

OUR Bromley

LONDON'S BEST BOROUGH

MARCH 2026 | ISSUE 9



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Top Award
for Champion

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THE LONDON BOROUGH



Easier ways to pay

Paying your Council Tax by direct debit is quick and convenient – and managed most easily through your MyBromley Account. You can get your bills and past statements, or apply for further services easily online by checking your MyBromley Account.

Your One Stop Shop for Bromley Council

Your MyBromley Account is available when you need it, saving phone calls, paper bills or trips to council offices. You can update your details quickly with pre-loaded forms, which can be saved to return to later. You can also apply for Housing Benefit and Council Tax support through your account or apply for discounts and exemptions.

Paying by direct debit:

- ✓ Is safe and secure
- ✓ Is easy to set up
- ✓ Helps you budget
- ✓ Saves worrying about late payments



LOG IN OR REGISTER TODAY AT
www.bromley.gov.uk/mybromleyaccount

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The Walnuts renovation, left to right: Ward Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, Gareth Bacon Orpington MP, Councillor Yvonne Bear, Executive Councillor for Renewal, Recreation and Housing, Ward Councillor Kim Botting and Leader of Bromley Council, Councillor Colin Smith.

Dear Resident,

It's difficult to believe that we are halfway through February already and it will almost certainly be March by the time that this reaches you, but the daffodils clearly tell us otherwise.

In a truly turbulent world, set against the backdrop of further Government funding cuts and support for our critical services locally, I very much hope that our latest update, outlining some of the positive things that we are nevertheless doing to improve life for so many people across our Borough, comes of interest and meets with your approval.

All of this with Bromley FC travelling well in League Two and proudly flying the flag for the Borough as well - fingers obviously firmly crossed!

As we move slowly but surely towards the Borough elections on 7 May and the profound uncertainties that it poses, I know that I can speak with confidence on behalf of all the political Group Leaders locally, when I ask you to double check that your postal votes are still set in place (they need to be updated every 3 years !) so if you want or need a postal vote, please make sure you apply for one in good time.

Whatever your political persuasion might be, all of us face a truly momentous period of challenge and change across local Government over coming years and we would all like to see as large a voter turnout as possible that day to ensure that as many peoples' voices as possible are heard.

Kind regards,

Cllr Colin P. Smith
 Bromley Council Leader

Local elections in Bromley are on Thursday 7 May

You need to bring photo ID to vote

For Voter ID, you can use:

- Passport
- Driving licence
- Blue badge
- 60+ Oyster card
- Freedom pass
- And many more,
as listed online



Deadline to apply for
a postal vote:
5pm Tuesday 21 April

Find out more, including polling station
locations and key election deadlines at
www.bromley.gov.uk/LocalElection





News Round-up

The latest on our Borough - find out more at www.bromley.gov.uk/news
 You can sign up for the Our Bromley newsletter - straight to your email inbox

Rapid Road Repairs

A new trial is underway to speed up fixing potholes by using cold-lay asphalt material. Unlike traditional hot asphalt, the new material can be laid in any weather conditions, even rain. Repairs, guaranteed for two years, will be speedier saving travel time without risk of hot material cooling and becoming unusable. Road resurfacing in Bromley is being more than doubled with £5m due to be spent in the coming year, but with 547 miles of roads across the Borough, the largest in London, there is a limit to how many roads can be totally resurfaced each year. Report problems at www.bromley.gov.uk/report

New Bromley service gets to work

Bromley Works, the council's new employment and skills service, has launched an initial programme to support eligible residents into high-quality employment. The programme will create direct links between residents seeking employment and employers with local vacancies in support of Bromley businesses and the local economy. www.bromley.gov.uk/business-support-advice

Easter Opening Hours and Parking Civic Centre

Reception desk is open 9am to 5pm Mon to Fri except Good Friday, 3 April and Easter Monday, 6 April 2026.

Reuse and Recycling Centres

Churchfields Road - Open - Mon-Fri 7am to 5.30pm, Saturday 7.30am to 4pm, Sunday 8am to 1pm
 Good Friday and Bank Holidays 8am to 4pm
Baths Road temporary facility - Open Saturday 8.30am to 3pm, Sunday 8.30am to 12pm midday
 Closed 11 April, 9 and 30 May

Remember to book for Churchfields Road and Baths Road temporary facility whilst work to upgrade Waldo Road depot continues. More information www.bromley.gov.uk



DATE	PARKING, BUS LANE & MOVING TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS	ON-STREET PAID FOR PARKING BAYS	ON-STREET PERMIT BAYS	COUNCIL OPERATED CAR PARKS
Good Friday 3 April 2026	Normal Friday restrictions apply	Free	Normal Friday restrictions apply	Charges apply
Saturday 4 April 2026	Normal Saturday restrictions apply	Charges apply - see nearby signs	Normal Saturday restrictions apply	Charges apply
Easter Sunday 5 April 2026	Normal Sunday restrictions apply	Charges apply - see nearby signs	Normal Sunday restrictions apply	Charges apply
Easter Monday 6 April 2026	Normal Monday restrictions apply	Free	Normal Monday restrictions apply	Charges apply



Bromley's Deputy Mayor visiting the new Home for Children

Coming Home

Bromley is opening its first Home for Children in the Borough. It has become increasingly challenging to keep children local when they come into care. The new home, developed in partnership with Barnardo's, will enable children to maintain local connections, networks and education as well as their support from social workers and staff. The views of care-experienced young people were sought during renovation work and they also suggested the name - Solace Rise - meaning hope for the future, a fresh start, a place to feel loved and cared-for.

Waste not

The Temporary Reuse and Recycling Centre is taking bookings for disposal of a limited range of items at weekends. Access is via Baths Road whilst work to upgrade Waldo Road depot continues. Opening times by appointment only are Saturdays 8:30am to 3pm and Sundays 8:30am to midday. Norman Park garden waste collection point, open from 7 March, Saturdays 11am to 4pm, is another option for residents seeking to dispose of garden waste. www.bromley.gov.uk/recycling-sites

New Centre for Good Health

A new state-of-the-art Health and Wellbeing Centre has opened in the



heart of Bromley town centre. The welcoming environment has spacious consulting and treatment rooms, bright new reception areas, modern heating and lighting and includes the Dysart GP surgery relocated alongside the One Bromley Health and Wellbeing Hub. Public health, care and prevention services will also use the space. The bespoke centre is tailored to local health needs and forms part of the Bromley Civic Centre building at Churchill Court, opposite Bromley South Station.

