

Preparing for Adulthood in Bromley

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In Bromley we are ambitious for our young people who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), wanting them to achieve the best lives possible, allowing them to make a meaningful contribution to their community now and in the future.
- 1.2 As part of the process to develop our strategic priorities for Preparing for Adulthood (PfA), we asked children and young people, and parents and carers, for their views. Their views have influenced and shaped our PfA strategic priorities for 2024 to 2025.
- 1.3 The SEND Partnership has established the PfA Working Group to ensure at a strategic level that all young people who have SEND are supported to achieve better outcomes and to lead fulfilled independent adult lives. The following workstreams are accountable to the PfA Working Group:
 - Education, Employment, and Training
 - Good Health
 - Independent Living
 - Friends, Relationships, and Community Engagement
- 1.4 The PfA Working Group also maintains oversight of the work of groups that are associated with preparing for adulthood, including the Integrated Learning Disability Strategy, Bromley All Age Autism Strategy, Commissioning teams, and Workforce Development. This has led to two workstreams (Independent Living and Friends, Relationships, and Community Engagement) merging with the Learning Disabilities Strategic sub-groups. The governance for these workstreams now sits under both the Adult Services and Childrens Services reporting structures. While this alignment is welcomed, both Childrens and Adults Services must ensure that no young people are overlooked in this process.

2. Co-production

- 2.1 We have ensured that our PfA priorities are driven by an understanding of the aspirations, views, and needs of our children and young people and their families. Our Young People SEND Forum, 'Champions for Change' (C4C) have told us that "our dreams matter". They want to be able to learn, to be independent, to feel safe, to be healthy, and to have friends and relationships. Many of our young people are aspirational and are looking forward to the world of work.

- 2.2 Leaders are committed to ensuring that all our children and young people are valued and have an active voice in decision making that affects their lives.
- 2.3 We support children, young people, and their families to participate in decision-making about their individual plans and support.
- 2.4 We support children and young people to be well prepared for their 'next steps' and to achieve good outcomes.
- 2.5 We actively engage and work with children, young people, and families. The Champions for Change (C4C) Forum, the Bromley Parent Carer Forum (BPCF), and Your Voice in Health and Social Care (YVHSC) forum give a voice to local SEND young people and their families.
- 2.6 We are ambitious for children and young people with SEND and celebrate the outcomes they achieve.

3. Our Progress & Impact

- 3.1 This report outlines the recent progress and impact from the four workstreams.

3.2 Education, Employment and Training

- **SEND Employment Forum**

Established through the Internships Work grant, the SEND employment forum has clear leadership, strong partnerships, and consistent representation from Local Authority officers, providers, education settings and employers. C4C provide the young person's voice.

- **Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) Network**

The PfA Network provides the opportunity for PfA and Career leads from across the Partnership to come together to share information and examples of best practices.

- **SEND Local Offer**

The SEND Local Offer pages have been reviewed and revised to provide information to support our young people to prepare for adulthood. The new standalone website currently in development will host the Information, Advice and Guidance for adults with Learning Disabilities in an Easy Read format.

- **Employer Engagement**

Following a successful Employer Engagement event in 2025, the SEND Programme Team in partnership with the Economic Development Team are hosting a Building Inclusive Workplaces event on 5th February. The event will focus on creating employment opportunities for young people with SEND in Bromley.

- **Supported Internships (SI)**

Our Council Supported Internship has started with **6** students. The interns will be based at Churchill Court from September 2026. A new ISS at Queen Mary's Hospital SI has started with **8** students. The existing SI at

the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) has **12** interns. The 2024-2025 interns have achieved **92%** going into employment.

The London Southeast College (LSEC) Bespoke and High Needs SIs had a peer review in December through BASE (British Association for Supported Employment). This review has led to a variety of actions. Key areas to look at are how we can ensure that we signpost to the option of Supported Internships earlier so that we have more Bromley young people on these courses.

- **Employment Projects**

Further employment projects have been delivered 'in house' through grant funding:

- UKSPF – Employment and Skills training – Mainstream
- UKSPF – PfA and Employment training for Year 9 – Special
- Trailblazer – In partnership with Oak Specialist College and Runway, this project is working with 20 young people and adults with SEND to explore how digital tools / apps can support them to gain and sustain employment.

3.3 Good Health

- **Increase the number of young people (14+) with a learning disability (LD) who register for and attend the annual health check**

The LD health checks sit within a well-established workstream which meets monthly. Clare Wilson (the Designated Clinical Officer for SEND (Bromley) within the ICB) sits on the group and is our SEND link into the progress, challenges, and achievements.

- Year on year we have increased the number of health checks completed. Since the financial year 2023/24 we have completed over the national target of 75%.
- We now report on the 14-25 cohort for LD health checks.
- Current data shows we are tracking above the rate for last year and have completed 208 health checks up to the end of December 2025 (compared with 121 for December 2024). Therefore, we are on track to complete meet the national target again this year.
- Parent workshops have been delivered in Riverside and Glebe schools to promote the LD health checks and work has been completed with SENCOs to support them to discuss with parents at annual reviews.

