

Barnet Carers Partners Forum

27th January 2022, 10 am to 11.30 am

- 1. Welcome and Introduction:** Mike Rich, CEO, welcomed the participants. Mike shared the news that Barnet Carers won the bid for the new Carers support contract with the Borough of Barnet. The new contract starts in April 2022.
- 2. Aim of the meeting:** Julia Conrado, Strategic Developer, explains the purpose of the Forum. It is a space created to bring together all services who work directly or indirectly with adult and young carers in Barnet. We will aim to address emerging challenges for carers and establish opportunities for joint working to improve the community response to supporting all carers. The issues and decisions raised in the Forum will be passed on to the Local Authority and will hopefully influence the new Carers and Young Carers Strategy.
- 3. Carers Services:** Keely Dunning, Head of Carers Services, delivered a presentation about the upcoming changes in services for adult and young carers. Barnet Carers mission is to enable all carers to thrive by empowering people to live the life they want. Our service model will deliver an enablement service accessible to all carers, and it will influence positive changes in their lives. Barnet Carers support service is divided into three main areas, namely **Practical Solutions** (for example, Form Checking, Legal Advice, external referrals), **Personal Development and Training** (with the Carers College, peer support groups, topic talks, and more), and **Health and Wellbeing** (including short-term Counselling, Art Therapy, Yoga, and much more).
Keely also shared our proposed model for a Carers Journey, which is the path carers following registration with the organisation. This roadmap can be viewed at the website here.
- 4. Partnership working:** Maivel Rodriguez-Lopez, Head of Strategic Development and Partnerships, explained this key area for Barnet Carers . Working collaboratively with other organisations, be that from the voluntary sector, health sector, education, the Local Authority, or any other relevant areas, is of vital strategic importance to better support informal carers in Barnet. We recognise our expertise in supporting carers but also understand that each individual we assist has their own specific needs - it would be impossible for us to be experts on everything!
Ultimately, we strive to make carer's lives better and we know the great work our partners do in favour of carers and their families. Barnet Carers aims to continue to develop strong relationships with existing and new partners as a priority and for the Forum to achieve its goal of creating a better Borough for carers.

5. **Barnet Mencap presentation:** Ray Booth, CEO of Barnet Mencap, delivered a presentation about partnership work with Barnet Carers. Ray goes through the history of our partnership working and how it has evolved over the years. To conclude, Ray defines what the next steps will be: *“to continue what has been done and strengthen the focus on prevention; improve cooperation and joint work around safeguarding, and with young carers; coordination re. Carer’s Week, Learning Disability Week, Autism Week and My Health Matters; Barnet Parent Carer Forum; improve engagement on what is important for carers in Barnet.”*
6. **Group discussion:** the group talks about what the current support for carers is and the topics for the next Forums should be. Alesia Carrington, from LBB, gives an update about the Prevention and Wellbeing team, saying that they will expand from 8 to 19 team members working under the leadership of Claire DeSouza. They will be joining the Partners Forum and feeding information back to Claire.
7. Kate Toon from Inclusion Barnet suggest that there is room for the organisations to be working a lot more closer to each other, especially to benefit carers who themselves have a disability.
8. Linda Edwards suggest that the Borough needs more advocacy services for carers and people with extra needs. This can also be the topic of the next Forum.