



Department
for Education



Your support

while waiting for an

Autism

Assessment

You should not wait for an Autism Assessment to access support for your needs.

You can find out about the available support on the Local Offer.



Scan to find
out more



BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

A diagnosis is often not required to access support

Depending on your needs, help can come from professionals, charities, local authorities as well as family and friends.

Peer support from others who are waiting for or have an Autism diagnosis may also help you.

You can request the support you need yourself.



The Local Offer

The Local Offer provides a list of the support options you can access while waiting for an assessment. You are not alone in this. There are people and organisations ready to help.

Scan this QR code to find out more about the Local Offer or visit

www.barnsley.gov.uk/LocalOffer



What is Early Help?

There are lots of reasons why people look for Early Help.

If you are waiting for an Autism assessment, you may already be benefiting from having Early Help support and are likely to have an Early Help Assessment in place.

Early Help support is available for families with children and young people of all ages. You can ask for Early Help from any practitioner working with your family.

What is an Early Help Assessment?

An **Early Help Assessment** is a conversation to understand what is going well, anything you are worried about and how to help you and your family. Together you'll agree what to write down so there is a record of what you talked about and make a plan about what happens next.

An **Early Help Assessment** helps others understand your needs and avoids you having to tell your story more than once.

Whilst you are waiting for an Autism Assessment, Early Help can give you the tools to overcome challenges you and your family are experiencing with help from others where needed

If you have an open Early Help Assessment, your Early Help Assessment Lead can help you navigate the available support and services while waiting for an Autism assessment.

If your Early Help Assessment has been closed, you can ask for it to be reopened if you feel there is further support you need. If you do not know who your Early Help Assessment Lead is or do not have an Early Help Assessment open you can ask a professional involved with your family such as your education setting, health practitioner or visit your local Family Hub.

Your Early Help Assessment Lead will talk with you about the challenges you're experiencing. They will ask you what help and support you think you might need and support you to access this which includes everyone in your family network. They may also suggest completing or updating your existing early help assessment.

The following pages contain details of the support and services that may be able to help you whilst you are waiting for an Autism Assessment.

More information regarding all these services can be found on the **Local Offer** - www.barnsley.gov.uk/LocalOffer

If you need support to access the full list on the Local Offer please contact Families Information Service on **0800 0345 340**



Your support options:

Service

Family Hubs

Service Overview

Barnsley Family Hubs brings together a range of services so you can access the right support across our communities. They support families from thinking about having a baby, through pregnancy, through early years up to the age of 19 or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Barnsley Family Hubs can support you with:

- ✓ **Becoming a parent**
- ✓ **Parenting and Co-parenting**
- ✓ **Understanding family relationships**
- ✓ **Mental health and wellbeing**
- ✓ **Signposting to services who can help**
- ✓ **Knowing what groups and activities are available for families to enjoy**

The Hubs offer support to parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs, including sleep support and the Building Bonds Sharing Strength support group.

There are seven Family Hubs across Barnsley.

Contact

Call:
0800 0345 340

Email:
infoFIS@barnsley.gov.uk

Website:
www.barnsley.gov.uk/virtualfamilyhubs

Service

Barnsley Education Inclusion Services

Service Overview

Barnsley Education Inclusion Specialist Support Services include Educational Psychology, Portage, Social Communication and Interaction (SCI), Hearing Support and Vision Support Services. You can find information about all these services via the Local Offer.

The Social Communication and Interaction (SCI) Service specifically offer support for needs related to Autism. The service includes specialist teachers and support workers who help children and young people with social communication and interaction needs. SCI practitioners work with education settings to support staff to identify, understand and meet the needs of children with SCI needs. This is done through training and consultation with education settings and parents/carers.

The Barnsley Portage Service work with children who have been assessed by professionals as having significant developmental delay. Delay in development could be in any area including communication and language.

We work with parents/carers to provide home-based development and learning support for children aged 0-4 years who are not yet in nursery or school.

Contact

Website:

www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/barnsley-education-inclusion-services

Speak to:

Special Educational Needs Coordinator at your nursery, school or college regarding the Social Communication and Interaction service.

Health Visitor, Child Development Practitioner, Public Health Nurse or **health professional** if you have concerns about your child's development.

