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How we support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Camden – Our 'Local Offer'





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What is the Local Offer?

Camden's Local Offer

This information is for children and young people from birth to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities. The purpose of the Local Offer is to help parents, carers and young people to see more clearly what support and services are available in their area and how to access them.

Camden's Local Offer will cover public services within:

Education: for example nurseries, playgroups, schools and colleges as well as support services like educational psychologists, early years and early intervention workers

Health: for example GPs, paediatricians, school nurses and therapists as well as mental health services

Social care: for example short breaks and other services that are available for disabled children and young people.

The aim of Camden's Local Offer is to help you find the material that you're looking for or to sign post you to somebody who can provide you with additional information.

For more information and contact details of the services listed in this booklet please refer to the Local Offer website at www.localoffer.camden.gov.uk

Readers should also be aware of the Care Act 2014 which came into force in April 2015.

Specific to young people and carers, the Act will increase rights for both adult and young carers as well as helping to ensure there is a more seamless transition when young people are moving on from children's services and preparing for adult life.

To find out more about the Care Act see <http://bit.ly/1JTSpLK>

Increasingly information about Camden services will be available online.

Camden encourages its residents to use the Local Offer website

(www.localoffer.camden.gov.uk), and the Camden website

(www.camden.gov.uk) to find out about services, what's available and how to access these services.

"Did you know"

- Every Camden library offers free public internet access
- The Camden Adult Community Learning Team offers a course on 'Computing for beginners' and other related courses. See <http://bit.ly/1IxhsUL>

Or call on **020 7974 2148** or email: adultlearning@camden.gov.uk

Support for parents to find information

We want to make sure we help parent carers to find information and understand how we support children with special educational needs and disabilities in Camden. There will be specially trained staff in

- Children's Centres
- Schools
- Health Centres
- Libraries

Please ask in any of these places if you would like help or want to discuss how we can help your child through our 'Local Offer'.

Feedback

We are very keen to have feedback. As well as telling us how we can improve the content of the Local Offer, we also want to know how easy you find the information in this booklet.

Camden's Local Offer is intended for you and should be shaped by you. If you have comments or feedback you want to give us then please e-mail us at localoffer@camden.gov.uk

Or write to us at: Local Offer Comments, Special Educational Needs,
London Borough of Camden, Children Schools and Families
Camden Town Hall (for 5 Pancras Square) London, WC1H 9JE

Special educational needs and disability

Children have 'special educational needs and disability' if they have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age.

Nearly all children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) go to a 'mainstream' early years setting or school.

Most children with special educational needs do not need a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care plan to be able to get the help they need.

The government says that children have a learning difficulty if they:

- Have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age; or if they
- Have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age

This is the definition given in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2014). A guide has been published by the Department for Education that explains how the system that supports children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities works. <http://bit.ly/1ywGzzO>

- If you are worried that your child might have SEND you should talk to their class teacher or early years setting, or to another professional such as a health visitor, GP or child-minder.
- If teachers at your child's school or early years' setting (or any other professional who knows you and your child) are worried they will discuss this with you.

We understand though that every parent wants the best for their child and this includes getting the right help when they need it even if for a limited time.

More information is available on Camden's website:

<http://bit.ly/1wjMlkb>

Support we offer for babies and young children

All children over three years old, including those with disabilities or special educational needs, are eligible for a free, part-time place in an early years setting.

- In Camden we want to make sure that we provide support for families with young children with disabilities or learning difficulties who need help as soon as they need it. The Integrated Early Years' Service provides specialist support to all the places (often called 'settings') providing early education and childcare.

Camden's Children's Centres

The children's centre locality teams work directly with children who have additional needs. They might provide individual parenting support or "stay and play" sessions for children or suggest a specialist pre-school drop in.

You need to be registered to use children's centre services. You can get a registration form from children's centres, health visitors and midwives.

For parents of children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, 'Earlybird' is offered in collaboration with MOSAIC, which helps parents support their child's social communication and appropriate behaviour.

