

SEND PARENT CONSULTATION NETWORKS



Birmingham are introducing some important changes to improve the way we do things and in doing so, provide earlier help to schools and families. For most learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities their needs can and should be met in their local school or nursery.

To support this, we are introducing locality SEND teams across the north, south, east and west of the city. The team is made up of educational psychologists, specialist teachers, therapists and Parent Link Officers.

The team will support families and schools when a child needs help to access education. This means that school professionals and families can talk to their specialist team through local drop-in sessions and networks. A telephone help line and texts service to link with the local Parent Link Officer will also be available.

The new locality teams will be meeting with each school in January 2020 and planning a series of drop-in events and networks across the city during the spring term. These meetings will provide the opportunity for families to meet with their local team and to have the opportunity to talk to professionals as well as network with other families.

We know things aren't working as well as they should be by the number of complaints, the high levels of appeals and the high use of our dispute resolution service. Time taken up on dealing with these as well as assessing children and young people to have an Education Health & Care Plan before being able to access specialised services is taking our teams away from the important work with schools and families.

To build up our partnership working and ensure families are really involved with the work we are doing to improve our services we have appointed Parent Link Officers.

You can meet the Parent Link Officers and hear more about the changes at one of four events across the city:

- **West – 26th November 2019 4.30pm – 6pm, Edgbaston Cricket Ground B5 7QU**
Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parents-send-consultation-event-west-tickets-82196510977>
- **North – 27th November 2019 4.30pm – 6pm, St Barnabas Church Centre B23 6SY**
Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parents-send-consultation-event-north-tickets-82196304359>
- **South – 5th December 2019 4.30pm – 6pm, The Beeches Hotel B30 1LS**
Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parents-send-consultation-event-south-tickets-82197074663>
- **East – 9th December 2019 4.30pm – 6pm, Birmingham City Football Club St Andrews Stadium, B9 4RL**
Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parents-send-consultation-event-east-tickets-82197672451>