Service

Barnsley 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service

Service Overview

We offer advice, support and help to promote child/family health and wellbeing and identify needs early. We work across Barnsley and can support children, young people and families in their own homes, in schools and at community venues such as Family Hubs. We will:

- ✓ Complete child health and development reviews at key stages including reviews with early years settings and education settings
- ✓ Support early years speech and language development
- ✓ Provide young people and families advice and support around health and wellbeing matters such as healthy eating and nutrition, sleep, emotional health and wellbeing, behaviour, oral health and immunisations
- ✓ Provide advice and information to inform care plans or support needs in school
- ✓ Support families with toilet training advice and bladder and bowel advice
- ✓ Work in partnership with other health professionals to ensure that the health needs of our children and young people are met
- ✓ If the young person has special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) we support them up to 25 years of age.

Contact

Call:

01226 774 411

Email:

0-19healthteam@barnsley.gov.uk

Website:

www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/children-young-people-and-families/barnsley-0-19-public-health-nursing-service



Service

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

Service Overview

Barnsley SENDIASS give free and impartial advice and help to all young people who need it. We also help parents and carers of children and young people who:

- ✓ have, or might have, a special educational need or disability (SEND)
- ✓ are aged 0 to 25 years old
- ✓ live in the Barnsley borough

A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or a disability which means they need special health and education support.

Contact

Call:
01226 787 234

Website:
www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/barnsley-sendiass

Facebook:
facebook.com/BarnsleySENDIASS

Service

Help with Our Mental 'Ealth' (HOME) - Chilypep

For other emotional health and wellbeing/ mental health support services, please see Local Offer webpage.

Service Overview

HOME is an early support mental health and emotional wellbeing Hub for any young person aged between 11 and 25 who lives, or is in education, in Barnsley. HOME provides open access, flexible early support in a non-judgemental, welcoming, young person friendly space. HOME offers a weekly programme of wellbeing sessions, 1-2-1 support, counselling and signposting to other services. Any young person who identifies they are struggling can request support from HOME either by self-referral or by a parent or professional completing this request on their behalf.

Contact

Call: 01226 213 123 Website: www.chilypep.org.uk/home-barnsley

Targeted Youth Support Service

Barnsley's Targeted Youth Support Service provides targeted service for children and young people aged 8-24 with SEND and their siblings.

We aim to provide children and young people with support to explore issues and areas that can affect them as part of adolescence and growing independence. We help to promote the personal and social development of young people, helping them to make a positive transition to adulthood whilst being able to socialise with their peers.

Contact

Call: 01226 753406 Websites:
www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-young-people-and-families/young-people/early-help-and-targeted-support-for-young-people
https://barnsley.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/Local_Offer/TargetedYouthSupport/SEND.aspx



Service

Barnardo's Family Linx

Service Overview

Provides support for parents/carers with children up to age 12 who have been accepted onto the autism assessment pathway or have an autism diagnosis.

Support includes:

- ✓ **Cygnets and Teen Life Programme**
- ✓ **Peer Support Group**
- ✓ **Targeted support based on individual needs**
- ✓ **Sleep support**
- ✓ **Workshops on various topics**
- ✓ **Resource library**

Contact

Call:

01226 770619

Website:

www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/services/barnardos-family-linx-service

Service

Barnardo's Autism Linx Together

Service Overview

Provides support for parents/carers with young people aged 12-25 who are autistic, are on the pathway for an assessment or identify as being neurodiverse.

Support includes:

- ✓ **Cygnets and Teen Life Programme**
- ✓ **Peer Support Group**
- ✓ **Targeted support based on individual needs**
- ✓ **Support to neurodiverse young people aged 17-25**

Contact

Website:

www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/services/priority-family-centre-autism-linx-together-project

Call:

01226770619

Scan to find out more about the Local Offer:





How to raise a concern, comment, complaint or give feedback...

... regarding a [Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council service](#) please complete a compliments and complaints form here or phone **01226 773 555** between Monday and Friday 9am to 5pm.

... regarding a [South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust service](#) please contact the customer services team Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm: Telephone: **0800 587 2108** or **01924 316 060** or email- customerservices@swyt.nhs.uk.

... regarding a [Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust service](#) please contact the Patient Advice and Complaints team Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm: Telephone: **01226 432 571** or email - bhnftcomplaints@nhs.net

If you need help understanding this document please contact Families Information Service on **0800 0345 340**.

The information in this booklet is accurate as of March 2025.

Thank you to the Barnsley SEND Local Offer Group for their support in the development of this leaflet.