Camden's Early Years Quality Improvement Team (EQIT) works with early years' settings and child-minders to support them to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for children from birth to five.

Child-minders can ask for general support from the EQIT and specialist advice, if they are looking after a child with a disability.

The Early Years Intervention Team supports staff in early years settings to use the EYFS, to assess any children they are concerned about. Some of these children may have special educational needs or a disability. The Inclusion Teachers in this team are also 'Area SENCOs' (special educational needs co-ordinators).

MOSAIC - the integrated service for disabled children, assess babies and young children who have more complex needs. The service provides early support until the child moves to school. For children with high levels of need, the EYIT

and family support workers work with MOSAIC, or with community health professionals working in early education and childcare settings.

SEND Support and Education, Health and Care (EHC) planning

What to do if you are worried that your child may have special educational needs and disabilities and how this is planned.

If you feel that your child needs additional help, you have a right to request an assessment although it is best to discuss this first with your child's nursery or school.

Before starting an assessment, we will ask the nursery, school or college to tell us about all the ways they have supported your child so far. Unless the child or young person's needs have come about suddenly, for example because of an accident or illness, they will need to tell us what they have done to meet your child's needs and what difference this support has made.

- **SENDIASS** (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service, **previously known as the Parent Partnership Service**) **provides impartial advice and guidance to parent carers and young people aged 16 – 25**).
- Their telephone number is **0207 974 6264**.

Should you wish to proceed with a request for an 'Education, Health and Care' (EHC) assessment of need, it is best to telephone the **SEND department** in Camden Council to discuss your request as they can help with what information to send. You can also email or write.

Their telephone number is 020 7974 6500 – ask to speak to a SEN case officer who can help with what information needs to be provided.

The email address is: sen.assessment@camden.gov.uk

The postal address is:

Special Educational Needs
London Borough of Camden
Children Schools and Families
Camden Town Hall (for 5 Pancras Square)
London, WC1H 9JE

EHC plans will replace Statements of Special Educational Needs. The EHC plan is a single plan that shows the support that a child will need for education in school as well as support from health and care services.

In Camden we resource our schools to a high level so that schools can make provision to meet identified needs without having to request an EHC plan.

- Children under 5 or young people at college may not need an EHC Plan, even where they have additional needs that cannot be met within the setting. Some children or young people will have a multi-agency plan with the additional support that child / young person needs in place.
- If early years practitioners or teachers believe a child or young person's needs cannot be met in mainstream education without more help they will ask for an EHC assessment of need to see how best the child / young person can be supported.

Where the assessment indicates that the child's needs are severe, complex, long-term and unable to be met within the setting's resources, we will discuss an EHC needs assessment with you.

Developing an Education, Health & Care plan

In Camden we will work together with parents whose children need an Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan). We firmly believe we will get the best outcomes for children by working with you in partnership.

What is an Educational, Health and Care Plan?

An Education, Health and Care plan will set out clearly what a child or young person's needs are, what support they should get to meet those needs and what the expected outcome of the support is:

The **Education** element of the plan will explain what is needed for the child or young/person to attend school safely and achieve the best they can in their learning. It will state which school the child will go to and, if applicable, the support the child/young person will receive to travel from home to school or college.

The **Health** element of the plan will set out any health services or health support that the child needs to ensure they can learn and participate fully in school life.

The **Social Care** element of the plan will set out any services that the local authority will provide to support the child and their family to live as 'ordinary' a life as possible.

An Education, Health and Care plan can be started as soon after a child is born as necessary and can continue in place (revised as needed) while they are still in education until a young person reaches 25 or until the goals of the plan have been met.

Personal Budgets

Personal Budgets are part of a range of changes the government has introduced to give parent carers and young people more control and choice over the support they or their child receives.

What are Personal Budgets?