No truck with fly-tippers

A Ford Transit tipper, fully laden with waste, was seized in St Mary Cray by council officers and police. The owner was advised to come forward, with the vehicle at risk of being crushed, subject to the outcome of an investigation. This is part of the Council's continuing enforcement to prevent potential fly-tipping. Rewards of up to £500 are available for information leading to prosecution. Report enviro crime at www.bromley.gov.uk/envirocrime



News homes and gymnastics centre anticipated

An exciting opportunity to build both a new gymnastics centre and affordable homes could come forward in St Paul's Cray, subject to confirmation of sufficient Government grant funding. The £71m proposal being progressed by Bromley Council could see 123 affordable homes built on Chipperfield Road, alongside a gymnastics centre, envisaged for Bromley Valley Gymnastic Club. This would be the largest of the Council's 'Bromley Homes for Bromley People' developments to date, a programme which has been providing affordable housing at sites across the borough for residents on the housing register. Further details to come.

Bromley Homes for Bromley People Latest

- York Rise, Orpington – the latest development opened – 35 maisonettes and apartments.
- Bromley North Apartments – 'Topping out' ceremony in March for this 75-unit affordable housing development built on a car park.

Tribute

Councillor Keith Onslow has sadly passed away and will be missed for his unflagging contribution to the Borough. First elected in 2014, Cllr Onslow had been a Petts Wood and Knoll ward councillor since 2018 and Chairman of Pensions Committee since 2017. He was also Deputy Mayor of Bromley in 2023/24.

Serious Hazard

An attempt to conceal hazardous asbestos material in household recycling led to the loss of an estimated 100 tonnes of paper contaminated by the hazardous waste. Also, the cost to taxpayers to dispose of this and the fly-tipped asbestos is estimated at £35,000. The incident prompted an investigation and warning about fly-tipping any items in or around recycling banks, with CCTV used to deter offenders who face potential prosecution where sufficient evidence exists. Report environmental crime at www.bromley.gov.uk/envirocrime



Love your Library

Excitement is building for the opening of the new Central Library later this year at 145 High Street Bromley. In the heart of the town centre, it will rehouse provisions from the current library and deliver improvements such as a larger children's library, accessible toilets, attractive modern study areas and new lifts. *More library news: page 20.*

www.bromley.gov.uk/libraries



Rachel, fourth from the left, and members of her team

Supporting Families

The Early Intervention and Family Support Service ensures Bromley families get the right help at the right time to help them face every-day life challenges

Rachel heads up a remarkable ‘early intervention’ service that listens to families and provides just what they need, when they need it.

Meeting her and the team at one of Bromley’s Children and Family Centres is like entering a family itself with the warm welcoming ‘metaphorical hug’ that comes as standard for all visitors.

“We try to provide everything you can think of that families might need,” says Rachel. Our sessions are focussed on families in Bromley and include learn and play, parenting support, employability

activities, health services both universal and specialist including child health clinics, speech and language, Mindful Mums, school readiness, and more.

Face-to-face support is available through all six of the Borough’s Children and Family Centres – each one buzzing with advice and activities on topics important to a thriving family environment for children to grow in. There’s free advice on schooling, health, isolation, eviction, crime, drugs, alcohol, domestic abuse, unemployment or simply not coping. The Centres offer a range of

targeted services from professional organisations for courses and activities such as:

- Parenting skills
- Baby massage
- Debt and money management skills
- Employment and job seeking skills
- First aid training
- Healthy eating
- Post-natal courses
- Speech therapy
- ESOL Language Courses

Everything from sensory sessions for children who need these, developmental checks, fun sessions of music and movement and learn and play to activities to help residents get into work.

The Early Intervention and Family Support Service has six unique sub-teams:

- Children and Family Centres in six locations
- Family and Parental Support Team under Bromley Children Project
- SEND specific services including Bromley Information Advice and Support Service
- Social Communication Needs including autism
- Reducing Parental Conflict Service
- Youth Service



Outstanding Children’s services

Judged Outstanding across the board by Ofsted, there’s plenty to help families grow and thrive. Children’s Services in Bromley are among the social care elite with only a handful of councils achieving the coveted top rating.

Bromley Children Project



A team of dedicated family support and parenting practitioners support individual families to protect and develop their children and ensure every child is in a safe, supportive and happy family.

Some families benefit from one-to-one support sessions.

“Few families require more than one cycle of support and even fewer more than two, building self-efficacy is key,” says Rachel. “We aim to give families the resilience to carry on by themselves, but we still check in after a month and six months. We keep the offer relevant with resident feedback the team has recorded since 2012,” says Rachel.

“There is a strong call for face-to-face services that combat loneliness and help families recognise that others face challenges too, but our online presence is growing and two of our subsites have been cited as amongst the best in London. We deliver activities and parenting online through

the Bromley Parenting Hub where there are amazing online resources for everyone.

“Our videos on YouTube are available to everyone with some getting up to 20,000 views,” says Rachel.

“They cover serious topics such as ADHD and sibling loss as well as lighter readings of ever-popular stories such as ‘The Very Hungry Caterpillar’ – which itself had 11,000 views!”



The six centres

Biggin Hill

Sunningvale Avenue
TN16 3TN

Blenheim

Blenheim Road
BR6 9BH

Burnt Ash

Rangefield Road
BR1 4QX

Castlecombe

Castlecombe Road
SE9 4AT

Community Vision

Woodbine Grove
SE20 8UX

Cotmandene

Cotmandene
Crescent
BR5 2RB

Register your interest

There a one-time registration process on the Bromley website to get advice and join activities at the Borough’s children centres.

**[www.bromley.gov.uk/
bromleychildren
project](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/bromleychildrenproject)**

The Bromley Children Project parenting hotline

Speak to one of our friendly practitioners if you’re in need of some general parenting advice. You can also speak to us if you are unsure whether to complete a referral for one-to-one support... we are here to help.