- **Arrangements are in place for community health services to contribute to EHC processes beyond 18 and provision specified in EHC plans (sections F and G)**

This is an area we see that requires some scrutiny, and it's our intention to work with our providers to ensure the same level of oversight and scrutiny are in place for these young people as they move into further education.

This will initially include some audits and case sampling, which we intend to feed into the SQAG QA governance, as well as reflecting this in our plan.

- ❖ Annual review documents now include reminders to request updated information from all professionals and services working with the children and young people.
- ❖ Monthly training is delivered to the EHC coordinator team focusing on key health messages.
- ❖ Monthly meetings are due to start between Education, Health, and Social Care to discuss young people who may meet the criteria for a referral to the Learning Disability Transition Team, to ensure those young people with the most complex needs are supported through their transition in Adult Services.

- **Ensure that all children's community health pathways include transition and preparing for adulthood in standard operating procedures from age 14 and that these policies / SOPs are accessible for children and young people with SEND**

Transition Policies can be easily sourced and submitted, the group were more interested in establishing how functional the policies are and how accessible and understandable they are to parents and families.

- **Ensure that there is clear information available regarding the transition from Children's to Adult Mental Health Services including the Dynamic Support Register (DSR).**

The Mental Health Lead is developing an action plan to sit under the Mental Health Strategy with reference to transition, so there is potential for duplication. The approach suggested is to feed into the plan, and where we can provide 'added value' to retain some of the work within the PfA subgroup.

3.4 Independent Living

- 3.4.1 Through engagement with young people and families we have recognised that independent living means different things to different people. We are enhancing our current in-borough provision with a new build property that will have a mix of high support and 'light' support flats. Through the Independent Living workstream, will grow our community-based opportunities for those who still wish to live at home but want to increase their independence (e.g., safe spaces to meet friends, expanding day opportunities to reflect young people's aspirations, flexible short breaks etc). Through this workstream we are providing funding to expand a local VCS project to deliver community evening and weekend activities for young people (16+) who would not necessarily qualify for ASC services. This is in response to feedback from co-production groups as part of the LD Strategy and the Champions for Change group
- 3.4.2 Following the merger of the groups one action already identified through co-production is the development of a flexible personal assistant framework (regulated and non-regulated activity) that also utilises an Individual Service

Fund approach and also increase choice for Direct Payment users. Parents have already volunteered to be part of the development and tendering of this framework such is the importance they attach to it.

- 3.4.3 Young people (and their families) have told us that being able to access the right support at the right time is an important principle and we are working with them to improve choice and control and further augment the local area offer.
- 3.4.4 Improved data analysis is also be used to identify the support needs of the PfA cohort in order to inform conversations with accommodation providers and community services (e.g. we know there is an increasing complexity of need that we would look to meet in borough) so that sustainable provision can be developed.

3.5 **Friends, relationships and community engagement**

- 3.5.1 The group has predominantly focussed on community activities, which in turns supports friendships and relationships. We have had the benefit of two parents joining the group who have young people with disabilities who are experiencing this journey at present. We are also linking in with feedback from the Champions for Change group to ensure we hear the young person's voice who have already voiced various issues about improving community access and developing friendships.
 - So far, the focus has been on improving the accessibility of PfA information available through the SEND Local Offer, ensuring this signposts to a range of inclusive services and channels. Most recently, this has included direct signposting to the Simply Connect website, which highlights a range of activities for young people with disabilities, even if not specifically targeted for people with SEND.
 - We have also explored ways to share information about venues that local organisations and volunteer groups can access, making this available through the SEND Local Offer. This is now clearly shown on the SEND Leisure and Activities page, with information about discounts that may be available for SEND and charitable groups.
 - We have prepared a survey for young people and families to identify preferred locations and types of clubs and activities for local development. This is to be sent out to young people and families in February 2026.
 - Plans to work with the Bromley All-Age Autism Group to consider how providers and clubs can be supported through a form of kite mark that identifies them as SEND-friendly.
- 3.5.2 Following the last group in December 2025, we have agreed to align the group's work with the Learning Disability Subgroup, called 'Our Communities'. The two groups will now combine to ensure a joined-up approach. Helayna Jackson MBE, Loneliness Champion, who previously attended both, will continue to Chair the 'Our communities' with input from Mark Smith, Head of

Service for 0-25, to ensure the group has a focus on young people with SEND from 14-25 alongside adults with a learning disability.

4. Corporate Parenting

4.1 Key priorities for 2026 relating to PfA

- Support for front line staff to screen and identify front line services
- Creation of leaflets and material to increase visibility and knowledge around impact of care experience
- Delivery of training by young people to operational staff to raise awareness of challenges facing care experienced young people

5. Assurance

- 5.1 We know that Preparing for Adulthood can be a worrying time for young people and their families. We are committed to creating meaningful opportunities for our young people through an improved Local Offer, that is shaped by listening and learning to our young people and families as we move forward.
- 5.2 We aim to improve reintegration pathways for our children and young people returning from residential and out-of-borough placements, ensuring local support networks are in place to enable they live full and active lives to enjoy the adult futures they want.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Preparing for adulthood is a priority for the Partnership, and we are proud of the progress we are making.

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