- A personal budget is the amount of money that will be made available based on the support a child or young person needs in order for them to achieve a set of agreed outcomes and to have the identified support needs met in their EHC Plan.
- A personal budget is different from a personalised service in that it is a 'cashable' sum of money
- Having an EHC plan may not necessarily mean that a child or young person will have a personal budget
- A child or young person may have a personal budget from more than one source, for example from social care, SEN and/or health
- A personal budget will help families choose the care and services which are most appropriate to them

What you cannot spend a personal budget on

- It sounds obvious, but personal budgets cannot be spent on anything that would put a child/young person at risk of harm or on anything that would not clearly benefit the child.
- It cannot be used to buy services from Camden but a 'mixed' approach is possible, with a child's needs being met in part by us and part through support purchased through the money made available by a personal budget
- See www.localoffer.camden.gov.uk for a copy of Camden's Personal Budgets Policy which has further details.

Direct Payments

Personalised Support In Camden (PSIC) - provides support to parents of disabled children and young disabled adults to set up and run 'Direct Payments' (payments made to the young person or their parent so that they can buy care services themselves). You can call them on 020 7383 4901.

How early years settings, mainstream schools, and colleges help children with special educational needs and disability

With the right support, nearly all children with SEND can have their needs met within mainstream education. A mainstream school or setting will therefore be the right for most children.

Additional support for children's centres and early years settings are funded in a different way to schools. The settings can contact the Early Years Intervention Team for advice and support.

In school all children have their learning planned, coordinated and evaluated by the class or subject teacher often with support from teaching assistants.

If a school believes a child has SEND, they will always discuss this with you. You will be invited to share in planning to meet your child's needs. The person responsible for looking after special educational needs in the school is called the Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator – known as the SENCO.

Camden schools' SEN Information report

All Camden schools are setting out their SEN information report (or Local Offer) or their policy on SEND on their website. This will explain what the school does to identify special educational needs and the support the school provides for children and young people who need additional help.

What happens when additional support is needed

If your child needs additional help to make progress in school, his/her teachers will make an individualised plan to support your child. The school's SENCO will help with this.

Schools employ Teaching Assistants who work under the direction of the SENCO to support class and subject teachers.

Where it might be helpful, a school may ask for advice from outside specialists about how best to support a child - for example initially this could be from a speech and language therapist. Sometimes an educational psychologist or a behaviour specialist will be needed.

Camden services that provide support:

- **Area SENCOs** – provide advice, training and support for children within the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and offer specialist programmes

for young children not in schools.

- **Educational Psychology Service** – helps to assess children’s learning needs and help teachers to understand how to adapt their teaching.
- **Primary Learning Support Service** – provides assessment and specialist help for children with emotional, social, language, communication and mental health difficulties, including disorders such as specific language impairment and autism.
- **Camden Language and Communication Service (CLCS)**, works together with schools and families to support children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) in primary mainstream schools in Camden.
- **Camden Physical Disability (PD) Outreach Service** supports children in mainstream schools and will support children transferring to secondary school.
- **Sensory Advisory Service** – offers specialist advice to schools where a pupil has a hearing and/or a visual impairment

Schools and early years’ settings will always communicate with you if they think additional support is needed for a child or young person and always before they contact other specialists.

What you can do if you believe your child needs extra help at school or in an early years setting

- If your child is not in an early years setting and you are worried about your child’s development, talk to your Health Visitor or your GP. They can decide whether a child needs to be referred for assessment.
- If your child attends an early years setting and you have concerns about his/her development the first person to speak to is your Health Visitor or the nursery ‘key person’.
- Child-minders can ask for general support from the Early Years Quality Improvement Team and specialist advice, if they are looking after a child with a disability.
- If your child is at school and you think s/he needs extra help, the first person to speak to is your child’s class teacher (in a primary school) or forum tutor (in a secondary school). You could also ask to speak to the school’s SENCO. If you don’t know who this is, just ask your child’s teacher.