Telephone: 020 8461 7259



Shouting about reducing parental conflict

Relationships are complicated, everyone needs a little advice at times, and where children are involved there's an even bigger incentive to seek harmony

“A certain amount of disagreement is normal even in the healthiest of relationships.” says Magda from the Council’s family support service. “It’s really how you deal with it that matters.” Magda has spent time working with experts in the field to devise resources that can really help when the

going gets tough.

“I’m really proud of our offer,” she says.

“Courses and workshops combined with brilliant online resources really make a difference.”

“Our brilliant family

practitioners work directly with families, whatever it takes, as part of the parenting support services for residents, but what makes the work around reducing parental conflict so successful and sustainable are the online resources and action sheets on our Parenting Hub.

“The resources and classes are completely free, and all types of families are supported with face-to-face sessions.”

Magda continues. “Workshops can be booked through the Council’s website and the fantastic action sheets are the same crib sheets professionals use working on a one-to-one basis offering continuity and the opportunity to reuse information resources over and over again.

“What parents do not always realise is the impact that arguments in the home

“The workshops felt informal and full of practical skills and useful information.”
Joshua’s mum.

“Very good course and some powerful videos.”
Joy’s dad.

can have on their children. They often think that by not actively arguing in front of the children, they don't know it's happening. Children are incredibly good at picking up on non-verbal signs and atmospheres and prolonged exposure to unresolved conflict can cause incredible harm which may be deep-seated for the rest of the child's life.

"Conflict at home can be one cause of children's negative behaviours such as low school attendance, difficulty with their own relationships and low self-esteem. It can be a relatively small issue or something far more significant, it doesn't matter, people still need to focus on communication. It affects everyone and it's important to learn how to handle disagreement."

"The videos on the site are very impactful and show the child's perspective. Seeking their child's views can be an eye-opener for parents and a great motivator to do things differently. We advocate **Stop, Think, Change** but this takes practice, and the videos, online resources and courses provide the tools and a sustainable approach to continue changing.

Magda says that the next level of her work is focussing even more closely on the child's point of view.

Coming soon:

An exciting new project reconnecting with our young people to tackle conflict and violence through building positive relationships.

Bromley Parenting Hub

Bromley Parenting Hub website provides valuable information for all parents in the Borough wishing to improve their relationships and foster healthier communication, whether they are living together, separated, or considering separation. Ten self-help relationship guides to use over and over again.

www.bromley.gov.uk/bromley-parenting-hub



SCAN TO BOOK

Top Tips



Listen and engage actively



Open and receptive body language



Create the right space



Stay focused and in control



"We want children to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home. This key ambition is underpinned in Bromley by a wide range of advice and support delivered both face-to-face and increasingly online by our friendly, professional Early Intervention and Family Support Team."

Councillor Kate Lymer, Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Children and Families

BROMLEY EARLY YEARS

*Find funded childcare
for eligible children
and families*



Call the Early Years Help Line:
020 8466 3088

**CHECK THE
DEADLINES
TO APPLY!**

visit our website for details
or call the help line



Available support:

- ✓ Under-2 Working Family funding
- ✓ Together for 2s funding
- ✓ 3 and 4 year old 30 hours Working Family funding
- ✓ 3 and 4 year old universal funding
- ✓ Disability Access Fund
- ✓ Early Years Pupil Premium
- ✓ A directory of available childcare services



www.bromley.gov.uk/earlyyears



Funded childcare for children aged 0-5

Back this Spring

The Walnuts Leisure Centre will welcome residents back this spring to a wonderful new place to meet up and have fun while getting healthier



The main construction works for the £multimillion refurbishment of the Walnuts Leisure Centre in Orpington are completing soon with the ‘cosmetic fit-out’ transforming the look and feel of the centre.

Following the £17m refurbishment delivered by Bromley, the centre will boast a stunning competition-length swimming pool, improved gym and new exercise studios, a new children’s pool with splash wall, new sauna and steam room. Also, there is a

new welcoming café and reception area. Essential repairs and a completely new heating system will also reduce running costs at the centre and help ensure smooth running.

Smart approach to fitness

Exciting new state-of-the-art EGYM smart strength training equipment recognises users’ profiles and adjusts each workout to their body and strength levels, ensuring each session is safe and effective. Each workout is personalised and with

a screen guiding each movement, it’s like having a personal trainer built into the machine.

Going swimmingly

The competition-length pool is perfect for galas as well as swimming for fun and fitness. There are also reconfigured changing rooms with new showers and lockers. Extensive works have been done to the pool hall, including window replacements and work to the roof.

Watch for the reopening date on the Council’s website.

West Wickham Underway

Construction of the new £22million West Wickham Leisure Centre is underway following planning permission being unanimously approved. The Centre, featuring an attractive red brick exterior, will have a much larger gym, a competition length swimming pool, and a new reception area and cafe.

www.bromley-leisure-works.co.uk



“The refreshed centre in Orpington will be a huge boost to the borough’s leisure offering and will be a hub for regional sporting activity as well as a welcoming space for families and visitors to enjoy, all the while cutting our future maintenance liabilities on behalf of council taxpayers.”

Councillor Yvonne Bear Executive Councillor for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Sign up for our Green Garden Waste Collection Service



bromley.gov.uk/gardencollections

-  Collections every other week from March to November, and monthly from December to February
-  Avoid a trip to the tip with an annual fee of £80, with convenient collections arranged to your doorstep





In partnership with



Week two

SPRING 2026

Environment Matters

even more than ever

Over 48,000 Green-fingered residents say 'Yes' to the Green Garden Waste Service

Spend more time outdoors pruning, clearing, planting and leave the rest to us! Subscribe to the Green Garden Waste Collection

Service today for only £80. New subscribers will receive a 240-litre bin to conveniently recycle garden waste. The service offers collections every

other week from March to November and monthly from December to February. To find out more, visit bromley.gov.uk/garden

Have you tried home composting?

As a Bromley resident, you receive a **50% discount** on home composters, visit bromley.gov.uk/homecomposting to find out more.



Welcome

The spring often sees more of us take on new DIY projects and/or return to our gardens, meaning we have bulky items or garden waste to dispose of. While home composting is better, many residents still need to dispose of garden waste, and our popular green garden waste collection service offers a convenient option.

