

Barnet Active Creative Engaging holidays



HOLIDAYS

April 2024 – January 2025

Holidays Activities and Food Programme

2024 Annual Report

Caring for people, our places and the planet

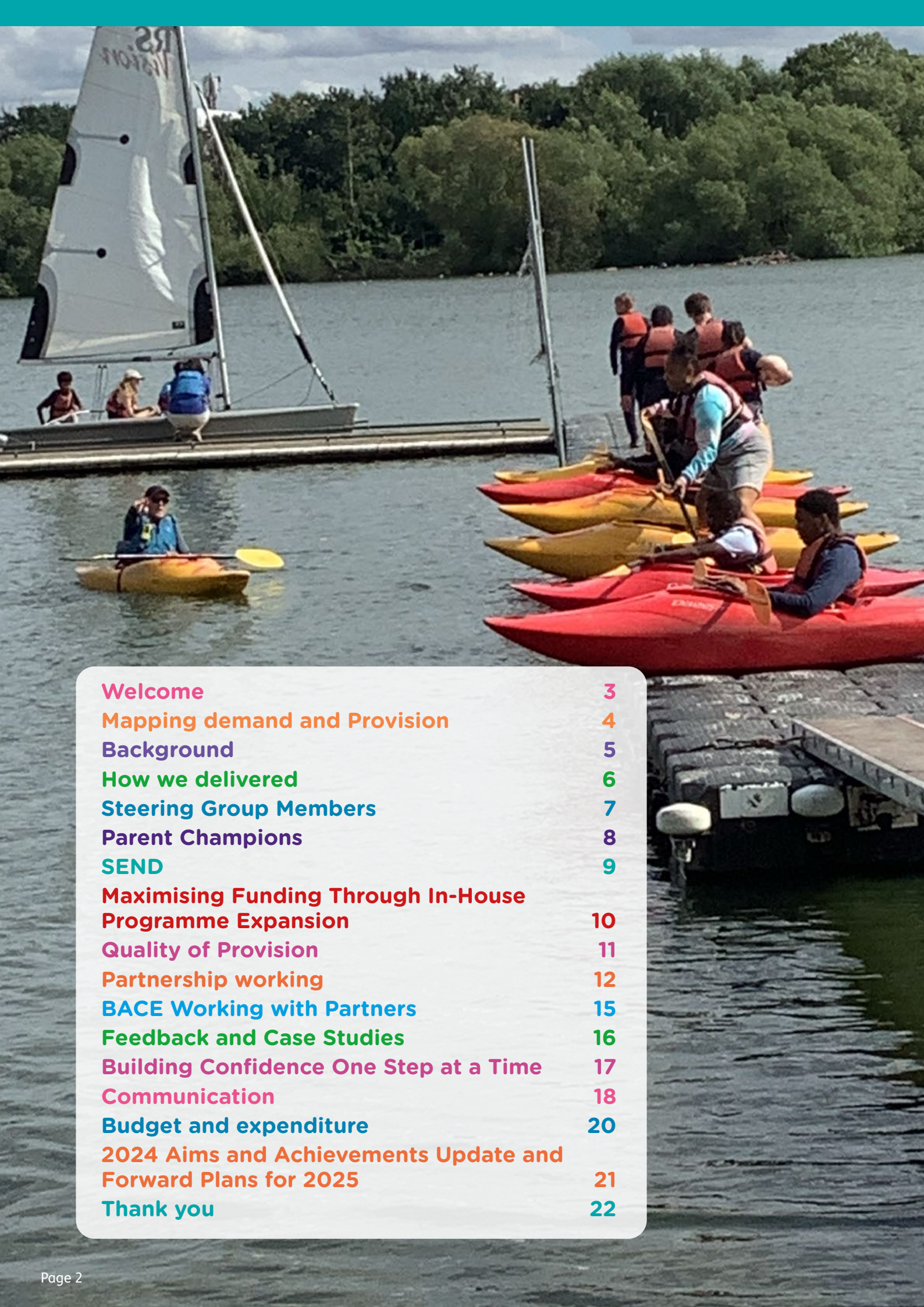
barnetyouth.uk/BACEHolidays



Department
for Education

YOUNG
BARNET
FOUNDATION

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH



Welcome	3
Mapping demand and Provision	4
Background	5
How we delivered	6
Steering Group Members	7
Parent Champions	8
SEND	9
Maximising Funding Through In-House Programme Expansion	10
Quality of Provision	11
Partnership working	12
BACE Working with Partners	15
Feedback and Case Studies	16
Building Confidence One Step at a Time	17
Communication	18
Budget and expenditure	20
2024 Aims and Achievements Update and Forward Plans for 2025	21
Thank you	22

Welcome

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is a government-funded initiative designed to ensure children and young people have access to nutritious meals and enriching activities during the school holidays. In Barnet, we have embraced this mission with passion and purpose. Our local response, BACE Holidays (Barnet Active Creative Engaging) is delivered by Barnet's Child & Family Early Help Services in partnership with the Young Barnet Foundation. Together, we provide a wide variety of high-quality, inclusive activities for children and young people aged 4-16 throughout the spring, summer, and winter breaks.



I am delighted to introduce the BACE Holidays 2024 Annual Report, which reflects the commitment, collaboration, and care at the heart of this programme. Year after year, BACE Holidays has grown, not just in numbers, but in impact. It's become a trusted source of support for families and a place where children can thrive, learn, and simply enjoy being kids.