If a child's needs cannot be met by a mainstream school or early years setting

- The early years' practitioners or teachers may believe a child or young person's needs cannot be met in mainstream education without more help than the school or setting can provide. If the child's needs are complex and require specialist provision, they may ask for a multi-agency assessment and plan to see how best the child can be supported.
- If the school shows that everything possible has been done to support the child or young person but still their needs are not being met, we will arrange an assessment to see whether, with support from a number of specialists or services the child/young person might make better progress.
- For a small number of children and young people, a special school or a specialist unit in a mainstream school, will be required in order to best meet their needs.

If you have discussed your child's progress with the school or early years setting and you believe your child's needs are greater than the setting or school believes, you can ask for an assessment yourself by writing directly to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Service (SEND) & Psychology Service.

The address to write to is:

Special Educational Needs and Disability
London Borough of Camden
Children Schools and Families
Camden Town Hall (for 5 Pancras Square)
London, WC1H 9JE

The telephone number is **020 7974 6500** – ask to speak to an SEND case officer who can help with what information needs to be provided.

The email address is sen.assessment@camden.gov.uk

SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs Information, Advice and Support Service), which was previously known as The Parent Partnership service can help you with this. Their address is also at the back of this booklet.

Funding for SEND in schools and settings

Most children under 5 years with special educational needs who attend an education provision will have the support they need from the staff working in the provision they attend.

For school aged children:

- Local authorities receive money from the government to give to schools.

- One element of this is an amount of money per pupil/student on the school's roll. Money is given to each school to support special educational needs (called the 'school's notional budget').
- A second element is for children with special educational needs. The government has said that a mainstream school or college has up to £6,000 from its budget to spend on each child who needs additional help to make progress. In a Pupil Referral Unit (a specialist setting for children/young people without a school place) that figure is £8,000 and in a special school it is £10,000.

If a child needs more help than this, the school or college will ask for a multi-agency assessment to better understand the child or young person's needs and plan for them.

- A third element of funding comes from the 'High Needs Block'. This is money that the local authority will give the school when we agree that the child/young person's need cannot be met within the school's resources. The 'High Needs Block' is money held by the local authority to support more complex special educational needs.

Top up funding follows the child, so if the child moves schools, the top up funding goes with them.

Special schools and other specialist provision

Most children and young people who have an Education, Health and Care plan will attend a mainstream school or provision. For some, it might be right for that child or young person to go to a specialist setting, school, or college, or a specialist unit.

- To go to a special school or a specialist unit in a mainstream school, a child or young person must have an Education, Health and Care Plan or a 'statement of special educational needs' which sets out the specialist support necessary for the child/young person.

There are a number of special schools and specialist units in Camden catering for children and young people with a wide range of needs. Some of these schools are 'maintained'. That means they are in the state system. Some are independent special schools.

Early Years

There are 'enhanced' places for children with social and communication difficulties or Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in local early years settings.

Special Schools and Units

- **Swiss Cottage School** is a school for disabled children from age 2 up to the age of 19 with complex learning difficulties. The school is a research and development centre too.
- **Frank Barnes School** for deaf children is a primary school from the age of 2-11, which offers a range of courses and training opportunities both for families of our pupils, the wider deaf and hearing community and professionals.
- We have two primary schools that have a Resource base for children with Autism. These are at Netley Primary School (**Woodlands ASD** resource base) and at Kentish Town School.

In addition to mainstream school provision, **Acland Burghley** secondary school has a resource base for children with Autism.

- **Torriano Infants School** has a resource base for children with complex language and communication difficulties, but no diagnosis of autism.
- We have a primary school resource base for children with **physical disabilities** at Kentish Town School. For secondary age, we have resource bases at Hampstead School and at Regents High School for children and young people with physical disabilities.

In addition to mainstream provision, there are two resource bases at **Hampstead School** and at **Regents High School** for children and young people with physical disabilities.