To support residents with garden waste, I am also pleased to confirm the Council is again operating temporary weekend garden waste collection sites this spring, with details in this edition of Environment Matters.

Our Baths Road Weekend Reuse and Recycling Centre is now open, to help dispose of bulky furniture and electrical items. This temporary facility will remain available while upgrades to the transfer station continue at Waldo Road.

Please remember that visits to both Baths Road and the Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centre must be booked in advance, which helps maximise capacity and prevent queuing congestion.

The Council will also collect bulky items, with details and fees on our website. When buying new furniture, retailers can often remove your old items on delivery, offering an easy, cost effective option. However, before disposing of items, please consider whether they can be reused. Many can be donated to charity shops or shared through community reuse platforms.

All of these small steps can make a big difference and ultimately help reduce our disposal costs, and support the environment too. It is no accident Bromley is London's leading recycling borough.

Your support, by using our regular recycling collections, minimising and disposing of garden waste and bulky items in the best way is part of this and much appreciated. Thank you.

Councillor Will Rowlands
Executive Councillor for Environment



Meet our recycling experts!

Visit our upcoming recycling roadshows, talk to our recycling experts and get your recycling questions answered. Find us on Bromley High Street on the following dates.

Friday 24 April, 11am-2pm
Friday 22 May, 11am-2pm
Friday 26 June, 11am-2pm

Garden Waste Temporary Sites

The weekend garden waste recycling sites will be open from **Saturday 7 March** at the following times:

SATURDAYS 11AM - 4PM

- Bromley: Norman Park, Hook Farm Road (off Bromley Common)
- Green Street Green: Salt Depot, Shire Lane Spur (off Sevenoaks Road)
- St Pauls Cray - Cotmandene Crescent Car park (off Chipperfield road)

SUNDAYS 8AM - 12 NOON

- Biggin Hill: Charles Darwin School, Jail Lane
- Beckenham: Unicorn Primary School car park, Creswell Drive (off South Eden Park Road)



Street Friend Award Winners Celebrated

Our Street Friends is one of the largest volunteer groups in Bromley. Their support and dedication is invaluable and always appreciated. Last year, we invited you to nominate your local Street Friend to recognise their hard work. In a special ceremony, nine Street Friends received certificates, and a hamper, to thank them for their efforts in helping us keep local streets clean and tidy. The Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Jonathan Andrews, attended to personally thank them and present certificates.

Every year, the number of Street Friends increases, counting today over 2,600 volunteers. If you want to join the Street Friends community, visit bromley.gov.uk/streetfriends.



Love Your Local Trees?

Then
become
a Tree
Friend
today!



With over 36,000 street trees - the largest street tree stock of any London borough - Bromley Council is incredibly grateful for the vital support our Tree Friends provide.

Their commitment helps our Tree Team and service providers keep the borough's trees healthy, safe, and thriving.

Tree Friends play an essential role in their neighbourhoods by helping with tasks such as:

- Watering young trees during dry spells
- Checking whether watering bags or tree ties need repair or replacement
- Removing basal growth and low side shoots that may obstruct pavements or roads
- Identifying empty tree pits
- Monitoring the health of existing trees
- Reporting any trees that appear dangerous.

If you'd like to make a meaningful difference to the local environment, why not join our growing community of Tree Friends? Register today at bromley.gov.uk/TreeFriends.

Your Waste is Your Responsibility



What is fly-tipping?

- ❌ A black bag left next to a litter bin, on a pavement or next to a recycling bank
- ❌ Large items such as TVs, mattresses and furniture left on the pavement
- ❌ Household waste presented on non-collection days
- ❌ Industrial waste such as wood and scrap metal left on the pavement

How can you help us stop fly-tipping?

- ✓ Check who collects your waste. Do they have a waste carrier licence? Are they going to dispose of it correctly?
- ✓ Use our Bulky Items Collection service. Please visit bromley.gov.uk/bulkyitems to book a collection
- ✓ Visit one of our reuse and recycling centres. Please visit bromley.gov.uk/recycling-sites to find out more
- ✓ Report a fly-tip in action, provide evidence and help us prosecute. Visit bromley.gov.uk/envirocrime
- ✓ Donate or sell items in good condition.



Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centre



Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centre is open and will remain open during the Easter bank holiday weekend.

PLEASE SEE THE OPENING TIMES BELOW:

- Friday 3 April (Good Friday) - 8am to 4pm
- Saturday 4 April - 7:30am to 4pm
- Sunday 5 April (Easter Sunday) - 8am to 1pm
- Monday 6 April (Easter Monday) - 8am to 4pm

REMEMBER! You need to book a slot before you visit Churchfields Road Reuse and Recycling Centre or the Weekend Reuse and Recycling Centre at Baths Road. Please visit bromley.gov.uk/recycling-sites

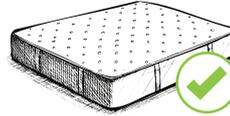


Electric support for recycling

You may have seen the electric waste collection vehicle that is being trialled in the Borough as part of our plans to ensure our waste collection services continue to be reliable. The trial will help us see how an electric vehicle performs on a daily operational basis in London's largest borough, with potential operational savings from fuel, ahead of any decision about the wider fleet of waste vehicles.

The Weekend Reuse and Recycling Centre

As the works at Waldo Road continue, the Weekend Reuse and Recycling site at Baths Road will remain open to help residents recycle large bulky waste. At this temporary site, we only accept...



Mattresses



Furniture such as tables, chairs, wardrobes and bulky items



Sofas, armchairs and other upholstered furniture (POPs)



Metals - including scrap



Large electrical and electronic items such as fridges and fridge freezers, televisions, stereos, monitors, computers and lap-tops



Small electrical and electronic items such as toasters, hair dryers, kettles and mobile phones

THE SITE IS OPEN ON:

Saturday 8.30am to 3.00pm and Sunday 8.30am to 12.00pm

THE SITE WILL BE CLOSED ON:

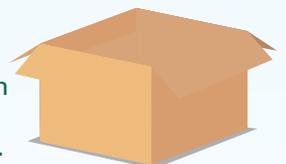
Saturday 11 April, Saturday 9 May and Saturday 30 May.

