

BRENT SEND NEWS

FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND PROFESSIONALS



WINTER EDITION

Welcome to our latest newsletter! Firstly, I would like to introduce our new Head of Inclusion, Dr Roxanna Glennon, who joined Brent Children and Young People's Directorate in the summer. Roxanna brings with her a wealth of experience from work with other local authorities, and as a former SENCO and school senior leader with over a decade of experience teaching in both mainstream and special provision. She has a passion for ensuring that children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) receive the support and opportunities they deserve.

This edition is filled with exciting updates, upcoming events, and valuable resources designed to empower you and your family.

We recognize the importance of keeping our community informed about the services available, and we are proud of the progress we've

made together. From our new Independent Travel Training programme to initiatives like The Avenue Café, we are dedicated to enhancing the experiences of young people with SEND in Brent. We are also thrilled to share stories from our recent events, such as the engaging trip to Goodnotes for our students with vision impairments and the successful Neuroinclusivity conference, where strategies to support neurodiverse individuals were explored. Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Together, we can create a more inclusive environment for all. Warm regards, Shirley



Shirley Parks
Director,
Education,
Partnerships
and Strategy





BRENT VISION IMPAIRMENT SERVICE TRIP TO THE GOODNOTES OFFICE

One of the world's leading digital note-taking company, Goodnotes, kindly invited BVIS and a group of students with vision impairment (VI) to their London headquarters in the City of London on 3 July. Goodnotes is an app which is increasingly being used and is becoming the preferred digital note-taking option for some of our students in schools using iPads to access learning.

The trip not only exposed the students to the operations of a leading digital technology company, it also provided opportunities to meet other students living with sight loss in Brent. In addition, they were able to improve their independent travel skills and use TFL's 'Turn Up and Go' service.

The trip provided the students

'It was a fun day, and we all enjoyed the experience, so even though this year may have been challenging in many ways at times, at BVIS we wanted to end it on a good note (pun intended) and so we did!'

The BVIS team

'I really enjoyed using GoodNotes on the iPad and getting to know what it can do. I'm pleased that it has pressure sensitivity on all brushes (when you use a more recent iPad). I found that really nice since a lot of note taking apps I've used don't have that. Other than the app, it was a nice experience, and the food was really good'

Micah Prah

an exciting opportunity to familiarise and extend their knowledge with a very popular app, in the very same space where it is developed. The trip also gave the students an opportunity to develop safe travelling and long cane skills, to make new friends and socialise with young people that face similar challenges in life.

Student Sebastian Birtoc was particularly impressed and said that he had enjoyed the trip. He was also very taken with the aesthetics of the Goodnotes building and getting a chance to meet other students and make new friends.

BVIS hope to make further trips into central London to enhance student learning in the future.

BRANCHING OUT REPORT

The Branching Out Event has come around again for the Autumn period in 2024. Held on October 16 at the Civic Centre the event was led by Brent Council with support from Prospects.

The event was held in a larger venue (The Grand Hall) as opposed to last year, which enabled parents with their children with SEND to navigate the space more comfortably. Even though there were less attendees, the use of the venue's space was well recognised.

There were over 40 organisations in attendance mainly from the Education and Health sectors to showcase their provisions, opportunities available and resources for parents to obtain. There were also workshops setup dedicated to employment support, internships and understanding of benefits alongside sessions

on young people progressing to adulthood and learning how to develop a positive wellbeing. These sessions were well attended throughout the course of the event, overall, with 50 parents and young people in attendance at the 5 mini events.

A parent who had interacted with providers and attended some workshops commented "The event met my expectations; the provisions were informative and will help with my child's future and I think the workshops were helpful for a lot of opportunities later on."

With these events the Inclusion team always aims to encourage young people to attend and not only gain information but participate in fun activities. We express gratitude to local businesses who supported this year's event (Tesco's, Urban Rose Beauty Nail & Beauty Salon, White Horse Restaurant) and have supported

in the past by offering gifts from their business. On this occasion we had arranged a "Guess how many sweets in a jar" where a young lady in attendance came closest to the number and received the jar of sweets plus a complimentary afternoon tea for two at the Hilton Hotel.

Quote from Michelle Gwyther-Head of Forward Planning Performance and Partnerships:

'It was great to see so many parents/carers and young people attending the Branching Out Event and thinking about their futures.

I spent some time on the Independent Travel Training stand which is a provision led by Brent Council and resulted in an updated Travel Assistance policy. It was wonderful to hear the conversations from parents and young people which clearly illustrated they saw the value that independent travel training would add to their lives.'

