



May 2017

Welcome to Your Voice newsletter: May 2017



Hello and welcome to your May newsletter.

I'm Ella and I'm the Engagement Lead for Adults and Communities at Barnet Council.

This means that I will be organising, coordinating and thinking about how to get more people involved in in shaping adult social care and health services.

You've received this newsletter because you're 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 we have:

- An update on the **working groups**, including which groups are **coming up**
- An opportunity to get involved in organising **Silver Week**
- An opportunity to take part in the biggest **carers' survey** in the UK
- An opportunity to get involved with your local GP surgery's **Patient Participation Group**

If you have any feedback on the newsletter, anything you'd like to see or any general comments about getting involved, contact me on:

Engage.adults@barnet.gov.uk or 020 8359 4712



May 2017

Other working Group Updates - opportunities to get involved



The **Guide to Good Engagement Working Group** have completed their work and the final guide can be found on the [working group webpages](#).

The **Dementia Information in Barnet** group have met and agreed an action plan for improving dementia information in Barnet. The plan will be put into practice by a group of staff and there will be a follow up meeting in May.

Working groups coming up in May and June:

There's lots coming up over the next few months and we would love for as many people to get involved as possible. There will be working groups about:

- Telecare and equipment (Thurs 11 May and Tues 20 June)
- Crisis intervention - looking at the Crash Pad service (starting Tues 16th May)
- Making services accessible
- Employment and day opportunities
- End of life care
- Hospital discharge

These groups are for anyone interested in these topics— **your opinions are valuable and have an impact!**

If you'd like more details or to sign up please get in touch on the details below.

Remember, if you have any worries about coming along or any extra requirements just let us know.

Email: engage.adults@barnet.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8359 4712



May 2017

New carers web pages—designed by you!



The working group on information and advice have been busy designing the new web pages for carers in Barnet.

Working with a company called Orange Bus, the group gave their ideas and feedback about what was important to them, which was then built into the website at every stage.

We also spoke to people in other groups like Mencap and Barnet Carers Centre.

The working group members and people involved are very pleased with the result. One person said:

'Making an impact on Barnet Council can be quite difficult, but today I feel that I have made an impact, I found the day really rewarding, it's great to see that you are interested in improving the service for the people that use it.'

Check out the pages at www.barnet.gov.uk/carers



May 2017

Get involved with Silver Week: Celebrating older people



Barnet Silver week is taking place from 1-7 October 2017.



It's our opportunity to celebrate and value older people and what they bring to the community. It is also a great chance for older people to get together and try new things.

The week links to the National Silver Sunday day of celebration and the UN Day of the Older Person on 1 October.

Last year in Barnet there were 66 activities, with over 660 people taking part.

Activities included free haircuts, an art competition for people living in care homes, leisure activities, pampering activities and even afternoon teas!

We'd love for you to get involved this year, whether it's:

- Sharing ideas about what activities and events should take place
- Getting involved in running an event
- Getting involved with organising and promoting Barnet Silver Week
- Being part of the Steering Group, which takes place on the first Thursday of every month, from 10am to 12pm.

If you have any ideas or want to get in touch, contact the Prevention and Wellbeing team on preventionandwellbeing@barnet.gov.uk or 020 8359 7573.

For more information see: <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/adult-social-care/silver-sunday.html>



May 2017

State of Caring Survey 2017: Finding out the truth about carers' lives



Do you care for a friend or family member?
Do you know someone who does?

Have your say by completing the State of Caring survey.

State of Caring is the biggest survey of its kind for carers living in the UK. It is run by

Carers UK and the evidence is used to push for change to improve the lives of carers.

In the last year they've used evidence from carers to:

- Submit research to the UK Government's Carers Strategy
- Give evidence on the impact of the Care Act on carers in England
- Argue for the needs of carers to be central in housing policy

The survey can be found here:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/stateofcaring2017



If you're looking for support with being a carer in Barnet, you can contact Barnet Carers Centre via their website www.barnetcarers.org or on 020 8343 9698



May 2017

Join your local Patient Participation Group



Patient Participation Groups (PPGs) are groups of people who are interested in getting involved and improving their local GP practice.

Members of PPGs meet to talk about their experiences with the GP practice staff and others, and make suggestions for improvements.

Interested in joining a PPG? Just ask at the GP practice where you are registered.

Further information about PPGs is available on the Healthwatch website:
<http://www.healthwatchbarnet.co.uk/patient-participation>

If you have any difficulty making contact with your PPG, please contact **Robin Charnley**: robin.charnley@communitybarnet.org.uk or 020 8364 8400