To book your slot, visit

bromley.gov.uk/bathsroadcentre

Fold your cardboard boxes

Remember to remove plastic and polystyrene before you flatten cardboard boxes. Boxes should then be placed in your recycling box, or left in a neat 2ftx3ft bundle next to it.



Collection Calendar

This is your recycling and waste collection calendar starting from April 2026. This is for residents living in houses only as there are different arrangements for residents in flats.

- 1** All waste and recycling **must** be correctly presented for collection by **7am on collection day**.
- 2** All waste must be contained securely and placed within arm's reach of the pavement, **but not on it**.
- 3** Leave your recycling and waste out for collection until **5pm** before you report a missed collection.

April 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3 [^]	4	5
6*	7*	8*	9*	10*	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4*	5*	6*	7*	8*	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25*	26*	27*	28*	29*	30	31

June 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2026						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

*Collections are made one day later than usual. ^Collections are made as usual

	Green week: Tins, cans, glass and plastic containers Food waste
	White week: Non-recyclable refuse Paper and cardboard Food waste

Take soft plastics to your local supermarket to recycle

Many supermarkets recycle items such as plastic film wrapping and carrier bags, which are not accepted in your green recycling box at home. Please avoid putting plastic bags, bubble wrap, plastic film, crisp packets and similar packaging in your recycling box, as these contaminate loads and may prevent collection. It could even stop other items being recycled if a load is found to be contaminated at the recycling processing plant.

For a full list of items that you can and cannot recycle, visit bromley.gov.uk/recycling

Recycling Heroes
Bromley's own recycling and waste minimisation programme Recycling Heroes' has reached over 27 primary schools in the borough. To book a visit and find out more visit bromley.gov.uk/recyclingheroes

Community Funding of up to £1,000
Veolia's Sustainability Fund applications open in May! If you are part of a community group interested in working on a project which could protect the environment and promote biodiversity you may be eligible for funding of up to £1,000! To find out more and apply please visit veolia.co.uk/sustainability-fund

NO Batteries in your black bags
Please do not put batteries and small electrical items in your rubbish bin. They can cause fires! Recycle them at Recycling Centres or large supermarkets



In Parks

News from Bromley's beautiful Green Spaces

Kelsey Park

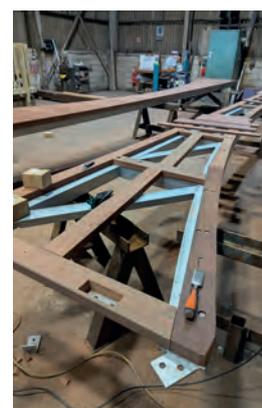
A brand-new bridge over Kelsey Park Lake is being installed in one of the Borough's much-loved parks, both an important wildlife habitat and community hub.

Installation of Kelsey Park bridge will be completed this spring following its construction off-site. Earlier revised design work confirmed the existing bridge abutments were able to be reused, without compromising the structural integrity of the bridge, helping to minimise cost.

Land and Water, the contractor who

successfully completed desilting work in Kelsey Park last March, took the work forward with the £567k project carefully planned and phased to ensure minimal disruption to park visitors. The bridge renewal brings the investment in the park, over and above routine maintenance in the last two years to £2.5 million.

www.bromley.gov.uk/parks-open-spaces/kelsey-park-replacement-footbridge



More spaces benefiting from the Council's £1 million Platinum Jubilee Fund

Pratts Bottom Open Space

Pratts Bottom Residents' Association applied for £12,000 to replace a scramble net coming to the end of its usable life with an accessible nest swing with the funds also allowing the addition of an interactive shop play panel.



Husseywell Open Space

A group of parents came together to form the Husseywell Playground Project Group to apply for £10,000 to replace a much-loved roundabout. After a successful crowdfunding campaign and generous donations from Hayes (Kent) Trust and Hayes (Kent) Village Association, a daisy springer and a shop play panel were also installed.



Widmore Road Recreation Ground

Friends of Widmore Recreation Ground Playground formed by a group of local parents crowdfunded and successfully applied for £18,000 to replace some existing equipment with more inclusive features. These included a spinning bowl, fire truck climbing frame, sensory play panels and a 3D caterpillar with numbers. The group plans to make further improvements by painting the remaining equipment this spring.



Project information is on the Council's website, but applications for the Platinum Jubilee Fund are now closed. www.bromley.gov.uk/jubileeparksfund

Libraries are Making It

Modern libraries not only deliver the gift of learning, but are places of innovation in which to meet up, be creative, podcast or even read a book!

Creative hobbies are fun and help manage anxiety, and now Bromley libraries are helping promote community and individual activities beyond your wildest dreams.

Take the brand-new Makerspace in West Wickham Library which contains a treasure trove of state-of-the-art equipment such as 3D printers, crafting die cutter and several sewing machines. The latest equipment is poised to deliver any number of residents' imaginative projects.

"It's six months on from the launch, so still relatively early days," says Alex, GLL Sector Librarian. "Most people using the 3D printers

are experimenting with the technology. Some are teachers honing their skills to share with students; others are engineers interested in seeing what the new technology can do. There's also a trend towards mending things, perhaps creating an identical 3D printed foot for a toaster to replace a broken one, or using a sewing machine to fix a piece of clothing.

"We get a good mix of people depending on what's on offer and the time of day. We are always delighted when residents take the time to talk to the librarian as we really want to find out what the community wants from the space."



Community Breeds Community

"There are workshops using the machines in the Makerspace as well as other family-friendly workshops on Saturdays," Alex explains. What excites Alex most, though, is the growth in community involvement. "Sometimes people attend one of our workshops and then are confident enough to pass on information and knowledge to others or they may have their own expertise to share. We welcomed a local florist who ran a session on flower arranging and someone else demonstrated cake decorating. We'd like more residents to get in touch if they believe they have a talent to share with others."