THE EARLY YEARS TEAM UPDATE

The new academic year has already brought in significant activity, change, and growth for the Early Years (EY) team. Following a successful recruitment campaign in the summer term, the team is now fully staffed. Additionally, the Early Years service has taken on the management of the Portage service, which supports some of our youngest and most complex children with additional needs in the borough. The EY team is thrilled with the enhanced collaboration this new structure has fostered between the two teams in the Inclusion Service.

This term has received a high volume of referrals from PVI settings, schools, and childminders, along with a significant increase in referrals



to the Under 5's Nursery Panel for additional resources. To better manage capacity and demand, they have developed a new 'EYIST Levels of Support' document. The guide will assist EY settings in navigating

support in a graduated manner, tailored to the needs of both the children and the settings, ensuring that assistance is directed where it is most needed.

In line with Brent schools' documentation regarding children on part-time timetables, the team has also created guidance documents for those accessing Fund Early Education Entitlement who are reducing their hours. These documents are available to all on the local [Brent Local Offer webpages](#).

Ey inclusion conference

Earlier this term, the EY team held an EY SENCO forum and providers meeting and collaborated with the Early Years Central team to host



their inaugural EY Inclusion Conference, "Thinking Differently about Different Thinking," on October 12, 2024. Over 110 early years professionals from schools, settings, and childminder provisions attended, along with many Brent EY staff members.

The conference focused on viewing young children through a neurodiversity-affirming lens, featuring an inspiring keynote from Cheryl Warren of Aperion Training, an EY professional, consultant, and parent of two neurodivergent children. This was followed

by a series of well-received workshops addressing the impacts of neurodivergence on sensory development, language skills, and social-emotional wellbeing.

The team looks forward to what the rest of the academic year has in store!

INDEPENDENT TRAVEL TRAINING (ITT)

The Council recently completed a review of our Travel Assistance policy. The policy covers how we assess applications for help getting children and young people to school, and the type of help we offer.

After drafting a new policy that considered updated government guidance, a formal consultation with residents was carried out earlier this year. Working alongside the Brent Parent-Carer Forum to organise community engagement sessions, feedback sessions were held with young people with SEND. After considering

their feedback, the final version of the policy was published in September.

Please find it on our website [Local Offer travel and transport information | Brent Council](#). An exciting change proposed by the new policy is the development of an Independent Travel Training programme. Independent Travel Training (ITT) is a programme designed to teach young people with SEND how to travel independently to school/college using public transport. ITT aims to improve confidence, self-esteem, and problem-solving skills. Young people can learn to be less

reliant on parents/carers to take them to places therefore leading to more opportunities to take part in social and community activities, further education, training, and work.

Many other Councils already have successful ITT programmes, and we have liaised with them extensively to understand how best to start our own here in Brent. We expect to appoint a provider to run the service before Christmas, with the first young people due to start training in late Spring.

There will be more information about ITT shared in early 2025.



EXCITING NEWS FROM THE RISE PARTNERSHIP TRUST: THE AVENUE CAFÉ LAUNCH!

The Rise Partnership Trust (RPT) is proud to announce the launch of The Avenue Café, a project created in collaboration with the local community. This initiative aims to provide a safe and welcoming space for parents, young people, and individuals from all backgrounds. The café is currently running and open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays 9am-5pm

The launch of The Avenue Café which took place in July was a successful event, attended by a diverse group of community members, stakeholders, and notable figures. Guests included Chris Murray, CEO of Young Brent Foundation, Lucy Rogers and Kino Royo from Premiere Kitchens, representatives from Start Easy Ltd, and Directors from the Rise Partnership Trust, along with Brent councillors and the mayor. Approximately 50 people attended, and the café received positive feedback as a much-needed space for inclusivity and community

engagement. Attendees expressed enthusiasm about its future impact, seeing it as a valuable addition to the community which will foster local connections and provide support for young people and parents.

Supporting Older Pupils with SEND

A key aspect of The Avenue Café is its commitment to offering real-world work experience for older pupils with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).

Through this project, students will have the opportunity to practice essential life skills, including:

- Purchasing Goods
- Managing Transactions
- Hands-On Roles such as Cashiers and Baristas

These experiences are designed to help students build confidence and prepare for

future employment.

For more information about the Avenue Cafe, please contact The Avenue School Christchurch Avenue, London NW6 7BH or telephone **020 3829 4690**

E-mail: enquiries@thevenueschool.london



Community Engagement

Recently, The Rise Partnership Trust held a coffee and cake event to support Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Avenue Café reflects the Rise Partnership Trust's commitment to community spirit and is expected to have a positive impact on both students and the wider community.