The feedback we receive speaks volumes: smiles, laughter, new friendships, and skills gained. Parents tell us how vital this programme has been not only for their children's engagement and wellbeing, but also for the support it provides to families during school closures.

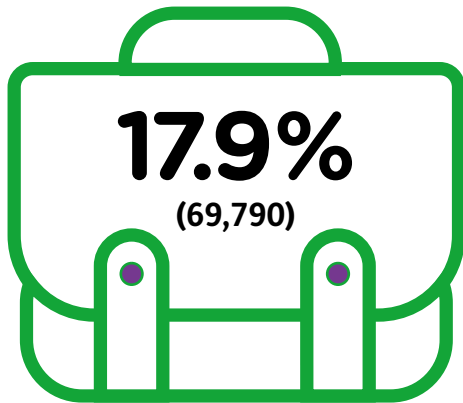
What makes BACE Holidays truly special is the strength of our partnerships — from local delivery organisations and volunteers to community leaders, all working together to create safe, nurturing, and stimulating spaces that support children's physical, social, and emotional wellbeing.

This report shares our achievements, the stories that moved us, and the numbers behind our growing reach. As we look to 2024/25, our ambition is clear: to build on this success and reach even more families across Barnet.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support this essential work. Together, we are laying the foundation for brighter, healthier futures for every child in our borough.

Cllr Pauline Coakley-Webb
Cabinet Member for Family Friendly Barnet

Mapping demand and Provision



of 4 to 16 children attend schools in Barnet

17.12%

school pupils are identified as requiring SEN support

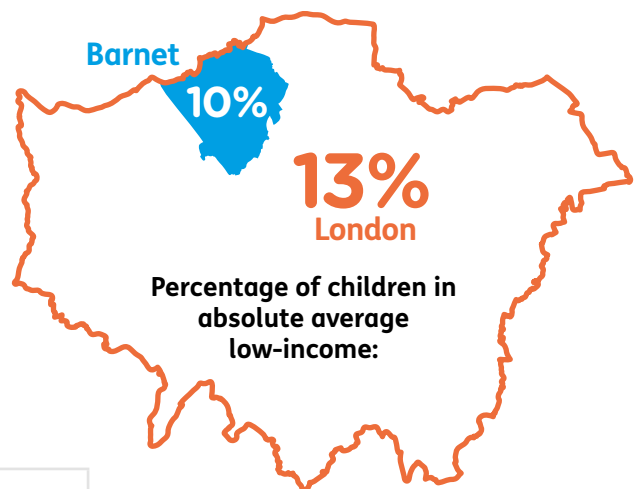


As of January 2024, there were approximately 1.7 million pupils identified with special educational needs (SEN) in schools across England. This represents 18.4% of all pupils. 2024 Data

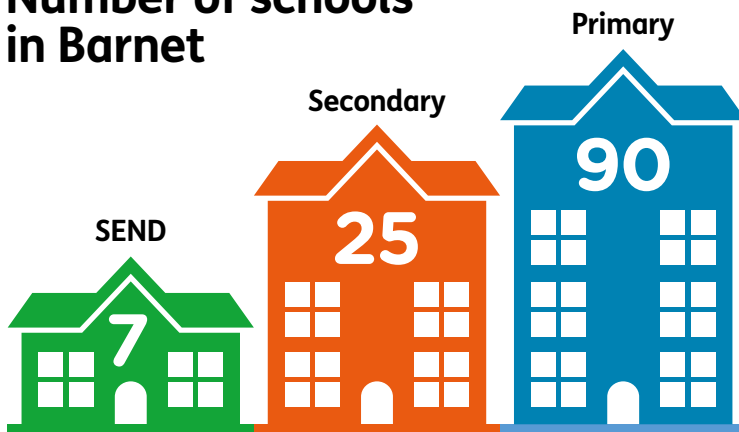


Barnet is the 2nd largest London Borough by Population size

389,101
residents (2021 Census)



Number of schools in Barnet



21.51%

of Children attending Barnet schools are in receipt of benefit-related free school meals (March 2024 data) a total of 12,943

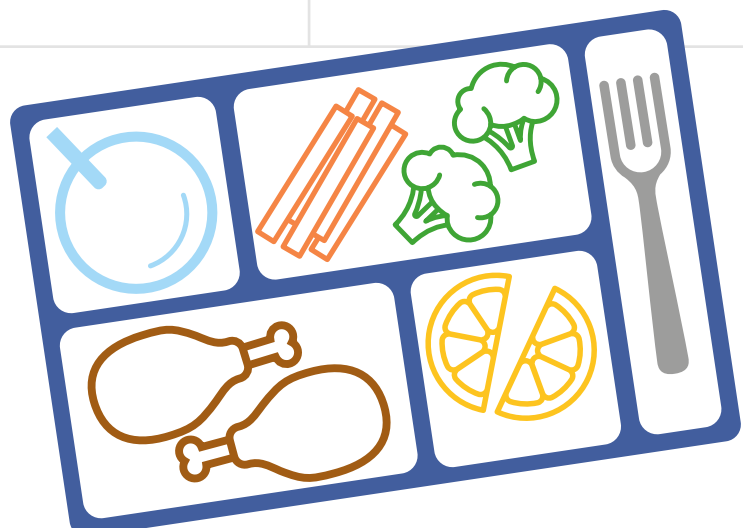
SEN pupils entitled to FREE SCHOOL MEALS

EHCP

1142

SEN Support

2216





Background

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme, launched nationally in 2018 and expanded during the Covid-19 pandemic, has become a vital source of support for children and families across the country. With a focus on children from families facing financial hardship – particularly those eligible for benefit-related free school meals – the programme has helped to bridge gaps in food provision and access to enriching activities during school holidays.

