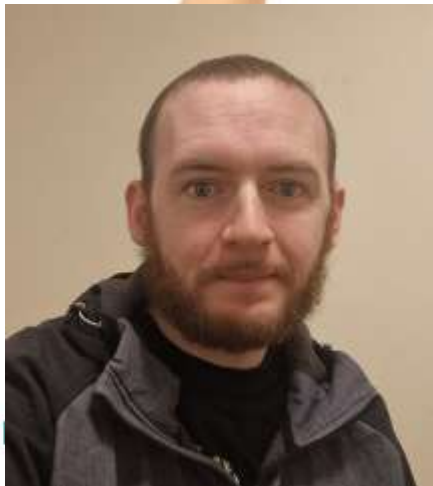


Autism Residents Advisory Group

Daniel Findlay, ARAG Co-chair



10:00- 10:05

WE ARE NEWHAM.

AGENDA

Daniel Findlay, ARAG Co-chair



1	Welcome & Introductions	Daniel Findlay, Resident Co-chair	10.00	5min
2	Meeting Rules	Daniel Findlay, Resident Co-chair	10.05	5min
3	Theme: Mixed Guest Speakers Support for children & parents in Newham Manchester University Research: GP Analysis	Grainne Fennell, Specialist S&L (Autism) LBN Dr Birtwell, Research Fellow, Manchester Uni	10.10 10.30	20min 15min
	BREAK	BREAK	10.45	15min
4	Supported Accommodation Strategy - resident consultation	Jason McCulloch, Snr Commissioner, LBN	11.00	40min
5	Minutes & Matters Arising 26 January 2026	Linda Wan, Council Co-Chair	11.40	10min
6	Update on YSTWD Report & Y3 priorities	Linda Wan, Council Co-Chair	11.50	5min
7	AOB	Daniel Findlay, Resident Co-chair	11.55	5min
8	Next Meeting		12.00	0min

Supplementary events

Linda Wan, Council Co-chair

Both events offered today **12pm-1pm**

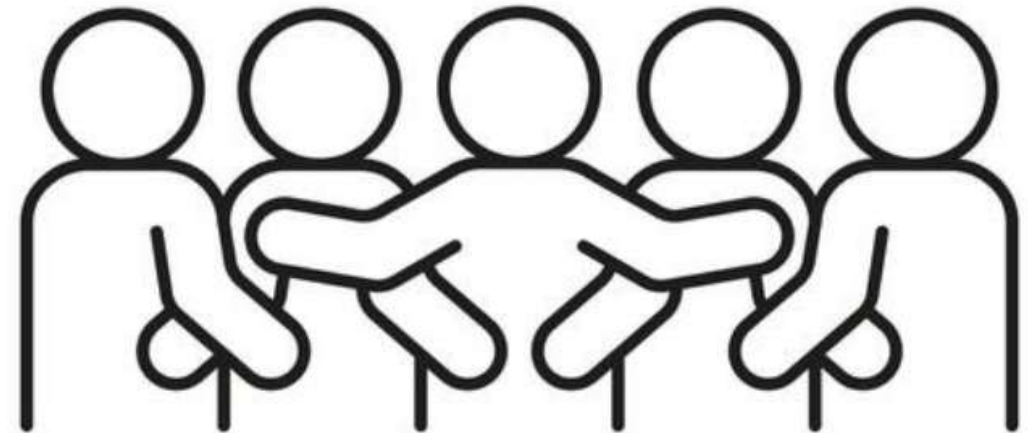
ARAG Q&A

Linda Wan, Council Co-chair



Peer-to-Peer Support Group

Christina Pillai / Daniel Findlay



Meeting Rules

Meeting Rules

Daniel Findlay



Please speak slowly with easy words



No jargon to be used



Stop if people show they don't understand



Use you communication cards if you want to speak

10:05- 10:10

WE ARE NEWHAM.

