



December 2017

Welcome to your November and December newsletter!



You've received this newsletter because you are signed up to the **People Bank**. The People Bank is the group of people who are invited to get involved in events and activities to help us improve social care and health.

In this newsletter you will find:

1. ***An update on the working groups***
2. ***A chance to have your say on Barnet Council's budget***
3. ***Information about the new autism service***
4. ***Information about increased availability in local health services***
5. ***Opportunity to sign up for free travel training***

1. Working groups– get involved

Working groups are when we get together to focus on and improve a specific area of health or social care.

Lots of people have been getting involved in working groups and there is still a lot going on in December and January.

To sign up for any of the groups below get in touch on **engage.adults@barnet.gov.uk** or **020 8359 4712**.

- **How do we know we're doing a good job in adult social care?** This group is looking at measuring how our services are doing, and what we do with those measures.
- **Carers support.** This group is looking at gaps in support for carers and how we can improve training for staff about carers.
- **Hospital discharge.** This group is looking at how to improve the experience of leaving hospital

Look out for more groups in the new year!



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2. Have your say on the Barnet Council budget

We would like to hear views from Barnet residents and local community groups on our **budget for 2018/19**.

In particular, we are giving residents the opportunity to comment on:

- the overall Council budget for 2018/19
- potential savings and/or ways to make money that have been identified for 2018/19
- the proposal to apply a three per cent social care precept to Council Tax in 2018/19 which will make up to £4.9million to help ease the pressures on adult social care for older people and vulnerable adults
- options for meeting the remaining £6.7 million budget gap for 2018/19, including Council Tax.



To tell us your views on the proposed budget, visit **engage.barnet.gov.uk** any time until the consultation closes on 14 January 2018.

If you have any questions or would like a paper or alternative format of the consultation please contact the team on **budgetconsultation@barnet.gov.uk** or **020 8359 7016**.

3. New Mencap autism service



This is a new service run by Barnet Mencap which offers autism screening and advice to adults in Barnet. The project is running for 6 months to test how it is working.

Until now, people had to wait up to 14 months to be seen for an autism diagnosis and would have to go to south London. Now people will be offered a Barnet appointment within 1 week of being referred. They will be screened and can get one to one life action planning and group support. They can also get practical information and advice on benefits, housing and other areas.

The service also offers free autism awareness training for any GPs, providers and staff across the borough.

For more information see the Barnet Mencap website or call **020 8349 3842**.



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4. Health news: increased availability at local GPs and Finchley Memorial Hospital



Nearly **40,000 GP appointments** in Barnet are now available at evenings and weekends. GP Extended Access appointments are available from 6.30pm-8.00pm weekdays and 8.00am-8.00pm on weekends.

To book a GP Extended Access appointment you should **speak to your GP surgery**. You can also call the evening and weekend service on 020 3948 6809 (at evenings and weekends only). More information is available online.

In other news, Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group has opened a **new 17-bed ward** at Finchley Memorial Hospital. Adams Ward is a short-stay unit for patients who are referred by their acute hospital or via their GP.

This includes patients who are ready to leave the acute hospital but need **ongoing assessment** before returning home or to another place where they can be cared for appropriately. The service is provided by Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust, which already provides a wide range of services from Finchley Memorial.

5. Free independent travel training

Would you like to build your confidence in travelling on public transport on your own?

Sign up for this fun, free training which covers how to stay safe, deal with strangers, ask for help, and much more.

Training is 70 minutes long and takes place on the second Tuesday of each month. Training starts from Edgware bus station and includes role plays and practical exercises on a double decker bus.

The training is run by Transport for London, Met police and Barnet Road Safety team. To sign up contact able2travel@met.police.uk