BRENT OUTREACH TRAINING

In addition to The Avenue Café, the Rise Partnership Trust has been working with primary and secondary schools within the borough through the Brent Outreach Programme since September 2024. The free programme consists of a nine-session training programme that focus on key SEND areas including:

- Responding to behaviours of concern
- Building rapport with students
- Encouraging early communication skills

Participants will also have access to hands-on opportunities, such as being a Teaching Assistant (TA) for a Day, shadowing teachers, and engaging in facilitated learning days. These experiences aim to empower staff to create positive learning environments and enhance their ability to meet the needs of students with Special Educational Needs.

Through these programmes, the Rise Partnership Trust continues its commitment to equipping the community with the tools and knowledge necessary to support all learners.

NEUROINCLUSIVITY: WITHIN AND BEYOND THE SCHOOL YEARS

This year The Rise Partnership Trust hosted a conference this year titled Neuroinclusivity: Within and Beyond the School Years. The event featured four speakers, each offering valuable insights into the topic neurodiversity.

Among the speakers was Fin O'Regan, a renowned ADHD



specialist, as well as Angela Boast, the Deputy Head and Pastoral Lead at Manor School. The audience also heard from a dedicated parent advocate for neurodiversity, as well as a young speaker with diagnosed autism, who shared their personal experiences.

The conference provided a meaningful experience for all participants, fostering insightful discussions and practical strategies for promoting neuroinclusivity both within and outside the school environment. It served as an opportunity to deepen the understanding of neurodiversity and its impact across different stages of life and to continue exploring effective ways to support student's diverse needs.

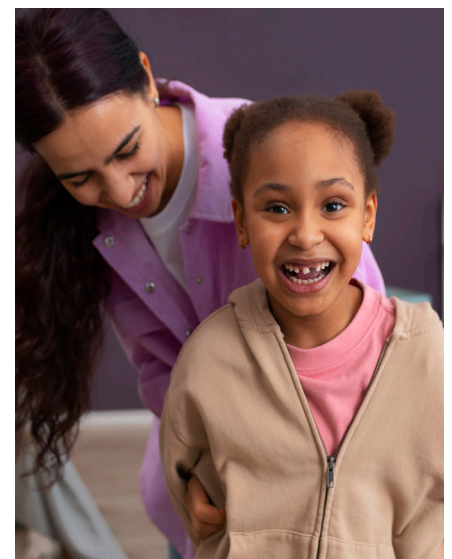
SEND CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Brent Council are continuing to increase SEND Provision to meet demand through a £44m Capital delivery plan. Including increased in space in SEND Special Schools, New Special School and more Additional Resource Provisions.

Since 2022, 104 places have

been delivered with Wembley Manor, Special School moving to their new site in September 2025. Over the next few years the Council will continue to work on the development of a further 170 specialist places through Additional Resource Provisions and expansions of Special Schools.

You can find updated development on the [Local Offer page Brent's inclusion journey Brent Council](#) for Brent's Special Provision Capital Fund plan. To be able to see the list of Special School and SEND Additional resources you can find the list on the Brent Council website [Local Offer education information Brent Council](#).



BRENT FATHERS SUPPORT GROUP

FATHERS FIRST

Fathers First is a support group for fathers of children with SEND needs. Fathers are provided with a space to share their experiences as well as finding advice and support. The group is committed to empowering fathers, supporting them to:

- Overcome the stigma associated with SEND
- Unite individual families within the community
- Develop a deeper understanding of their children's needs

Additionally, the group aims to:

- Provide professional advice from specialists and service providers
- Raise awareness about the discrimination faced by SEND families
- Create a supportive network among fathers and families

Workshops

The workshops are facilitated by Aaron Coward, who has worked within SEND settings for over 14 years, supporting children, young people, parents, and schools. His passion for inclusion and sports has led to a partnership with the Wembley Stadium Learning Zone, where he organized a variety of accessible visits for children with additional needs.

Aaron understands the challenges faced by fathers of children with SEND and created the Fathers First program to meet their needs. Recently, he provided families access to a sensory box and seats at Wembley Stadium.



Fathers from the group attended with their families to watch England face Germany in 2022 and later cheer for England as they beat Belgium in 2024. For these fathers, the experience fulfilled dreams they never thought possible.

Reflecting on these moments, Aaron shared: "When I saw those dads sitting in the stands, not just with their SEND children but with their whole families, I was overwhelmed with

emotion. They realized they could do everything other dads do and include their families too.