For children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural needs:

- For primary school age children we have specialist provision in Robson House Pupil Referral Unit (PRU). A Pupil Referral Unit is an education provision where a young person can be placed if they are having difficulties in school and need a shorter time away from their mainstream school in a specialist setting. Children who are excluded from their primary school can also be placed in a Pupil Referral Unit.
- For secondary school age young people we have provision at the Camden Centre for Learning (CCfL). In CCfL there are two types of provision – a pupil referral unit (as described above) and a special school.
- Children and young people with mental health needs (e.g. school phobia/ anxiety) can be offered support through the Thomas group on a short-term basis and through the **Royal Free Hospital School**. A referral from a consultant is required to access provision in the Royal Free Hospital School.

Local provision for local children

We always try to ensure that children and young people attend schools as close to their home and their community as possible. This includes both mainstream and specialist provision, and also includes maintained provision in nearby boroughs.

In some exceptional cases where we cannot meet needs locally, Camden will consider funding independent provision that can meet the child's needs. We do this only when we cannot meet the child's needs in the borough and we always do this in consultation with the child or young person's parents. In exceptional cases, residential provision will be considered.

Colleges

Alexandra College (see below for more information), is a new provision for young people with severe and complex needs aged 16 - 25.

Our mainstream colleges offer a range of courses suitable for young people with special educational needs and disabilities and we are working with them on the development of more options.

The Department for Education (DfE) has a list of Independent & non Maintained Special Schools that they have registered. www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-and-non-maintained-special-schools

Camden does not currently have a list of preferred providers but will only consider provision with a 'good' or 'outstanding' OFSTED rating.

The approved list of Independent Post 16 colleges and Special Schools is available through www.gov.uk/government/publications/section-41-secretary-of-state-approved-list

Alexandra College

Alexandra College is for young people aged 16 - 25 who have severe and complex special educational needs: severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties, and may have complex autism and / or physical difficulties.

It will provide further education places, offering a wide range of courses to meet the needs and aspirations of students. The provision will focus on progression for every young person - as defined by each young person, their parents and key staff.

Learners are registered at **Westminster Kingsway (WKC)**, and the programmes are delivered by a charity called **Macintyre**.

Admissions to Alexandra College

Applications are invited from those who are unable to have their needs met by a school sixth form or general further education college programme for learners with learning difficulties and / or disabilities and have, or are in the process of getting, an Education, Health and Care plan.

If you are interested in a place at Alexandra College for your son or daughter you should contact the SEN Team in your local borough in the first instance.

Transport

Information about home/school transport for children with special educational needs is explained fully on our website, see <http://bit.ly/1KUOg9s>

Health and Care Services for children and young people with SEND in Camden

MOSAIC

MOSAIC is our integrated service for children and young people with disabilities, where all services are based under one roof in Kentish Town Health Centre. The service brings together care and health services so that families get the help they need through one service.

The service provides:

- Multi agency assessment, diagnosis and support for disabled children & their families from 0-18 including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
- The Early Support model, a Keyworker system as well as Home Based learning programmes for children under five.
- The EarlyBird programme is offered to parents of children under 5 newly diagnosed with Autism. Other services include the MOSAIC Sleep Service and MOSAIC Feeding Clinic.
- Access to Short Breaks is through MOSAIC disabled children's social care team. The Short Breaks Co-ordinator is able to provide information about what services and leisure activities are available.
- Our Camden MOSAIC In Touch magazine gives you the latest news on what's happening in Camden for disabled children and their families.

More information is available about MOSAIC and access to short breaks [on the Local Offer website](#)

Health services

Health services are arranged by Camden's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCGs) which is part of the National Health Service. Clinical Commissioning Groups are made up of GPs from the local area and at least one registered nurse and one secondary (hospital) care specialist doctor. CCGs plan and buy healthcare services for the residents of their area.

Camden's CCG works in partnership with Camden Council to help improve children and young people's health and well-being. The CCG aims to improve the health and quality of life for people by arranging health and social care services delivered closer to you and where everyone providing them is working together with you.

