swimming

SCAN TO
FIND OUT
MORE



*Carers go free. Terms and conditions apply.

aquaactive
by mytimeactive

We need you! We are looking for more people to join our steering group. Come as you are - no experience needed.

- Can you help with event organisation (coffee mornings or focus groups etc)?
- Do you have knowledge or experience of online tools such as eventbrite?
- Are you a friendly face to talk to other parents and carers?

Get in touch with us for a chat by emailing info@bromleypcf.co.uk

Your views?

As our membership is growing we are keen to plan some events such as coffee mornings, workshops and family events. We would be interested to hear if you have any ideas of events? Are there any workshops you would find useful and would be keen to be part of?

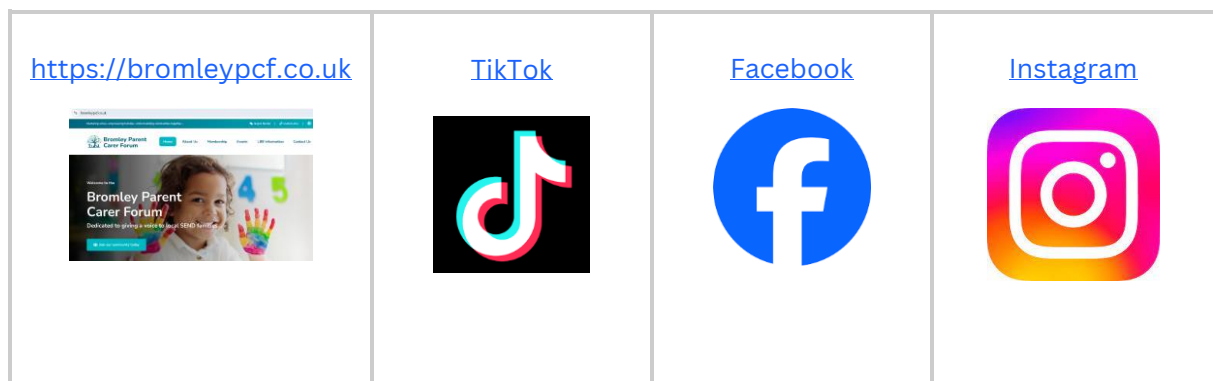
Spread the word

We now have leaflets and posters printed that we are circulating, please let us know if you can help us by displaying a poster or handing out leaflets to parents and carers. Please share our website address with any families who could benefit from being part of our forum.

Keep in touch

We have a Facebook page where we use to share events from our partners. We now have a TikTok and Instagram account for the Bromley Parent Carer Forum. Please like, share and follow us and keep an eye on these for some introductory videos from key people in the coming weeks.

Useful Links



Local offer clubs and events guide- <https://new.express.adobe.com/webpage/v7dluzxU4Xr3K>

Local offer -[Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Local Offer – London Borough of Bromley](#)

Contact- for families with disabled children <https://contact.org.uk>

We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter and you have found the information useful.

Bromley Parent Carer Forum