With tears of joy in their eyes, they shouted, 'Look, we're all here.' All I could do was smile and thank them for coming. Seeing those dads so empowered and proud is one of my highlights; I'll never forget that moment."

Please contact by email aaron.fathersfirst@gmail.com for more information on how to join.





DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER

On October 18, the Brent Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy (SLT) Service proudly celebrated Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) Awareness Day. This year's theme was 'Speak Up for DLD'.

The mainstream schools SLT teams collaborated with primary and secondary schools across Brent to highlight DLD and amplify the voices of those affected by this often-overlooked condition. School staff participated by wearing yellow and purple and displaying informative posters throughout the schools. In addition, useful resources were shared with teaching staff, and training sessions were conducted to enhance understanding of DLD. Engaging activities, such as quizzes and case studies, were also implemented to reinforce learning. The social media team played a crucial role in this initiative, sharing valuable information and resources

across their platforms to further promote awareness for DLD.

Through these collaborative efforts, the Brent Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy Service is making significant strides in increasing understanding and support for individuals with DLD.

What is DLD?

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a common yet often overlooked condition that affects language development in children. It impacts approximately 1 in 14 individuals, which translates to about two children in every classroom. DLD can hinder a child's ability to understand and use language, affecting various areas of their life, including literacy, learning, friendships, and emotional well-being.

Causes of DLD

While the exact cause of DLD remains unknown, it tends to run in families, suggesting a

genetic component. Research indicates that many genes may contribute to the disorder rather than a specific mutation. Importantly, DLD is not caused by parenting styles or environmental factors, and it can occur regardless of the language spoken. It is also not a result of bilingualism or multilingualism.

Supporting Children with DLD

Effective support can significantly enhance the quality of life for children with DLD. Collaboration between professionals, such as speech and language therapists, teachers, and parents, is crucial. These professionals can create tailored strategies and interventions to help children improve their language skills and navigate their communication challenges.

By raising awareness and providing appropriate resources, we can better support those with DLD in reaching their full potential.

LOCAL OFFER REPORT

The Local Offer was introduced as part of the National Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Reforms 2014 to help improve the quality of information about local services and support for children and young people with SEND and their families.

Local Offer Usage

September 2023-July 2024

- Total number of page users 33,204
- Average number of users per month 2,767

- Most visited time of year July
- Least visited time of year December

The total number of page users is up by nearly 6,000 users as compared to last year's data with the average number of users per month also having nearly doubled in number over the past year.

The most looked at areas on the Brent Local Offer web site included information on the SEND Local Offer Directory, getting a SEND assessment,

and types of SEND: Sensory and physical needs.

Working groups have continued to work on improvements for the Local Offer.

Please do review by visiting the website by visiting <https://www.brent.gov.uk/localoffer>

In the new year there will be workshops to gain parent feedback. If you would like to participate or be a part of these please get in contact at the Brent Parent Carer Forum admin@brentpcf.org

BRENT PARENT CARER FORUM

What Matters to You - Youth Participation Event

On Saturday 2 November, the Brent Parent Carers Forum, in partnership with Kids Organisation, supported by Brent Council Inclusion services and Urban Forest Tribe CIC, hosted a fun participation event for young people and adults with SEND living in Brent. The aim of the event was to connect young people's voices and aspirations with services and decision makers, ensuring that their views are heard in decisions that impact them.

The event, held at Chalk Hill Community Centre, brought together 17 young people (aged 13-25) with SEND, along with 37 parents, carers and family members. Participants engaged in interactive workshops around key themes identified by young people themselves, including friendships and social activities, mental health support, employment opportunities, and their hopes for the future. The sessions also explored the idea of identity and what young people enjoy most about living in Brent.

This event provided a

platform for young people to share their views on how services can be improved to help them lead happier, healthier, and more successful lives. A comprehensive report of their feedback is being compiled and will be shared with decision-makers in Brent, contributing to the ongoing development of local services for SEND young people.

To thank them for their time and input, all young people received an Amazon gift card. A huge thank you also goes to the parents, carers, and family members who supported the event and made it such a success.

Stay tuned for updates on how the feedback from the event will help shape future services in Brent!

Brent parent Carer Forum have various groups that you or your child/young person can be a part of. These include:

Deaf Parents Homework Club

Do you have deaf parents in your school with hearing children non or with send? Do you think they would benefit with support once a week with their homework?