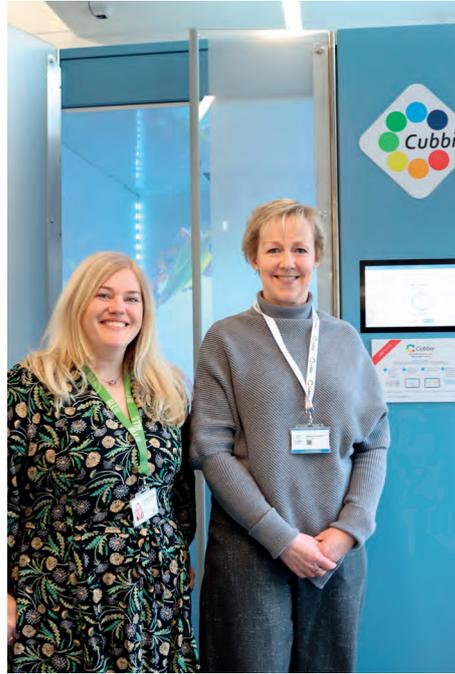


Something to fire up everyone's imagination

"It's important that libraries are relevant to local people and accessible to all," says Rebecca, GLL Head of Libraries. "In Mottingham, for example, we work with schools in the area where there is a high level of special educational needs and we wanted to make the library even more welcoming for everyone. Now there's a tiny den house where children can go inside and experience a mini light show as well as a wonderfully colourful wall mural by artist Alice Pattullo. Timed projected light shows turn the floor into an autumn walk where children can 'sweep up the 'leaves' or 'pop balloons' enabling them to have fun while being active.

"We've also installed the most innovative space ever - the first in a public library in England! Called Cubbie, the surprisingly spacious sensory hub provides a calming retreat or energising experiences to support those who are neurodivergent, or need support with sensory processing.

"Around six sessions are delivered each day, and that is very likely



Rebecca (left) from GLL, the charitable social enterprise that delivers Bromley's library services, with Rebecca from Cubbie at Mottingham Library

to rise as more people become aware of the facility," adds Sally, GLL Bromley Libraries Partnership Manager. "Users can choose a personalised experience by dialling in their emotion such as happy, sad or angry. After just a short session, they report feeling better and ready to carry on with an activity. If a user already has a tailored sensory program, they can access this at the Mottingham library Cubbie using their unique PIN."

Sounds Good

If you have a burning ambition to broadcast online, finding a suitable, high-quality space to record your podcasts can be challenging, but look no further than Mottingham library where a soundproof booth with the appropriate microphone equipment is just waiting to be booked online.

Family friendly learning through play

Every Saturday families turn up at West Wickham Library to discover the joys of much-loved Lego, which, if you haven't encountered it for a while, has risen a few technological notches. The Lego Ferris wheel is a great opportunity for parents to work with their children to build something special, plug into a laptop and explore elementary coding to control how fast it moves, in which direction and whether it plays music or not. The weekend events are a great opportunity for quality family time and are run in a number of Bromley's libraries. Check the website for details.

www.bromley.gov.uk/libraries

Never dismiss the books! This year is the National Year of Reading, the biggest campaign in a generation to encourage more people to rediscover the joy of reading as part of everyday life.

Don't know where to start to get back to books?

Look online or ask in your local library. Knowledgeable staff can offer advice, or simply browse the 'new-in' stands and jump in. Reading drives imagination and critical thinking as well as promoting a good night's sleep. Who knows, turning the page could become the new scrolling!



Opportunities to give back to your community



Shared Lives
Your Lives - Our Lives - Shared Lives

Become a Shared Lives Carer

If you have room in your heart and family home and want to make a positive difference to the lives of vulnerable adults in Bromley – why not try Shared Lives.

Join us in making a real difference by helping a vulnerable adult lead a more fulfilled life, giving back to your community, all while earning a rewarding income. Comprehensive training and support is provided.

Start your Shared Life journey today! Find out more, scan the QR code or visit our website



SUPPORT PROVIDED BY CARERS:

- ✓ Day support
- ✓ Short breaks
- ✓ Respite at home

Approved Shared Lives Carers receive up to £650 per week plus tax relief allowances.

Email: sharedlives@bromley.gov.uk

www.bromley.gov.uk/sharedlives

Bromley
THE LONDON BOROUGH



Together we Thrive

Adult Care Director, Donna Glover explains Bromley’s commitment to shaping adult services through co-production

“We want to listen to you, our residents, and work with you to shape our services to ensure we deliver the best possible fit for the way you want to live your lives. Working together and along with professionals and partners, we believe we can achieve the very

best outcomes and value for money, tailoring services as far as possible to your wishes and needs.

“We are committed to embedding, across everything we do, the collaborative process we have already begun putting in place where residents, people with lived experience, carers, practitioners,

partners and the Council work together as equal partners to shape services, influence practice, and improve outcomes. We’re developing a culture of co-production across all Adult Social Care, building the infrastructure and capability to support this into the future. Measuring the impact will help us continue to make improvements based on feedback and evidence.

“It’s an exciting time for us and for our residents as we listen closely to each other and work collaboratively to design our services.”

Donna Glover,
Director of Adult Services



Together we thrive
Adult Social Care

What is Co-Production?

“Co-production’ is when Bromley residents come together in a safe space as equal partners to share our thoughts and experiences, learn from each other, and shape how things are done across the Borough. We work together toward a common goal, holding each other to account and ensuring everyone benefits.”



“Co-production will strengthen partnerships and improve outcomes for residents ensuring services are designed with – not just for – the people who use them.”

Cllr Diane Smith, Executive Member for Adult Care and Health

Want to get involved?

Bromley’s Adult Care Team is seeking people who engage with Adult Care Services to help design future services. Get in touch if you are interested and are one of the following:

- Accessing or seeking support
- A carer or
- A family member.

asc.coproduction@bromley.gov.uk

020 3364 6833

www.bromley.gov.uk/CaringForAdults

Homes for

Ukraine

Supporting our neighbours fleeing from war



- The Ukraine war started on 24 February 2022.
- Since the Homes for Ukraine Scheme launched on 14 March 2022, Bromley has welcomed **1044** Ukrainian guests across **461** residents who have opened their homes.



To find out more about Bromley's Homes For Ukraine Scheme and how you can support those fleeing from war:

Scan the QR code or call our team on 020 8313 4698
or email ukrainesupport@bromley.gov.uk



Supporting Our Armed Forces Community

Delivering on the signed Armed Forces Covenant and going beyond

Bromley Council is fully committed to supporting its armed forces community, building on an Armed Forces Covenant reaffirmed in 2023. A silver award gained in the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme validates the Council's work to go beyond the initial pledge of the Covenant to deliver tangible support for the military community.