Meeting Rules

Daniel Findlay



please give us a chance to ask questions



make sure everyone has time to understand what is being said



Don't speak over each other



Switch mobile phones to flight mode 10:05- 10:10

Support for children & parents in Newham

Grainne Fennell, Specialist S&L (Autism) , Newham Council

Support for children & parents

Grianne Fennell



GP survey

Dr Kelly Birtwell, Manchester University Research Fellow

Support for children & parents

Grianne Fennell



BREAK

15minutes, back at **11:00am**

Supported Accommodation Strategy

Jason McCulloch LBN

Supported Accommodation Strategy

Jason McCulloch



Minutes & Matters Arising

ARAG January 2025

Minutes & Matters Arising

Linda Wan



Autism Residents' Advisory Group (ARAG) Meeting

Stratford Library 26/01/2026 10:00am – 12:00am

Residents:

- +10 online Residents/Guests
- +8 in-person Residents/Participants

Guest Speakers

- Sebastian Buser - IMPACT project, Birmingham Uni
- Jason McCulloch - LBN Senior Commissioner

Professional Reps:

- Daniel Findlay – Resident Co-chair
- Linda Wan – Co-Chair, LBN Commissioner
- Daniel Nichols – LBN Commissioning Assistant
- Patricia Moody – Support Facilitator, VoiceAbility
- Aisha Ahmed – Senior Peer Support Worker, ELFT
- Tia Barnes – Social Worker, LBN SAIL Team

Previous ARAG Minutes & Slides:

[Newham's Autism Resident Advisory Group \(ARAG\) – Autism – Newham Council](#)

11:40- 11:45

Minutes & Matters Arising

Linda Wan



Impact Project

- exploring how Adult Social Care can better support LGBTQ+ residents and staff
- Sharing experiences:
 - LGBTQ+ experiences of adult social care in Newham;
 - What works well and what could be improved;
 - Observations from family, friends or supporters of LGBTQ+ residents.
- 1-to-1 conversations (in person or online)
- Payment **£27.50 per hour**
- email Sebastian at s.j.buser@bham.ac.uk

11:40- 11:45

WE ARE NEWHAM.

Minutes & Matters Arising

Linda Wan



Supported Accommodation Strategy

- 10 year strategy
- The number of people being diagnosed with autism is growing fast but there are no supported living services in Newham that are dedicated to support autistic people and no clear pathway for people to move into more independent housing.
- There is no community-based (floating) support for people who are ready to move into their own homes. Community based support usually lasts for around 6 months but can “float” back if needed.
- There is a plan to commission an in-borough complex needs service, to de-register at least 2 care homes (moving the residents to tenancy-based accommodation) and commission community based (floating) support).

11:40- 11:45

Minutes & Matters Arising

Linda Wan



Resident Round Table Discussions: Year 3 Priorities

- The continued educating of professionals, employers and the wider population on how to best support autistic residents, alongside improving access to employment and Health services, is important to resident

Minutes & Matters Arising

Linda Wan



Autism Residents' Advisory Group (ARAG) Meeting

Stratford Library 26/01/2026 10:00am – 12:00am

ACTIONS from last meeting

NONE

Previous ARAG Minutes & Slides:

[Newham's Autism Resident Advisory Group \(ARAG\) – Autism – Newham Council](#)

Minutes & Matters Arising

Linda Wan



11:40- 11:45

E ARE NEWHAM.

YSTWD 2025/6 & Year 3 Priorities

Linda Wan

YSTWD 2025/6 & Y3 Priorities

Linda Wan



- You Said Together We Did and Year 3 Priorities document
 - o Adults & Children's Directorate Management Team (DMT) sign off June 2026

2026/7 Y3 Priorities

Linda Wan



Autism Action Plan: Let's Talk Autism 2026/27 Priorities

P1: IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF AUTISM IN NEWHAM.		
Co-deliver autism training for the Council's operational Social Care Teams, Housing Teams, and in-borough commissioned Care Providers to develop a consistent baseline of understanding and approach.		Establish a local Community Leaders Steering Group to identify the most effective ways to educate and inform Newham's diverse global community about autism.
P2: IMPROVE AUTISTIC CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO EDUCATION - AND SUPPORT POSITIVE TRANSITIONS INTO ADULTHOOD		
Embed autism-inclusive early identification and support within Best Start in Life (BSIL) and Family Hub delivery, ensuring children aged 0–5 and their families can access timely, joined-up support.	Strengthen inclusive practice across mainstream education settings by embedding an "Experts at Hand" model, enabling earlier identification and support for autistic children and young people without reliance on statutory assessment.	Develop a coordinated 0–25 transition pathway for autistic young people, ensuring multi-agency planning and earlier preparation for adulthood in line with the local SEND Reform Plan.