We run a weekly homework club on Mondays 4.30-6.30pm (term time) at Willow Family Wellbeing Centre Address: Barnhill Road Wembley HA9 9DF. We have wonderful support from our tutor Marie and Bhavna, a BSL interpreter. Our deaf parents have shared concerns about their children's progress at school, particularly around the challenges they face supporting them with homework. Parents are required to attend with their children. While the children receive support with their homework and meet other children, the parents can meet and discuss their own experiences.

For more information contact admin@brentpcf.org or what's app 07852 101 492

Early years support Group

Come and join us for our SEND Early Years Parents support group where you can connect with other parents facing similar challenges. This is a fantastic opportunity to share experiences, gain advice, and build a supportive network. Our group meetings are held in person, providing a safe



and welcoming space for parents to come together. Whether you're seeking guidance, a listening ear, or simply want to meet other parents, this group is open to all. Join us and be part of a community that understands and supports you. For more information email Angela our Early Years Lead on angela.mayes@brentpcf.org

Complex Needs Support Group

Are you a parent carer with a child aged 0-25 with complex needs? Come join our support group where you can connect with others who understand what you're going through. Share experiences, get advice, and most importantly, feel supported in a safe space. The event will be held in person at Barham Park Studios-Ground floor BPCF office. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with fellow parents facing similar challenges! For more information email Amy our Complex needs Lead on amy@brentpcf.org

Neurodiversity support group

If you're a parent carer looking for a supportive community, join us at Barham Park Studios for our Neurodiversity Support Group. Connect with other parents facing similar challenges, share experiences, and find resources to help navigate the mainstream system. Whether you're new to the journey or have been on it for a while, this group is a safe space to learn, grow, and support each other. See you there!

For more information email Mirela our lead for Neurodiversity mirela.costea@brentpcf.org

Open Forum Parents meetings in December

Join Brent Parent Carer Forum

for the End of Year Celebration for parent carers on Thursday 12 December 10-12.30pm in person Unit 5 Ground floor Barham Park, 660 Harrow Road, Wembley, HA0 2HB. Please contact admin@brentpcf.org.



BPCF CIC

BPCF parent champions
Brent Parent Carer Forum would love to have 1-2 parent champions in each school who would act as link between parents and every school.

They are looking for parent/carers who would be willing to volunteer 2-5 hours a week / month and meet with other parents telling them about services for children and young people with SEND such as:

- Telling parents about Brent Parent Carer Participation Forum – official strategic voice in Brent.
- Navigating Brents Local Offer
- Understanding how to access SEND services
- Childcare and parenting support
- Dads/men's groups
- Acting as Parent links at both mainstream and special schools

The champions will be provided with two days training, supervision and ongoing support.

For questions or if you are interested in becoming a parent champion please call **07852 101 492** or email admin@brentpcf.org

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Survey for Parents Carers Using SEND Services in Brent 2023/4



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G8W6CZJ>

Your feedback is very important in ensuring services are meeting the needs of your child/young person. We want to know about your 'lived experiences' of accessing and using SEND services.

Your feedback will be shared with the Local Authority and the North West London Integrated Care Board NHS to enable them to make informed decisions that lead to improved, more efficient services for parents, carers and family supporting children and young people SEND (ages 0-25). We truly value your experiences and insights, as they are essential in ensuring that, together, we are making a difference.

We understand how precious your time is as a parent/carers, we would be really grateful if you could take some time to complete this survey.

If you would like help completing this survey, please email admin@brentpcf.org or call **Carol Foyle 07852 101 492**

We will produce a report to feedback on the findings of this survey.

FAMILY WELLBEING CENTRES



Family Wellbeing Centres (FWC) have a range of services and support for families with SEND children and families struggling with different issues, such as the cost-of-living crisis, parenting or health and wellbeing concerns. The also have activities for

children after school and during all school holidays.

The centres are open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm, and some evenings and weekends. SEND family group play sessions for children with SEND, their siblings and

parents/carers take place on Saturdays at different Family Wellbeing Centres across the borough. To find out more information and to book your place please start by registering at www.brent.gov.uk/familywellbeingcentres

FAMILY WELLBEING CENTRE	CONTACT DETAILS
Alperton FWC	Alperton.FWC@brent.gov.uk
Church Lane FWC	ChurchLane.FWC@brent.gov.uk
Curzon Crescent	admin@curzon.brent.sch.uk
Fawood FWC	admin@fawoodcc.brent.sch.uk
Granville Plus FWC	GranvillePlus.FWC@brent.gov.uk
Preston Park FWC	PrestonPark.FWC@brent.gov.uk
St Raphael's FWC	StRaphs.FWC@brent.gov.uk
Three Trees FWC	ThreeTrees.FWC@brent.gov.uk
Willow SEND FWC	Willow.FWC@brent.gov.uk

WINTER EVENTS

INFLATATION

Unit 1 Colindale Retail Park
355 The Hyde, Edgware Rd,
London NW9 6TH
All ages Under 4 £9.50. 4 and over £14.95
(free for carers).