Thanks to the advocacy of champions like Marcus Rashford (OBE) and the Food Foundation, the HAF Programme has grown into a movement, ensuring that no child is left behind during the holidays due to cost, hunger, or lack of opportunity. In 2021, Barnet Family Services, in partnership with the Young Barnet Foundation, launched Barnet. Active. Creative. Engaging. (BACE) Holidays, with funding from the Department for Education. Since then, BACE has flourished into a well-recognised, trusted programme embedded in Barnet's wider services – from schools and libraries to Early Help, public health, and support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Through a strong local delivery model, the BACE Team commissions and quality-assures a diverse range of activities and nutritious food provision, ensuring all programmes are safe, inclusive, and engaging. In 2023, their hard work was recognised with a Highly Commended award in the Team Barnet Staff Awards – a testament to the team's dedication and the strength of our partnerships.

The impact of BACE has been felt throughout our borough – despite rising costs and unpredictable weather, our providers have consistently delivered meaningful, fun, and supportive activities. The BACE team has also gone above and beyond to help providers achieve Levels 1, 2 and 3 Food Hygiene certification, access nutrition training, and work towards Ofsted registration – reinforcing our commitment to safety, quality, and inclusion.

As Executive Director of Children and Family Services, I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved. In 2024, we continue to prioritise expanding access to those who need it most. Our ambition is clear: we want every child in Barnet to enjoy their school holidays without the stress of food insecurity or financial pressure – and instead, spend that time growing in confidence, learning new skills, and connecting with others.

BACE Holidays is not just a programme – it is a key part of Barnet's broader strategy to put people, places, and planet at the heart of what we do. It reflects our mission to tackle inequality, provide targeted and specialist support to vulnerable families, and deliver high-quality services that help every child thrive.

Thank you to our incredible team, our partners, and the families who take part – together, we are building a more inclusive and supportive Barnet for every child and young person.

John Anthony
Executive Director of Children and Family Services.

How we delivered in 2024

Total Number of Activity Providers



Ofsted Registered Providers



How many activities



How many SEND specific activities



HAF place on offer



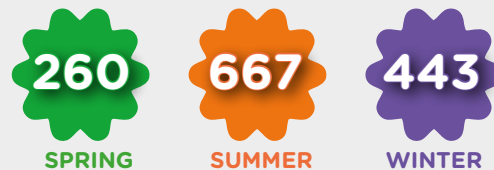
Total Number of Unique Children attending BACE Holidays (Primary aged)



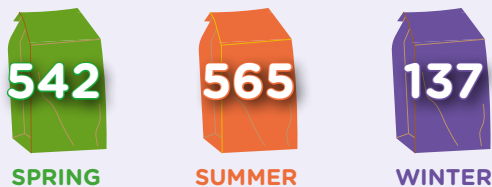
Take and Make Food Boxes (feeding up to families of 4):



(Secondary aged)



Takeaway Snack Bags



Holiday Activity Vouchers Scheme:

Barnet Council has continued its partnership with Wonde under their refreshed branding, Holiday Activity Vouchers. This initiative ensures that children eligible for benefit-related free school meals receive support during each Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme period.

Through collaboration with schools, a unique 16-digit Holiday Activity e-voucher is distributed to parents and carers of eligible children. These vouchers provide access to enriching holiday activities, helping to ensure that children remain engaged, active, and well-nourished during school breaks.

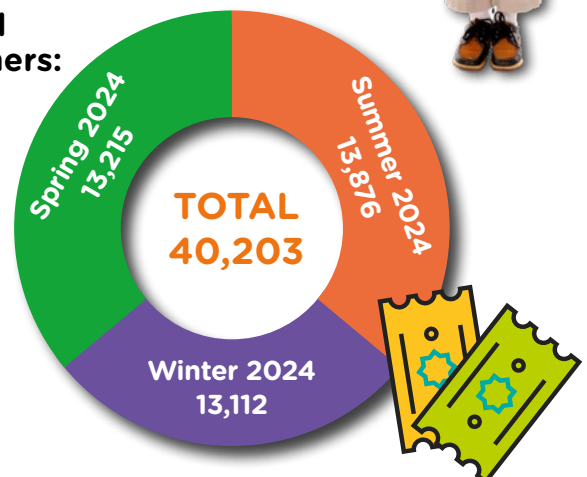
In addition to working with schools, Barnet Council also accepts referrals from professionals who identify vulnerable children in need of support. For these cases, voucher codes are manually issued to ensure that no child misses out on the opportunity for holiday activities and meals. This targeted approach helps extend the scheme's reach to those most in need, reinforcing the council's commitment to supporting families and children across the borough.

Food Offer

In 2024 all providers now organise their own food provisions, with many now cooking on site. All providers are registered with the Food Standards Agency. We have developed a series of workshops which included training, talks, demonstrations and resources to support providers to enhance their food programme.