11:45- 11:55

2026/7 Y3 Priorities

Linda Wan



Autism Action Plan: Let's Talk Autism 2026/27 Priorities

P3: SUPPORTING MORE AUTISTIC PEOPLE INTO EMPLOYMENT

Improve job retention outcomes for autistic residents by providing targeted support to both resident and employer, ensuring appropriate workplace adjustments and increasing employer awareness of autism.	In partnership with local businesses, create Insight Days for autistic young people aged 14+, enabling them to experience 'real-world' work environments – to build confidence, develop workplace understanding, and support smoother transition into future employment.	In partnership with the DWP, in-borough secondary schools and colleges, deliver on-campus roadshows, talks, and advice surgeries that familiarise autistic students with employment support services available in Newham.
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P4: TACKLE HEALTH AND CARE INEQUALITIES FOR AUTISTIC PEOPLE

Review information and support available to residents' awaiting diagnosis and their Carers. Assess impact and consider recommendations for improving the current offer.	Improve awareness, accessibility and uptake of existing services that support physical health, mental wellbeing and preventative care (e.g. healthy eating, exercise, cancer screening, etc).	Prevent unnecessary medication through effective delivery of health programs such as STOMP .
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11:45- 11:55

2026/7 Y3 Priorities

Linda Wan



Autism Action Plan: Let's Talk Autism 2026/27 Priorities

P5: BUILD THE RIGHT SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT PEOPLE IN INPATIENT CARE

Better understand the reasons preventing discharges from in-patient settings and put in place plans to address these.

Confirm commissioning intentions and timelines for delivering community-based services that will prevent admission and support discharge (e.g. floating support, supported accommodation for residents with complex needs and behaviours).

P6: IMPROVE SUPPORT WITHIN THE CRIMINAL AND YOUTH JUSTICE SYSTEMS

Work in partnership with the Council-commissioned [Appropriate Adult Service](#) to obtain data on the number of autistic people supported, broken down by their protected characteristics.

Arrange autism awareness and neuro-affirming training for employees working across the Family Hubs and Leaving Care Team, so they are better equipped to understand and support young autistic residents. Recognising that Care Leavers and children in need often face a range of life challenges and systemic barriers that may increase the likelihood of them encountering the Youth Justice Service, as either a victim or perpetrator of crime.

11:45- 11:55

- New Autism Support Groups (see [May newsletter](#) for more details)
 - Work Coach
 - Music & Dance Stage Show
 - Parents & Carers of Autistic Young People
 - Late Diagnosed Autism Group (register your interest)
- LD Week,
 - Theme: Do you see me?
 - 15 - 21 June 2026
- Bigger. Better. Together. Event
 - Saturday 23.05.2026



11:55- 12:00

WE ARE NEWHAM.

Dates of next meeting

Daniel Findlay



Monday 6th July 2026 Topic: Met Police	10am-12pm	John Hopkins Room Stratford Library (in-person and online)
Monday 5th October 2026	10am-12pm	John Hopkins Room Stratford Library (in-person and online)
Monday 25th January 2027	10am-12pm	John Hopkins Room Stratford Library (in-person and online)

Supplementary events:

Both events offered today **12pm-1pm**

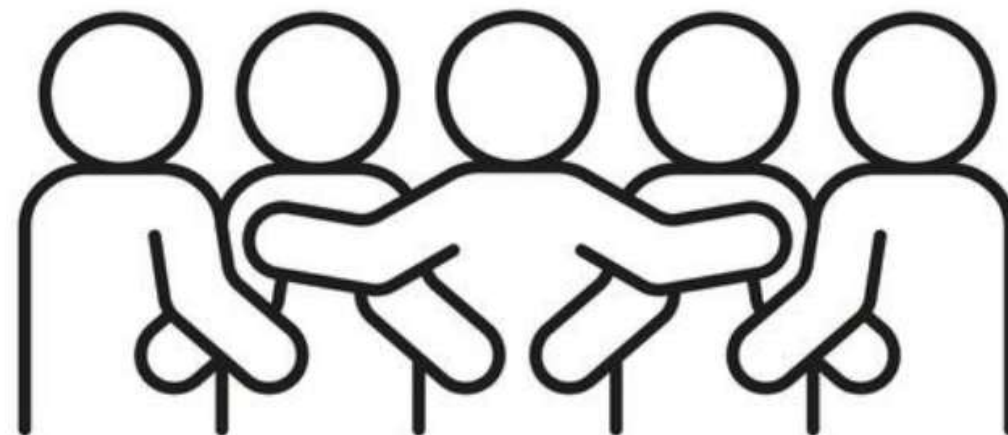
ARAG Q&A

Linda Wan, Council Co-chair



Peer-to-Peer Support Group

Christina Pillai & Daniel Findlay



12:00 –13.00

WE ARE NEWHAM.