We have a number of specialist services that support children's centres, nurseries and schools to meet the health needs of children with SEND:

- **Health Visiting** – universal services that support all children under school age
- **Community Children's Nursing Service** – supports children in schools and at home with complex medical needs
- **Camden School Nursing Service** - School based nurses who support children in schools

Two services that help with healthy eating and promoting health and wellbeing through physical activity are the 'Healthy Eating Team' and the 'Supporting Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing' team.

University College London Hospital provides support to schools and parents of all school age children with diabetes and 'managing schooldays'.

- **Community Nutrition and Dietetics service**
- **Community Paediatricians** (Children's doctors)– specialist children's doctors
- **Speech and Language Therapy Service** – helps children with communication difficulties
- **Children's 2nd tier audiology (hearing) service** - assesses and treats children and young people's hearing
- **Occupational Therapy** – supports children with disabilities by helping them find ways of managing all the tasks of everyday life – eating, dressing, self-care
- **Community Equipment Service** for Children with Disabilities – provides equipment that children may need to help improve or maintain their health and independence

- **Children’s physiotherapy** – works with the child or young person to improve movement and body functioning

Camden Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (Camden CAMHS)

– helps children and young people who have problems with for example, behaviour or self-esteem or depression

Camden has a **wheelchair service** for children and adults based in Kentish Town. The service takes a child and young person-centred approach, with an emphasis on choice and education. It offers a voucher scheme, enabling individuals to purchase a wheelchair of their choice using a voucher system. An organisation that helps disabled children with mobility equipment and can sometimes work jointly with the local authority is Whizz-KIDZ, see www.whizz-kidz.org.uk

For more specialist services:

- **Children’s Complex and Continuing Care Team** – provide a package of health support to children who are dependent on technology at home and in the community.
- **Life Force Team** – supports children and young people with life threatening or life-limiting conditions
- **The Neonatal intensive care unit** – helps newborn babies with disabilities

We have a bowel and bladder service for disabled children and young people to help manage their continence.

Camden has a specialist support service from birth to adulthood for children and young people with Sickle Cell and / or Thallassaemia.

Our health professionals work closely together to ensure that joint assessments are carried out when the child needs to see more than one health professional.

Care Services

- Social Care services are provided through both the main family service and social work service in Camden, as well as MOSAIC. We work closely with voluntary organisations in making sure the right support and services are provided to you and your family.
- Social care and social work services are provided through the disabled children’s team in MOSAIC if the child or young person has a severe disability and complex needs. This includes children where there are safeguarding concerns.

Short Breaks

Short Breaks are available through universal services and through MOSAIC for targeted and specialist short breaks services. Short Breaks help you to sometimes have a break from the responsibility of day-to-day care, and also to give children and young people the opportunity to enjoy activities with other children/young people.

Our Short Breaks Co-ordinator can help explain further what activities your child may be offered. Short breaks are for families who are eligible for services through MOSAIC. Please call the Duty Social Worker for more information on 020 3317 2201 / 2221.

For more information on **short-breaks** visit the Local Offer website.

Support and fun activities are also available for siblings of disabled children provided by KIDS. Visit www.kids.org.uk to find out more.



Family Service and Social Work

- Support for children and young people with special educational needs with less complex needs may be provided through our Children in Need services. Our social workers can work with parents to support them and help them deal with any difficulties that may be affecting the family.
- Hospital social work teams are based at University College Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital. These teams provide support for children who have to stay in hospital and for their parents. The teams can provide parents with advice and support, act as a link with medical staff, and make sure the child or young person is being properly cared for while in hospital.

Leisure activities for young people with special educational needs and disability

Leisure activities are provided by the local authority and by charities and local organisations working with us. Some activities are universal, some are targeted services and others are specialist for those children with complex needs and disability.

Activities include:

- Dance and performance classes
- Adapted bike hire in Regents' Park
- Swimming lessons
- Arts club
- and lots lots more.....There is also an events calendar on the Local Offer which has up to date details of events and activities that are happening.