Issued Vouchers:





Steering Group Table

Department or Organisation	Role
Finance, Children & Families, Barnet Council	Finance Manager
Children's Services, Family Service Barnet	Early Years/Primary Service Manager
Community Partnerships Officer	Growth and Corporate Services
Programmes & Traded Services, Early Help	HAF Coordinator
Green Spaces	Events and Marketing Manager – Parks and Leisure
Early Help, Child & Family Services	Assistant Head of Service
School Access, Skills & Corp Services - Business Support & Comms	Director - School Access, Skills & Corporate Services
Consultant	Adults & Health - Public Health & Prevention
Strategy & Communications, Barnet Council	Senior Communication and Campaigns Manager
Barnet Home	Digital Inclusion Coordinator
Strategy and Resources, Barnet Council	Strategy and Resources
Young Barnet Foundation	CEO
Commissioning, Children's Services	Senior Commissioning
Programmes & Traded Services, Early Help	Team Manager BACE and Positive Activities
Libraries, Children's Services	Service Development Manager Stock & Services
BELS - School Improvement & Traded Services, Learning Network	Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning
Young Barnet Foundation	Member Development Officer – HAF Coordinator
Public Health & Prevention Barnet	Health Improvement Officer
Young Barnet Foundation	Head of Community Services
Early Help, Child & Family Services	Head of Service
Young Barnet Foundation	Chief Operating Officer
BELS - School Improvement & Traded Services, Learning Network	Head Teacher, The Virtual School
Public Health & Prevention Barnet	Health Improvement Officer



Barnet Parent Champions

The Parent/Carer Champion Programme in Barnet is an initiative designed to support families by engaging parents/carers in community-based activities and training. This intervention involves recruiting and training local parents/carers as champions who can provide peer on peer support, share information, and connect other families with relevant services and resources. The programme aims to enhance the well-being of families, improve parenting skills, and create a supportive community network. The experiences and insights of parent/carers champions, helps to build trust, promote engagement, and facilitate access to necessary support services for families in Barnet. The parent/carers champions help bridge the gap between parent/carers, schools and local authority services.

The Parent/Carer Champion Programme in Barnet was designed to address several key needs and service gaps:

Parent/carers faced challenges accessing support due to lack of trust of professionals and feeling that they will be judged, many parent/carers experienced social isolation affecting their mental health and well-being which had an impact on their parenting. Parent/carers demonstrated that they felt more comfortable sharing their struggles with other parent/carers. Peer on peer support is so powerful.

The services that are available within the Borough for our Community including charities, grassroot organisations were not all known. Parent/carers spreading the word has a huge positive impact in community engagement.

The programme aims to empower parent/carers, reduce isolation, enhance parent/carers knowledge around youth violence and improve access to service and trust in the services.

In 2024 BACE Holidays developed a partnership with the Barnet Parent Champions.

16 Parent Champions volunteered and hosted a family fun day which was a huge success with over 150 participants at the event. For 2025 we will be continue to work with Barnet Parent Champions alongside each of the Early Help Hubs in the borough.

“

My two lovely boys, aged 4 and 7, enjoyed every day in BACE Holidays Camp during last summer. They engaged in a wide range of physical and creative activities such as football, multi sports, arts, crafts, cookery, etc. They have developed new skills and made new friends as they engaged in a lot of team games. They have become more confident. The most crucial aspect to me is that my kids have entertainment in a safe and well-structured environment and supervised by qualified staff. I highly recommend BACE Holidays for inspiring children.

Barnet Parent Champion Summer 2024

”



Development from BACE Champions, the Barnet Parent Champions took a lead role in promoting, signposting and co producing family days.

Further in the report you will find out more about how we work in partnership with the Parent Champions to support BACE.

Aim for 2025 – development of partnership working with BACE champions and each Hub locality.

SEND Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

At BACE Holidays, we are committed to ensuring that every child, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), can participate, feel included, and thrive in our programme.

Here's how we support SEND children:

● Tailored Activities:

We offer a diverse range of activities that are adapted to accommodate children with various needs and abilities. These activities include horse experience days for children with Autism, adapted sports, inflatable days, cooking, and more. We worked with 6 mainstream activity providers to deliver tailored activities. Trips to InflaNation and FlipOut, performing Arts Days, SEND family fun Park days for SEND children and young people.

● Inclusive Environment:

Our providers are encouraged and supported to design their activities to be inclusive, promoting participation and engagement for all children. We provide training and SEND 1:1 support workers via Teach Now Limited to ensure that every child can join in and enjoy the fun in our mainstream activities.

● Specialist Activities:

We worked with 6 SEND specialist providers to ensure we have provisions exclusively for SEND children in the borough who may not manage a mainstream setting; these organisations were:

- Comfortzone
- IPOP
- Noah's Ark
- Norwood
- Oakleigh School
- Resources for Autism



Encouraging Inclusion

We promote peer interaction and socialisation among all children, fostering friendships and understanding among children of different abilities.





Maximising Funding Through In-House Programme Expansion:

In 2024, we strategically expanded our in-house programme delivery to make the most of available funding and increase our reach. By using council-owned venues and running multiple sessions throughout the day, we provided high-quality, inclusive activities in familiar and accessible spaces across the borough.

This cost-effective model allowed us to deliver a diverse range of engaging sessions led by professional facilitators – covering everything from magic shows, science demos, and music production to photography, app design, cookery, and more. Each activity was designed to spark creativity, build skills, and inspire curiosity.

We also partnered with council youth workers to deliver creative and cultural sessions such as jewellery making, silent discos, pop-up cinema screenings, and arts

workshops – further enriching the offer while supporting local talent and strengthening community connections.

A standout moment of the year was the Parents Champions Family Day at Finchley Youth Theatre. This whole-family event featured soft play, glitter art, henna tattoos, a petting zoo, inflatables, and freshly prepared hot meals. Each family received a home activity pack and a “Take & Make” meal box to encourage healthy eating and shared time at home.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Parents appreciated the inclusive atmosphere, variety of activities, and the opportunity to enjoy a fun and meaningful day out without financial barriers.