One popular event held each month in the Borough is the Veteran's Hub at Bromley Football Club. Once a month ex-service personnel gather to enjoy the company and find out about available support. The hub buzzes with conversation,



not surprising since Bromley has the highest population of ex-forces personnel in London.

"Transitioning to everyday life when leaving the forces can be difficult," says Graham Orr a veteran of the Royal Navy, who saw action in the Falklands war and is now Bromley FC Community Trust Chairman. Graham spawned the idea for the Hub. "The Football Club's owner, Robin Stanton Gleaves, kindly agreed to host the Hub at Hayes Lane, including breakfast," he explains. "I've been working with Cllr Botting and the Council, which is already providing advice on topics such as

employment and housing, exploring ideas for further support while helping to prevent loneliness."

Younger Veterans

Corporal Gary Thompson has been involved for two years. "Initially I approached Bromley FC in my Army role as a recruiter," he says. "Our relationship grew and, last year, I became a Trustee of Bromley FC Community Trust. I facilitate a Walk and Talk session in Norman Park, prior to the Hub as well as initiating football training, 6pm Wednesday evenings, attracting younger ex-service personnel!"



Scan QR code to express your interest

How to get involved

- Businesses, pledge to support the armed forces community by signing the Armed Forces Covenant
- Volunteer with your local Cadet Unit
- Become an Army Reservist. Contact 106RA-RHQ-Recruiting0Mailbox@mod.gov.uk
- Visit the Veteran Hub – last Friday each month from 11am at Bromley Football Club.

www.bromley.gov.uk/armedforces

"As Armed Forces Champion, I am proud of our Armed Forces Covenant which reaffirms Bromley's commitment to support our armed forces community. We continue to explore more initiatives, with plans to get businesses involved too."

Cllr Mike Botting, Armed Forces and Loneliness Champion



Shining example

Bromley has achieved a Silver Award in the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme – one of only a handful of London authorities - and is working towards a coveted Gold Award.



Riding High

Cycling is popular for its health and environmental benefits and cost-effectiveness, so learning to ride well with Bikeability is a good road to take

Lindsey believes that knowing how to cycle is just as important as learning to swim.

You might expect a cycle training officer of more than 20 years to say that, but she backs up her assertion with a convincing argument. “It’s a ‘life skill’ in every sense of the meaning. I have a sense of helping keep people safer, longer term,” she says. “Think of it this way: for those who get some road experience early on, when they are 17 and eager to drive, they realise their Bikeability training is invaluable. Learning those key skills at low speeds when

there is time to develop observation, position, communication - decision making - all skills easily transferable to driving a car or a van.”

Free Courses

Bromley runs free courses for children through primary schools with levels one and two focussing on controlling a bike and cycling on a quiet road. There are two levels at primary school and one at secondary school which gives confidence for more challenging roads and is open to those who have completed the first two levels.

There is also **FREE**

training for adults who are absolute beginners right through to supporting a commuting ride to work.

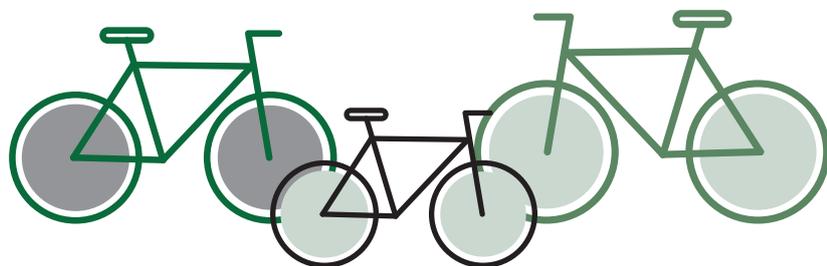
“We’re giving an opportunity to many people who did not have a chance to learn to ride a bike when they were young

as well as enhancing the skills of others who may have been cycling for some time. One person I worked with was cycling to work in central London every day, but after he had attended our Bikeability course, he said he wondered how he survived!”



“Road safety is important to all and learning some of the rules of the road through cycle training makes sense and can stand you in good stead as lifelong skills.”

Executive Councillor Nicholas Bennett, Executive Councillor for Transport, Highways and Road Safety.



Health benefits of regular cycling

Increased cardiovascular fitness, increased muscle strength and flexibility, improved joint mobility and decreased stress levels.

National Standard

“This is a national standard, so what is taught is the same all over the country,” says Lindsey. “It’s important information - it develops good decision making in a very dynamic environment.

“The sustainability and environmentally friendly nature of cycling thrills me,” Lindsey adds. “We are not polluting the atmosphere, it’s social and fun and you can get from home to your destination at virtually no cost once you have

your bike. It’s physically and mentally very good for you too and is especially important for young people during transition between schools and university; its empowering.

“Once the basics are mastered, it’s about being aware of the hazards and what you can see while riding, including good lane positioning to make sure you are always visible.

“Understanding and humanising road users helps us build tolerance to all - pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.”

ABC checks - every time you ride



Air – check the tyres are properly inflated – they should be hard.



Brakes – test your front and rear brakes to make sure they respond.



Chain – spin your pedals backwards to make sure the chain is in good condition.

Dr Bike - free practical advice

A qualified mechanic will inspect your bike and fix minor faults such as brakes, chain, cables, gears and tyre pressure. There’s also advice on correct saddle height and fitting a cycle helmet. The Cow Shed, Norman Park, on the paved path, next to the car park off Hook Farm Road entrance. Watch a helpful video and check times at www.bromley.gov.uk/cycling/dr-bike

Free training

For Children

Bikeability training teaches children to cycle with confidence on the road. Sessions are delivered at primary schools for levels 1 and 2 and secondary for level 3. Contact your school for more information.

Three Bikeability National Standard levels

Level 1 - bike control.

Level 2 - how to cycle on a quiet road.

Level 3 - is discretionary for those who have successfully completed levels one and two and tackles a wider variety of traffic conditions.

For Adults

Learn to Ride - beginners preparing for the next level.

Basic Cycle Skills - builds confidence in a traffic free environment.