Disability friendly sessions: This indoor inflatable theme park offers disability friendly sessions. These sessions are designed specifically for those people on the autistic spectrum and their families to enjoy. Not only does this provide an opportunity for children to have fun and be physically active, but these sessions also provide an opportunity for families to meet other families facing similar paths in a fun and safe environment. To check availability, visit [SEN Friendly Sessions Inflata Nation](#).

Call 0161 710 2360 for further information and booking.



PARTYMAN WORLD OF PLAY

Vale Farm Sports & Leisure Centre,
Watford Rd, Wembley, HA0 3HG
Soft play for ages 6 months+ -13
Last Sunday of the month is a FREE inclusive morning session (9-10am). The next session is on 22 Dec 2024 which will be Christmas themed! Inclusive evening sessions FREE, first Thursday of every month (6-8pm). The next session is 5 Dec 24. Cost of entry for SEN during normal opening hours: Peak Entry: £7.50 Off-Peak Entry: £6.00 (+1 free carer ticket) For more information visit www.partymanworld.co.uk/location/wembley/admissions/sen/

LET'S UNITE FOR AUTISM: SEN MULTI-SPORTS SESSION

Roundwood Community Centre,
49 Longstone Avenue,
London
NW10 3UN
Saturday
12noon-2pm
Free

A great opportunity to exercise and make new friends with similar interests every Saturday.

For more information, please visit the [Brent Youth Zone website](#). In partnership with sport at the heart. Call Hawa 07525 481 655. Possible entry for local offer events.



JUNIOR ADVENTURES GROUP

Junior Adventures Group (JAG) offers exciting afterschool and holiday clubs for kids, focusing on outdoor activities, team-building, and personal growth. Through adventures like hiking, games, and challenges, JAG helps children develop confidence, leadership skills, and a love for nature – all while having fun in a supportive, social environment. Head to <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk> for more information or call 0333 577 1533.



FLIP OUT TRAMPOLINING BRENT CROSS

Unit 7, Staples Corner Retail Park, Geron Way, Brent Cross, London NW2 6LW
Suitable for all ages.

Every Saturday 9-10am (SEND Session)
£9 per person (Free for carers).
£3 for grip socks.

Flip Out North London offers endless fun with trampolines, foam pits, ninja warrior courses, and more! Perfect for families, friends, and group activities. Bounce, jump, and flip to your heart's content in a safe, exciting environment. Book your session now and enjoy the ultimate trampoline experience!

For more information and bookings, visit www.flipout.co.uk/locations/brent-cross.



THE LEXI CINEMA

194b, Chamberlayne Rd,
London NW10 3JU

At Lexi Cinema, everyone is welcome! Those with access needs will be charged the usual price for any screening. However, carers go free. They also run screenings with closed captions regularly. This community-focused venue in North

London is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all. The cinema offers wheelchair access, designated seating, and captioned screenings for those with hearing impairments. For vision-impaired guests, there are audio-described films available. The friendly staff are always on hand to assist, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable visit for everyone.

Relaxed screenings

The Lexi cinema screen films from their main programme in a more relaxed environment, with better lighting and lower sound volumes. They indicate if a screening is a Relaxed and Autism friendly screening by marking it as "RS" next to the film's start time.

D/deaf cinema-goers

The hearing loop has been upgraded to the Dolby Fidelio system, and we have headsets for customers to use in the auditoriums. You can also bring your own earphones if you prefer.

Screenings with closed captions are regularly run and marked as "HOH" (hard of hearing) next to the film's start time.

Visually impaired cinema-goers

Audio Description is available for some films. They will indicate if a film has Audio Description available at the bottom of the text on the film's page on the website with 'AD'. You can also ask a member of staff at the Box Office and they will let you know. This is provided through a headset with adjustable volume on request at Box Office for films labelled as such. Guide dogs are welcome.

Those with access needs will be charged the usual price for any screening. However, carers go free. They also run screenings with closed captions regularly. Please visit the Lexi Cinema website thelexicinema.co.uk or give them a call **020 3011 5523** for further information and to book seats.



CHANGES NIGHTCLUB

The Red Brick Café, The Wealdstone Centre, Harrow, HA3 7AE

Age: 18+ £5.