This model not only supports better coordination, safeguarding, and monitoring but also ensures that funding is focused on delivery where it matters most. We look forward to continuing this successful approach and scaling family-focused days across all future BACE holiday periods in 2025 and beyond.



Strength & Learning Through Horses offers therapy services and alternative education / skills training programmes.

All our services utilise horses to engage young people and adults in building skills and confidence to make positive changes in their lives. Skills learnt on programmes include self-reflection, communication, teamwork, time management and leadership skills.



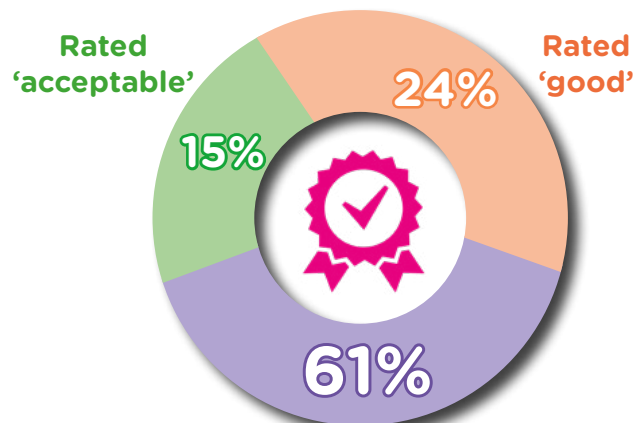
Quality of Provision

Barnet has a strong monitoring framework to ensure HAF provision is of a high quality. In order to maintain a high standard of provision, the following tools are used: quality assurance visits, case studies and feedback from children and young people.

The framework provided by the Department for Education (DfE) contains 11 sections, each focusing on a HAF standard as defined by the DfE: Healthy food provision (that meets the school Food Standards).

- ★ Awareness and understanding of healthy eating
- ★ Signposting and referrals
- ★ Enriching activities
- ★ Accessibility and inclusiveness
- ★ Physical activity
- ★ Environment and sustainability. The framework grid also contains five levels of provider performance, ranging from Very Poor* to Excellent.

Combined ratings across all HAF Standards, Barnet providers are rated over 2024 as:



Rated 'excellent'

100% of providers that were commissioned via BACE 2024 met the framework standards for policies and procedures in the following:



Safeguarding, Health and Safety and Insurance



*There was one BACE provider which scored poor within the Health Food Section. We have since worked with providers to prevent this from happening moving forward in 2025.

Partnership working

The success of BACE Holidays is built on strong and diverse partnerships. By working closely with local schools, charities, community organisations, businesses, and volunteers, we combine expertise and resources to create a well-rounded and impactful programme that meets the needs of Barnet's children and families while fulfilling HAF requirements. Through a shared commitment to collaboration, we have been able to provide enriching experiences and vital support. Below are some key examples of how partnership working contributed to the success of BACE Holidays in 2024:

Food and Nutrition Delivery

Public Health Barnet led an in-person Food and Nutrition Training to BACE Providers. The training covered food safety, implementing the School Food Standards, example food education activities and a "Cook In" with Bread N Butter. The BACE providers who attended were given activity bags containing physical resources to support healthy food education activities to undertake within their sessions.



Mayor of London – Take & Make Boxes

Food To support family wellbeing and food security, we delivered Take & Make recipe kits to families participating in our in-house trips and activities. These kits were developed to be cost-effective, nutritious, and culturally inclusive, aligning with school food standards and offering a shelf life of over five days without refrigeration. Each kit included portioned ingredients to prepare a healthy meal for four, along with printed recipe cards and links to online video tutorials to support cooking confidence and engagement at home. Recognising the diversity of the families we serve, we tailored the kits to accommodate dietary needs including halal, kosher, allergen-friendly options, and Special Educational Needs (SEN). The contents focused on staple items, fresh produce, and plant-based proteins, ensuring accessibility and nutritional value. This initiative not only supported families with practical food resources but also promoted healthy eating habits, cultural inclusion, and family bonding through shared meal preparation.



Young Barnet Foundation

(YBF) our partner organisation which works strategically to bring charities and organisations together to support and build capacity in the children and young people's voluntary sector across the borough of Barnet. Their vision is for young people to grow up healthy, safe, and happy, with the best opportunities to secure brighter futures. YBF has brought variety, new skills and expertise to the children and young people.



On the Go Teen Food Bags

To better meet the preferences of our teens, who often opt for takeaway meals over catered lunches, we've introduced the "On the Go Teen Food Bags." These wholesome takeaway bags contain staple food items designed to support a healthy, balanced diet. This initiative ensures that teens have convenient access to nutritious meals that align with their lifestyle while promoting overall well-being.

Barnet Education Arts Trust

"We are delighted with the outcomes of this project. We've successfully introduced young people to a variety of music styles that aren't typically covered in their school curriculum, expanding their musical exposure. By promoting creativity and imaginative expression, we've witnessed remarkable growth in the children's abilities. The culmination of the project – the final performance – was particularly rewarding, as it allowed students to present their work to their peers, family, and friends. This experience not only instilled a deep sense of pride and accomplishment but also greatly enhanced their self-confidence. Overall, the project has been a great success and has had a positive impact on everyone involved."

Sharon Broughall –
CEO, Barnet Education Arts Trust



Unitas Youth Zone is an independent charity, providing a safe and inspiring place for all young people

"Being part of the YBF HAF/ BACE scheme is so important, because it allows our provision to be accessed by some of the most disadvantaged young people in the Borough. It means that we can make an even bigger impact on young people who we might never otherwise come into contact with. Just because parents cannot afford a summer programme does not mean young people don't deserve to attend – and we are grateful to HAF/BACE for allowing this to happen."