For more information see the 'Things to do' tab on the Local Offer website



For young children under 5 Camden's children's centres provide four specialist 'Drop-Ins' across the borough for children with SEND:

- Kentish Town West - **Supastars** run by KIDS
- Kings Cross and Holborn - **Amazing Tots** run by KIDS at Rollercoaster
- Kentish Town East - Deaf children group run by Frank Barnes School
- Kentish Town East - Deaf Children group held at Agar Children's Centre

Play provision in Camden is run by community and voluntary organisations providing after-school clubs and holiday play schemes for children and young people aged four to 13. Information about **play and leisure services** for children and young people with disabilities is available on the Camden Council website.

- The **Camden MOSAIC** in Touch magazine is sent out four times a year to all families who are registered. The magazine provides up to date information about the activities that are on offer both locally and in neighbouring areas. Contact the short breaks co-ordinator on 020 3317 2226 to register and receive a copy.
- For young disabled people from the age of 13 - 25 we have a Forum called **Reactive**. Any young disabled person can join Reactive and become part of evaluating services for young disabled people in Camden and have their say about how to improve services.

Contact **Mark.Bromley@camden.gov.uk** for further information

- There is a wide range of Youth activities on offer across Camden including a Disability Project. Young disabled people interested in sports can find a range of activities for all ages through Sport for disabled young people <http://bit.ly/15kognZ>



Leaving school and preparing for adult life

Transition to adulthood starts at the age of 14 in Year 9 at school and continues up to the age of 25. A small number of young people who have continuing care needs or significant learning disabilities will be eligible to receive support from Camden adult services from the age of 18.

This time in a young person's life has traditionally been known in schools and social care services as 'Transition'. More recently the period has become known as 'Preparing for Adulthood' to reflect that at this time young people are preparing for further education or employment, independent living, taking an active part in their community and taking greater independence around their health.

The school's Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-coordinator (SENCO) will coordinate the planning and preparation necessary for students with SEND to make a successful transition to adult life. The SENCO will ensure relevant careers guidance is provided and, for Camden resident students, the Camden Connexions service will provide further specialist support. Pupils with SEN or disabilities should receive independent and impartial advice about all of the mainstream education, training and employment opportunities on offer, regardless of their individual circumstances. There are a lot of things to think about after leaving school:

- getting a job or going to college
- where to live
- changing your social worker
- getting the right benefits

Teachers and a social worker will work with you and the young person and help with all of this.

A 'transition plan', detailing the young persons' aspirations for further education or training or employment, where they want to live and what they want to do in their spare time etc., will be made before their 18th birthday. It will also include details of the support needed.

We have a number of specialist services that support young people preparing for adult life:

- **Transitions Team** helps young people with complex health and social care needs to plan for the future and access services.
- **Transition Service** is provided by WAC for young disabled people aged 15 - 18 on an individual 1-1 basis, focusing on choice and increasing skills for independence.
- **Community Nurse Team** – supports and promotes health for people with a learning disability who need specialist input.

- **Adults Learning Disability Physiotherapy service** – helps people with learning disabilities manage or maintain their health and improve movement and physical skills
- **Adults Sensory Needs** – helps people who are deaf or hard of hearing, blind or visually impaired or for people who have Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Education and training:

Schools are able to provide information about staying on at school. They are also able to give advice about going to college or applying for university. Discussion about educational placements will be an important part of each annual 'transition' review.

- **Apprenticeships** - work in partnership with local employers and training providers to offer Apprenticeships for local people.
- **Traineeships** are education and training programmes with work experience that are focused on giving young people the skills and experience that employers are looking for.

You can find out more about who offers Traineeships on line at Traineeships from the National Apprenticeship Service.

See <http://nas.apprenticeships.org.uk>

Housing

The Transitions Team works with people who are currently living in residential care, 'supported living' or within their family homes but who want to live more independently.

Supported Living is where young people with a learning disability may live, either individually or in a group scheme.