Changes is Harrow's first integrated nightclub for people with learning difficulties and their friends.

The next event will be on 11 December 7-10pm. For more dates/events, please visit HAD.org.uk - Changes Nightclub or contact them on 020 8861 9920 or email General@HAD.org.uk

The staff at the Red Brick Café say 'Come to our wonderful restaurant. Not only do we serve great food, we do so at very good prices and it is all fresh healthy food.'

For more dates/events, please visit their website www.had.org.uk/red-brick-cafe or contact them using 020 8861 9920 or email them at General@HAD.org.uk

ACCESSIBLE EVENTS AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

Science Museum

Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London SW7 2DD

Tickets are free for children and free carer tickets are offered for some paid activities and exhibitions.

Early Birds: On Early Birds dates, the museum opens at 8am so that families with children who need a quieter environment can enjoy the Museum free of the hustle and bustle of the general public. Find out more visit www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/early-birds

Night Owls: The museum opens from 6.30–9.30pm on Night Owls evenings, which are for those 16 years and over to have a relaxed environment to explore the Museum. Find out more visit www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do/night-owls

SENSory Astronights: SENSory Astronights is a relaxed, after-dark exploration of the Science Museum for children with special educational needs and disabilities. From science shows to camping in one of our iconic galleries, it will be a night that you and your child will never forget. Find out more visit www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/astronights-tickets-terms-and-conditions
If you have any questions about these events, please email scmcommunity@sciencemuseum.ac.uk



RED BRICK CAFÉ

The Wealdstone Centre

38-40 High Street

Wealdstone HA3 7AE

Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

The Red Brick Café offers healthy food to the public at an affordable price and provides a pleasant environment for people to relax and be refreshed.

The café is owned and run by Harrow Association of Disabled People, (HAD), with all profits helping us do the work that we do. So not only are you eating a delicious meal, but you are also giving to a local Deaf and Disabled Persons Organisation (DDPO) and supporting disabled people. The Café provides students with learning difficulties the opportunity to develop greater independent living skills and/or to work towards their future employment(s). The food is cooked daily, from fresh, and on the premises. The menu changes everyday, however join us on Wednesday for our authentic Jamaican Jerk Chicken and on Thursday for our very popular Bacon and Cabbage. Takeaway is available.

KEW GARDENS

Royal Botanic Gardens,
Kew, Richmond
TW9 3AE
(SEND Family Sensory Tours meet at
Victoria Gate)

SEND Family sensory tours

Be immersed in plants and nature during our interactive storytelling family sensory tour with a seasonal focus in The Temperate House and surrounding area. Our tours are designed for children age 0-7 years with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or children aged up to 12 years with severe, profound and complex learning difficulties. Tours are led by trained volunteer guides and accompanied by supplementary resources to support sensory engagement.

Children's Garden quiet sessions

Explore all the things plants need to grow; earth, air, sun and water, and enjoy the sensory elements of our Children's Garden during one of our quiet sessions. We are closing the Children's Garden to the public to allow children with special educational needs and disabilities, like Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or sensory processing needs, and their parents or carers to have a more comfortable visit.

During the quiet sessions, we will be permitting fewer people than our usual time slots and ensuring easy access to avoid potentially stressful queues.

You will also be able to share your visit with others who better understand your child's needs. To find out more about accessibility at Kew Gardens and find out the next dates please email familylearning@kew.org.



FAMILY EXPLORER EVENTS AT LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

London Transport Museum
Covent Garden
London WC2E 7BB

Tickets are free for children and accompanying adult are free. Additional adult tickets cost £18.50. Our free Family Explorer events are for children with special educational needs, disabled children, and their families, we open outside our regular hours on certain special days. Enjoy the Museum at a quieter time, free from the general public, and with many of the gallery sounds turned off.

Sensory Space: Transportorium

Take this time to enjoy the Museum at your own pace, with the sounds turned off but if you need to take some time to relax, feel free to do so in our Sensory Space. With fidget toys and bespoke stimming board made exclusively for the Museum, you can play and explore in a safe environment. Please note that the sensory space is different to our quiet area, and some of the resources do make noise.

Quiet Space: Luke's Skills Space and Prayer Room

If at any point you or a member of your family needs to take a moment of quiet to self regulate, please do feel free to make use of our quiet spaces. They are located at on the first floor by the All Aboard Play area, and on the ground floor by the toilets.