Maria Muhammad, Rec and Holiday Club Coordinator – Unitas



Chickenshed

BACE Holidays in Barnet partnered with Chickenshed via their Tales from the Shed project to enhance the cultural experiences offered to children and young people participating in the programme. This collaboration provided access to a variety of performances. Enriching the holiday activities with artistic and creative opportunities. For instance, Chickenshed hosted productions such as Big Day Out, Gullivers Travels, Opera Blurgh Tales and Encyclopedia of Happiness, which were accessible to BACE Holidays participants. This ensured that even more children could enjoy the magic of theatre during each holiday project.



Trips for Teens expanded

A range of engaging teen trips were offered, including visits to Laser Quest and Flip Out. These activities provided young people with opportunities to stay active, develop social skills, and build confidence in a fun and supportive environment. The option to bring a friend encouraged greater participation and helped create a more inclusive and enjoyable experience for all attendees.





Supporting Children and Young People's
Wellbeing and Mental Health

BICS and Early Help is undergoing a service restructure/integration and had to open consultations with stakeholders and service users as part of the process, so we took opportunity to utilise our partners summer park events taking place across Barnet to engage with young people and families to get feedback on the proposed changes and suggestions of what changes/improvements can be made.

The park events were vibrant and inclusive with a range of activities for young people and families to engage with, which provided a plethora of opportunities to obtain quality feedback to help shape what the integration should look like.

Key Challenges

BACE encountered significant challenges due to the escalating cost of living. The rising costs of venue hire and food have placed additional pressure on the programme's resources. For instance, the cost of a traditional Christmas dinner in Barnet has increased by 30% over the past two years, while median monthly wages have risen by only 11%. This disparity between income and food prices highlights the financial strain on families and, by extension, on organisations like BACE Holidays that aim to provide nutritious meals to eligible children. Additionally, the demand for venues has surged, leading to higher rental costs and limited availability, further complicating the organisation of activities. These financial pressures necessitate increased fundraising and external support to ensure the continuation of the programme and its ability to serve the community effectively.



Inspiring and supporting volunteering

Volunteering Barnet has worked closely with the project in supporting our activity providers to take on volunteers. This has offered local residents the opportunity to work with young people in the community and gain new skills and experience. The collaborative efforts of our partners have achieved remarkable results increasing reach in areas that have been more challenging to engage. The diverse expertise and resources from partners have enriched the quality and variety of activities offered, making the programme more engaging and impactful for children and young people. This has resulted in stronger community bonds, by working together towards a common goal, the partnerships have strengthened community ties and enhanced the project's offer.

We've actively promoted the opportunity through our website, social media channels, newsletters, and targeted recruitment efforts.

In 2024, we successfully recruited (processed and matched them with the provider) 8 volunteers for the programme.



Volunteers have found the experience rewarding:

"I volunteered for 3 days at Frith Manor Primary School. It was enjoyable and everyone was pleased to see me. I helped tidy up and look after the children, and some of them even recognised me from other places. The people were nice and friendly, and they said they hoped to see me in the next holidays."



BACE Holidays will continue to build the volunteering opportunities with Volunteering Barnet across 2025.

BACE Working with Partners

In 2024, the BACE project has had a profoundly positive and transformative impact on all the organisations it supports; including Fixation Academy, S4K, and Smart Play who shared their experience. They have detailed partnerships, and benefits experienced through this collaboration.

Fixation Academy: Enhancing Quality and Inclusion

Working with BACE has enabled Fixation Academy to:

Invest in new equipment, significantly improving the quality of provision and making sessions more engaging for children.

Partner with organisations such as Teach Now, increasing accessibility and inclusivity – core values of the Academy.

Strengthen community ties, creating opportunities for local small businesses to supply nutritious hot lunches to participants.

Access essential staff training, including food safety certification, ensuring a safe and professional environment.



"We're incredibly grateful for the opportunities this partnership has brought and look forward to continuing to grow our inclusive, community-driven approach."

S4K: Raising Standards and Supporting Families

S4K has worked with BACE for several years and continues to benefit from:

Operational support, including food provision, bookings, and last-minute issue resolution.

High expectations from Barnet, which have driven improvements in healthy living education and family signposting.

Access to the POD training platform, enhancing coaches' knowledge and ability to support diverse needs.

Participation in workshops, such as the recent Healthy Eating session, which improved food safety compliance and educational activities.



"The difference BACE has made is instrumental in creating a fun and safe environment for children."

Smart Play: Building Confidence and Community

Smart Play has witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of BACE:

Improved confidence, self-esteem, resilience, and social skills in children attending the programme.

Ongoing support and guidance from BACE team members Laura Davitt and Charlene Townsend, who are praised for their dedication and responsiveness.

Extensive training opportunities, both online and in person, which have upskilled staff and improved the environment for children.

Provision of valuable resources, including equipment, takeaway food boxes, SIM cards, and more.



"Without this provision, many children would not receive the crucial support they need. It is an honour to be part of this initiative."



Feedback and Case Studies

We continuously monitor the impact of BACE Holidays through case studies and feedback, ensuring the programme meets the needs of children, young people, and families. The insights gathered reflect the real experiences of those who have benefited from or contributed to the project.