Urban Cycle Skills

- refreshing techniques, starting off-road, moving to quiet roads.

Advanced Cycle Skills

- improving techniques at complex junctions, in heavy traffic or at night.

Escorted rides,

commuting to work or

study - planning a route and riding with you before doing the journey on your own.

www.bromley.gov.uk/cycle-training

Cycle maintenance

Course costs £55 per person. Participants will learn how to fix common bike problems.

www.bromley.gov.uk/road-safety/cycle-maintenance

MMRV now protects children against measles, mumps, rubella and chickenpox (varicella)

From January 2026 MMRV is part of the NHS routine childhood immunisation schedule, replacing the MMR vaccine.

What is chickenpox?

Chickenpox is a very infectious disease caused by the varicella zoster virus. Some children have serious complications, so vaccination helps reduce this risk for your child.



Why do children need two doses of the MMRV?

It is important that everybody gets two doses of vaccine. Two doses provide greater protection.

What if my child has already had chickenpox?

Even if your child has already had chickenpox, there are no safety concerns if a child gets the MMRV vaccine. This will protect them against measles, mumps and rubella, as well as chickenpox.

What do I need to do as a parent/carer?

You don't need to do anything — your GP will be in touch when your child is due.

Why can't I give my child individual doses of the vaccines that make up the MMRV?

Individual injections leave children vulnerable to catching the illnesses for a longer period. Studies show it is safe to have several vaccinations at the same time and that the MMRV vaccine does not overload your child's immune system.

Protect your child's health now by making sure they are up to date with all their vaccinations. For more information visit selondonics.org/childrenshealth and nhs.uk/mmrv



Don't wait to think weight

Healthy weight, healthier lives – support is closer than you think

Weight isn't about willpower or fitting a 'perfect' shape. It is about health, energy and independence, being able to play with your children, stay steady on your feet, manage long term conditions and feel your best. Small changes, repeated, can make a real difference.

Around us all are everyday 'pushes' towards less healthy choices: busy schedules, cheap convenience food, large portions, and lots of sitting. Over time, carrying extra weight can raise the risk of type 2 diabetes, heart disease, joint pain, some cancers, and low mood. The good news? Even modest weight loss, or simply preventing weight gain, can improve blood pressure, sleep and mobility and reduce your risk of disease.

If you are a parent or carer, you can set the tone at home without making food a battleground. Aim for regular meals, water as the default

drink, and add one more veg or salad portion a day. Try making the 'healthy choice' the easy choice: fruit on the counter, snacks portioned, and screens paused for a short walk or active play.

For older residents, think 'strength and steadiness' as well as the scales. Gentle activity (like walking, swimming, or chair based exercise) helps protect muscles and balance while choosing filling, fibre rich foods can support appetite control.

You don't have to do it alone. The Council's Public Health team works with local partners to offer practical help – from healthy eating guidance and activity ideas to more specialised programmes for adults, families, people with special education needs and disabilities, and young people. If you need a little extra support: have a look at some of the free weight management programmes and see if you are eligible.

Take the first step today:

- Visit bromley.gov.uk/HealthyWeight for local support, tips, trusted tools and more details of our free weight management programmes.
- Speak to your GP practice or local Pharmacist if you are concerned that your weight is impacting your health.
- Share this page with a friend, neighbour, or colleague. A small nudge in the right direction can start a bigger change.
- Working towards a healthy weight isn't a quick fix. It's a kinder, healthier relationship with food and being active, for you and the people you love.



Spotlight on

Loneliness

Bromley's local and global lead on tackling loneliness was recognised in the New Year's Honours list

Helayna's smile on social media spoke a thousand words. "It is the greatest of honour to share that I have been recognised in the King's 2026 New Year Honours List and will be receiving an MBE for my work to Tackle Loneliness," was the simple message she put out to the world when the announcement was made.

As the Council's Loneliness Champion for three years tackling loneliness at all levels, she has helped place Bromley at the centre stage for its continued

commitment to making loneliness a strategic priority. Pleasingly, data from the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework, England, 2024-25, shows that Bromley has moved to first place amongst all London Boroughs for residents stating that they have as much social contact as they would like.

Helayna went on to say: "I am profoundly humbled and deeply grateful to my nominator for believing my contribution to tackling loneliness could be worthy of such a prestigious award.

Having lived in Bromley for nearly my entire life, being able to shape this programme right here in my own community fills me with motivation, pride, and an immense sense of joy.

"This award truly puts Bromley on the map as a forward thinking, intuitive and global leader in this field—now recognised at the highest level. It stands as a testament to the positive impact of the Tackling Loneliness Strategy and how it is helping our residents to live socially healthy, connected lives."



"My deepest congratulations go to Helayna . As the Council's first Loneliness Champion, and following the launch of our loneliness strategy in 2022, she has brought together the work of the Council and our many voluntary groups and partners to tackle the problem of loneliness and make a change for the better across the Borough. Seldom has an award been so richly deserved in my opinion."

Councillor Diane Smith, Executive Councillor for Adult Care and Health

Action on isolation

By 2023 a Tackling Loneliness summit brought together groups, agencies and individuals in support of tackling loneliness and initiatives include:

- Funding an online directory of more than 1500 activities and groups
- Delivering a training programme to enable staff to recognise those at risk of loneliness
- Leading a Christmas card scheme delivering 14,000 cards over the past three years, made by young people
- Working with Bromley libraries to bring people together
- Funding initiatives to help combat loneliness through the Innovation Fund and Friends of Parks groups.

"Loneliness affects both mental and physical health and I am proud Bromley is leading the way in tackling it. Well done Helayna."

Cllr Mike Botting,
Councillor Loneliness
Champion



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bromley.simplyconnect.uk

BROMLEY FOSTERING

*Join our information
sessions online or
face-to-face*



Call our Fostering team on:

020 8461 7701

**BOOK
YOUR
PLACE!**

*by calling or emailing our
fostering team*



What to expect:

- ✓ Hear real experiences from foster carers
- ✓ Receive guidance from social workers
- ✓ Learn about the different types of fostering
- ✓ Learn about the benefits and process of becoming a foster carer
- ✓ Have all your fostering questions answered



www.bromley.gov.uk/fostering



fostering@bromley.gov.uk

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