Advanced booking is essential as places are limited. Please check the London Transport Museum website for further booking details visit

www.ltmuseum.co.uk/whats-on-calendar?date=24-10-2024



DISABILITY SPORTS COACH

Club Brent

Willesden Sports Centre,
Donnington Road, London, NW10 3QX

Ages: 8 years and over

Price: £4 per session

Saturdays (term-time only) 2-4pm

Try fun, inclusive sports including
football, athletics and more!

Girls Club

Willesden Sports Centre,
Donnington Road Brent NW10 3QX

Saturday (during school term) 4.15-5.15pm
FREE

For more information visit

[Community Clubs | disabilitysportscoach.org.uk](https://www.rsbc.org.uk/community-clubs-disabilitysportscoach).

RSBC

Royal Society for Blind Children



RSBC BOYS CREW!

Join the RSBC Boys Crew! This is a place for boys and young men aged between 11-25 years old with a vision impairment to come together over zoom and have a space that's just for you.

The sessions are a space for you to talk about what you have been up to and listen and learn from others. The session might involve games or have a specific topic of conversation or just a catch up.

Who is this for?

The Boys Crew Sessions are a virtual group for any young men with a vision

impairment from the age of 11 up to 25. Our meet ups are a place to chat about your interests and hobbies, express your thoughts on current social issues, and of course, share some classic dad Jokes and have a bit of a banter!

When and where does this session take place?

These sessions run every two weeks on Tuesday evenings at 5-6pm, so check our website to see which Tuesday of the month Boys Crew is running. All sessions are held virtually on Zoom. The next session will be on 10 December. 5-6pm. Visit [What's on - RSBC](https://www.rsbc.org.uk/whats-on) for more information and to book onto the next event.

SISTERHOOD!

Every two weeks, from 5-6pm on zoom, RSBC invites you to come and join our youth-led Sisterhood group! Sisterhood is a weekly online session for young blind and partially sighted women and girls aged 11-25. Whether you're looking for a friendly chat in a safe space, you want to bounce some ideas off your peers, or get stuck into some exciting new activities, Sisterhood is the place for you. Discover how positivity, confidence, and self-esteem can lead to a successful future. So join us on zoom every other Tuesday evening for some girl talk and good vibes! Visit our website [What's on - RSBC](https://www.rsbc.org.uk/whats-on) for more information and to book onto the next event.



LGBTQIA+ YOUTH GROUP

On the first Wednesday of every month, from 5-6pm on zoom, the RSBC invites you to its LGBTQIA+ group for young people with a vision impairment aged 13-25.

Whether you're looking for a friendly chat in a safe, LGBTQIA+ friendly space, you want to bounce some ideas off your peers, or get stuck into some exciting new activities, RSBC's LGBTQIA+ group is for you. The group is open to those who either identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community, those who are curious or questioning, and those who simply want to join as allies.

Throughout the year we will dive into any topics of conversation and activities which are important to you. Sign up using the booking form below to secure your place!

Head to [What's on - RSBC](#) for more information and to book onto the next event.

TURTLE KEY ARTS

Young Amici

Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, Lyric Square, King Street, London W6 0QL
The weekly classes, after school at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith, are for disabled and non-disabled young people (11-25 years old) who are interested in dance and theatre. The classes are FREE, fun, fully inclusive and suitable for all levels of experience and can lead to opportunities in performance and leadership training.

If you would like to join Young Amici please email Carina@Turtlekeyarts.org.uk. For more information please visit <https://turtlekeyarts.org.uk/youngamici>

Key Club: The Lyric

Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, Lyric Square, King Street, London W6 0QL

Key Club: The Kiln

Kiln Theatre, Kilburn. NW6 7JR
Key club is a free monthly arts & social club for young people (18-30 years old) on the autism spectrum. The club meets once a month on a Saturday during term time. Each meeting consists of a two-hour creative arts workshop presented by professional artists, followed by a social break. Recent workshops have included creative writing, singing and song-writing, film and video, visual art, script-writing for TV and Radio, drama, circus skills, photography and stop-frame animation.

Key Club The Lyric. 10am-1pm or 2-5pm.

Key Club The Kiln 2-5pm

For more information, please visit <https://turtlekeyarts.org.uk/key-club>

Turtle Opera

The Gorvy Lecture Theatre, Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Rd, London SW7 2RL
18-21 February 2025, 11am-3.30pm.
Free

During four days of workshops the group will explore a variety of creative disciplines. The autistic young people will work with a professional composer and director to work as a team to create their own group music and story. The team will be supported by a project co-ordinator from Turtle Key Arts.

If you are interested please fill out the on-line application form at <https://www.turtlekeyarts.org.uk/turtleoperalondon2025>