Royal Air Force

As part of an enriching educational experience, children collaborated on a group project to design place mats for the Hendon Kitchen Café at the Royal Air Force Museum. These creative designs were printed and made available for use by children visiting the museum café. Each participant also received a digital copy of their group's final place mat design, which was emailed around the start of the Autumn school term. To support their learning, children were guided by two museum staff members as they explored the history, science, and technological innovations of the Royal Air Force. This was delivered through a combination of film, creative arts, and hands-on exploration of the museum's exhibits. As part of the BACE project, children also received a hot lunch at the Hendon Kitchen Café, with a selection of meal options available to suit different preferences.

Participants and Parents:

Families have shared their gratitude, emphasising the positive impact on their children's well-being and development during school holidays. Parents particularly value the nutritious meals, diverse activities, and supportive environment BACE Holidays provides. In 2023 many have expressed a desire for extended hours in the future, over 2024 we worked closely with providers to offer additional hours and become Ofsted registered. This has made the BACE Holidays offer even more engaging and a practical support for families.

Parent, Winter BACE Camp:

"We were so impressed with how much our daughter blossomed during the camp. At first, she was very shy and hesitant to join in, but by the end, she was full of confidence, actively participating in activities, and even volunteering to help. It's amazing to see her come out of her shell in such a supportive environment. She hasn't stopped talking about the friends she made and everything she learned. We're so grateful for this experience – it's made such a positive impact on her."

10yr old, Notherland Trust Camp:

"I LOVE day camp and I wish I could come every single day forever!"

Parent Champion Summer 2024:

"BACE has been a lifeline for my family and me. The structured, well-planned, thoughtful, and meaningful activities have really boosted confidence in my children and provided them with positive and useful ways to keep occupied."

Parent:

"The variety of activities available is really amazing and allows the children to experience so many activities they might not have had the chance to."

Male, 9, Performing Arts Camp:

"I really enjoyed the camp – the acting, the singing, basically everything. I think I got better at singing because at the first rehearsal, when we learned the songs, I couldn't remember it but now I know them really well – I feel really proud of myself. I felt nervous before camp but now I've made some good friends – I didn't know anyone before I started. I know my parents are feeling proud. My favourite thing was the games, the acting and singing. The hardest thing was the warm-ups and getting tired, but I still did it and got better at it"

Case Study:

Building Confidence One Step at a Time



Delivery Provider:

Give Youth A Break



Age Group:

Early Years (5 years old)

Focus:

Gross Motor Skills and Confidence Building



GIVE YOUTH A BREAK



At our BACE Holidays programme, a five-year-old girl joined us who found outdoor play and gross motor activities very challenging. She was particularly nervous around large equipment and avoided trying climbing frames or obstacle courses.

As part of our daily 30-minute outdoor session, we introduced a fun and supportive obstacle course using a variety of equipment in the garden – climbing frames, balance paths, and tunnels. The activity was inspired by an Occupational Therapist who encouraged us to find ways to support children's physical confidence in a safe and engaging way.

On the first day, the child was reluctant to join. She tightly held a volunteer's hand as she slowly navigated the course. With patient encouragement and support, she began to let go – literally and emotionally.

By the second day, she was willing to attempt the course more independently. By day three, she was running outside, eager to take part, showing visible excitement and confidence.



"I felt she was so nervous that I held her tightly. The next day, she didn't mind letting go of my hand, and by the third day, she did it confidently and happily!" – Volunteer

"I really enjoy this!" – Child

"Thank you for helping my child gain confidence – this will make physical activity easier for her in the long run." – Parent

This case is a powerful example of how the BACE Holidays (HAF) project helps children build essential life skills through consistent, well-planned, and nurturing activities. It shows that even small daily efforts can lead to big breakthroughs – supporting not just physical development, but emotional growth and resilience too.



<http://gyab.org>

Communication

BACE Holidays communicates with families through various channels to ensure they are informed and engaged

We use the **www.barnetyouth.uk** web site to promote and market the programme. We have created accessible YouTube videos, and use printed materials including booklets, posters, and bus stop signs to further advertise the offer. Partners including schools, and the wider organisation, support marketing the programme via their social media channels and the council web site.

- Leaflets and posters distributed to schools and libraries, Early Help hubs and Children's Centres – with digital adverts in bus-stops across the borough

Email / Newsletter Updates: Regular emails are sent to families via our Youth First Newsletter, with important programme information, schedules, and updates on upcoming activities.

- We have 7347 subscribers for the Youth First Newsletter in 2024.
- 48,800 subscribers with an opening rate of 51.1% reached via the Barnet First e-newsletter (Per issue)

Campaigns: 165,000 residents were reached via the Barnet First Magazine featuring BACE Holidays offer.

Barnet Youth Magazine

From feedback in 2023 we re branded the BACE Magazine to Barnet Youth to link with the website.

Across 2024 each project the magazine is printed and sent to schools, early help hubs, libraries and BACE providers within the community. We have seen more schools asking for the digital version which is why the amount printed over the year has decreased.

The magazine contains details about activities and camps, signposting support, services, healthy eating, recipes, money saving tips and so much more.



SPRING 5,270



SUMMER 5,270



WINTER 3,500





Social Media: BACE Holidays maintains active social media via @barnetyouth_, @barnetcouncil and @youngbarnetfoundation profiles where families can find updates, photos, and event reminders.

Top performing BACE Social Media Posts for 2024:

SPRING 2024 Likes 8 and Reach 406
SUMMER 2024 Likes 16 and Reach 634
WINTER 2024 Likes 7 and Reach 478



Website: Parents and Carers can book activities via the www.barnetyouth.uk website. This website provides a central hub for information, including programme details, FAQs, and contact information and a provider portal where providers can access registers and details of young people and communicate with parents and carers.