Support for parents & carers

We actively work to find out parents views, encourage parents to participate in designing services that parents and young people want and improve existing services.

Organisations in Camden that support parents of children with special educational needs or disabilities include:

Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS, previously known as the Parent Partnership Service).

This service provides:

- Information, advice and impartial support to parent carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- The same service to children and young people aged 16-25 who have an Education, Health and Care plan or are undergoing an EHC Needs Assessment.
- A forum for children and young people aged 16-25 which helps to shape the type and range of support suitable for their needs. A support group meets regularly allowing children and young people to meet for mutual support and friendship.

The address for SENDIASS is:

Highgate Newtown Community Centre

25 Bertram Street

London

N19 5DQ

And our telephone number is 020 7974 6264



Independent Supporters

Our Independent Support Service in Camden is provided by KIDS and will provide time limited help and advice to any family or young person going through a statutory Education Health and Care needs assessment. The service will offer support during the process of developing an Education Health and Care plan.

The Independent Support Practitioner will also offer support to parents and/ or young people with statements of SEN and Learning Disability Assessments (LDA), who are changing over to the new Education, Health and Care assessment and planning process.

The Independent Support Practitioner will work directly with the parent carer and children/young people using the service and will liaise closely with schools, the statutory and voluntary sector and other relevant agencies including education, health and social care.

They can:

- Provide independent advice and support for parents of children with SEND, and young people with SEND through the EHC processes; and
- Work alongside parent carers by offering a range of time-limited support such as liaison across different agencies and advice on personal budgets;

For further information just contact one of Camden's Independent Supporters:

Traci Pope – traci.pope@kids.org.uk

Or

Vickie Joel – vickie.joel@kids.org.uk

T: **0207 288 7175**

- **The Camden Special Parents Forum** is open to all parents with a child with special educational needs and disability. To find out more call 020 7359 3635 or visit www.facebook.com/CamdenSpecialParentsForum
- **The Camden Parent/Carer Support Group** welcomes parents/carers of children and young people who have, or may have, a special educational need (SEN) or disability or, who are concerned about their child's development/progress. You can contact SENDIASS to find out more.
- We have a **Camden Parent / Carer Forum** that meets to gather and discuss views, provide peer support and influences local and national services.

If we can't agree

- In Camden we aim to work closely with parent carers and plan together the support a child or young person needs. We try to make sure that resources are shared so that all children who need it receive the support and services they need. For some services we have to set eligibility criteria so that it is clear how we make decisions on which children can access these resources.
- Sometimes families do not agree with the decisions we make. When that happens we do try to do everything we can to resolve the disagreement first through discussion. There are lots of ways to resolve the disagreement in the first place and we really want to do this **together** with you.

If you have a concern about a decision then please do discuss with the service provider. If you need support to do this you can contact **SENDIASS** and someone can support you. **KIDS** can also provide support to parents and carers.

- If discussion does not resolve the disagreement we offer independent mediation.
- Parents also have the right of appeal through Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Services - the Health, Education and Social Care (HESC) Chamber of the First-Tier Tribunal. SENDIASS, can attend meetings and help parents with advice on how to resolve a dispute or where necessary appeal against a decision.

The relevant telephone numbers are:

- **SENDIASS: 020 7974 6264**
- **KIDS: 020 7359 3635**



Useful addresses

LB Camden SEN & Psychology Service
London Borough of Camden
Children Schools and Families
Camden Town Hall (for 5 Pancras Square)
London, WC1H 9JE

SENDIASS

Highgate Newtown Community Centre
25 Bertram Street
London
N19 5DQ
Email SENDIASS@camden.gov.uk
Tel: 020 7974 6264

Camden Special Parents Forum

KIDS
7 – 9 Elliot's Place
London N1 8HX
www.kids.org.uk
Tel: 020 7359 3635

Camden Carers Centre
www.camdensc.org.uk

There is more information on our Local Offer
website www.localoffer.camden.gov.uk