Feedback Forms and Focus Groups: Families are encouraged to provide feedback through online forms or paper surveys, allowing them to share their experiences and suggestions for improvement. We hold focus groups and encourage providers to do this in their time with children and young people to develop the project.

By utilising these communication channels, BACE Holidays ensures that families are kept informed, involved, and supported throughout their participation in the programme.



Early Help Hubs and BACE Champion 2024, each Early Help Hub identified and trained 1-2 practitioners to become dedicated BACE Champions. These staff received targeted training to support families with accessing the BACE programme. To enhance engagement, hubs were provided with Barnet Youth Magazines and iPads to help facilitate on-the-spot registrations and promote activities directly to local families. This has strengthened the connection between early help services and the BACE offer, ensuring more targeted support and improved access for those who need it most.

Budget and expenditure

The London Borough of Barnet received grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) in the borough of Barnet.

This grant funding is calculated based on the numbers of children eligible for and in receipt of benefits-related free school meals in the borough of Barnet. The funding is provided to cover:

- provision of free holiday places meeting the framework of standards,
- coordination of the programme locally.

The DfE recognises that there are administrative costs associated with setting up and running the HAF programme. Local authorities are able to use up to 10 per cent of their total allocation to cover such costs. In addition, funding can also be used to purchase equipment for the programme. The amount available to spend on equipment is limited to a maximum of two per cent of the overall programme expenditure.

The London Borough of Barnet was awarded a Department for Education grant of £1,205,890 for the 2024 to 2025 financial year, in addition providers raised £600 to support with their food costs and a donation of £3,154.50 from Waitrose to support the Family Fun Park Days.

HAF 2024 – Department for Education grant £1,205,890

Total spent	£
Administrative Expenditure	£120,589.00
Capital Expenditure	£6,291.00
Programme Expenditure	£1,079,010.00
Other Expenditure	£0.00



2024 Aims and Achievements Update and Forward Plans for 2025

- Introduce accreditation and life skills within activities for Teens such as first aid rapid response, Level 1 in Kayaking, orienteering and more.
- Focus and develop the Food and Nutrition offer for providers – offering
- Raising the profile of BACE via marketing campaigns, bus advertising, bus stop etc.
- Increase the offer within the voluntary sector - moving towards a more sustainable offer via paid places and Ofsted.

Stronger Local Partnerships

Work more closely with Family Hubs and Children's Centres to run BACE activities in familiar, trusted spaces – helping us reach more families, especially those eligible for free school meals (FSM).

Life Skills and Accreditation for Teens

Offer accredited activities for teenagers like First Aid, Kayaking (Level 1), and Orienteering. These help build confidence, independence, and skills for the future – supporting HAF's focus on enrichment.

Better Food and Nutrition Training

Provide training for activity providers on food safety, healthy eating, and fun cooking sessions for children. This ensures high-quality food education as part of every BACE offer.



Thank you

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the children, young people, families, volunteers, delivery partners, and supporters who have played a vital role in the continued success of BACE Holidays. Your energy, dedication, and collaboration have made a lasting difference.

As we look ahead, we remain firmly committed to delivering inclusive, accessible, and enriching experiences that support children's wellbeing and bring communities together. Our mission to provide safe, engaging, and nourishing holiday opportunities continues to grow – and it would not be possible without the people who make it happen. We look forward to building on this strong foundation together in 2025 and beyond.



- Active London
- African Cultural Association
- Amplified Arts Academy
- Arts Depot
- Axis Educational Trust
- Ball Out Community
- Barnet Community Project
- Barnet Mencap
- Barnet Educational Arts Trust (BEAT)
- Bread n Butter CIC
- Barnet Library Services
- Barnet Parent Champions
- Barnet District Scouts
- Bulldogs Basketball CIC
- Camden Bouncy Castles
- Centre of Excellence
- Chaverim Youth Organisation
- Cheri Pick'd
- Chickenshed Theatre
- Claremont Primary School
- Comfortzone
- Community Focus
- Complete Sports
- Cricklewood ABC
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Elite Leisure
- ETC Youth
- Fixation Academy Performing Arts
- Flip Out
- Foundation Sports
- Give Help Share (GHS)
- Greentop Children Centre
- GROW
- Give Youth A Break (GYAB)
- Holistic Education & Sport
- Hollywood Bowl
- IPOP
- Laser Quest
- LIFT CIC
- Lingotots Barnet
- Lingotots Muswell Hill (Let's Speak)
- Living Way Ministries
- London Magic School
- Mindcatcher SportsTech
- North London Community Consortium
- Noah's Ark
- Non Stop Action
- Northern Land Trust
- Northway School
- Norwood
- Oakleigh School
- Pro Touch SA CIC
- Programmes & Traded Services (Inhouse Team)
- Royal Air Force Museum
- Resources for Autism
- Saracens Foundation
- Somali Bravanese Welfare Association (SBWA)
- Stonegrove Community Trust
- Stonegrove Estates Youth Project (SEYP)
- Strength and Learning Through Horses
- Smart Play
- SOTO Inspires CIC
- Sport4Kids
- Sublime Science
- Superstar Sport
- Teach Now
- The Whyte Bros
- The Hope of Childs Hill (THOCH)
- Tiferes High School
- Tony Russell Music
- Torah Vodaas
- Tzivos Hashem
- Underhill Children's Centre
- Unitas
- Wuma Sports Ltd Basketball
- YMCA

Barnet Active Creative Engaging holidays

