

DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION OF BEXLEY BROMLEY GREENWICH & LEWISHAM



TRUSTEES' REPORT 1st JANUARY – 31st DECEMBER 2025



I would like to say that it was a really helpful meeting and the speaker was brilliant.

DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION OF BEXLEY BROMLEY GREENWICH & LEWISHAM

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Our mission is:

To help dyslexic people of all ages by providing information and support, and to promote the positive aspects of specific learning difficulties.

As ever, our two main areas of work have been:

- ❖ Direct Services to our Membership and the General Public
- ❖ Changing policy and promoting Best Practice across the whole dyslexia community

Our major achievements for this period have been:

Direct Services to our Membership and the General Public

- A busy and informative helpline run by volunteers, providing vital support for parents/carers, grandparents, dyslexic adults, teachers, medical professionals, employers, probation support and other voluntary and statutory agencies etc.
- Provision of virtual and face-to-face meetings to inform the public and give them an opportunity to network with each other.
- Information-giving at various events, both actual and virtual.
- A Dyslexia Screening Service for children
- A constantly up-dated website and FaceBook page
- Published interviews with dyslexic adults

Changing Policy and Promoting Best Practice

- Close working with Local Authorities and other charities and organisations
- Membership of the Voluntary Sector Groups in Greenwich, Bexley and Bromley
- Participation in separate school and Local Authority events

We have a good mix and range of skills among our committee members, including typical dyslexic creativity and problem-solving skills, and organisation and clerical skills. We have a mix of parents, teachers and individuals with business and fundraising skills.

We retain a large membership base and were delighted to add even more new members this year.

Direct Services to our Membership and the General Public.

Helpline and Befriending (Advocacy) Service

Our helpline continued to be very busy this year, with many calls from parents and adults; and quite a few from other charities, public and private companies and professionals of all sorts.

In most areas there is no possibility of funding or financial assistance in getting a dyslexia assessment for either children or adults, and this is causing much distress as many cannot afford the high cost. Some educationalists say there is no point in getting a diagnosis, as it will not alter the support that a child is already getting in school. But in life is it not essential for us and others around us to know who we really are? Our strengths and weaknesses and why we cannot do some things as well as others, and other things much better than others?

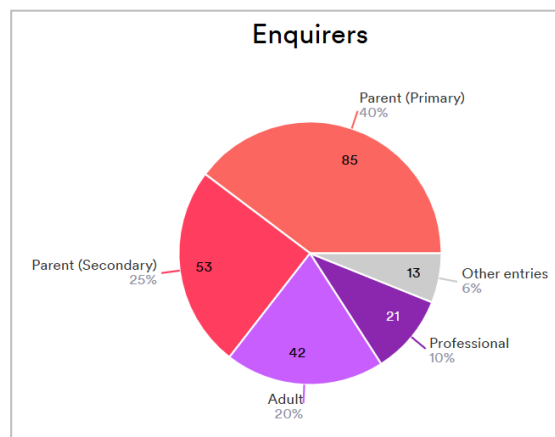
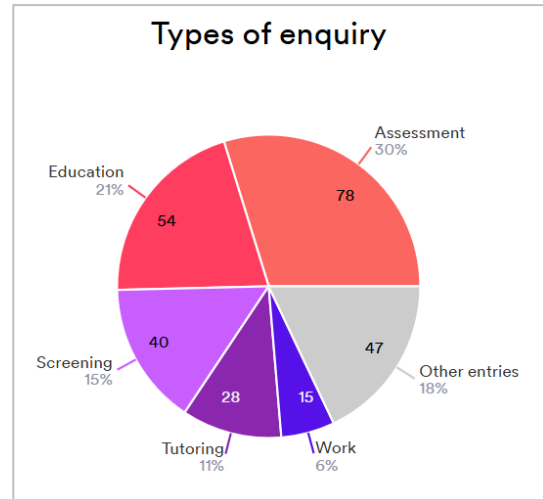
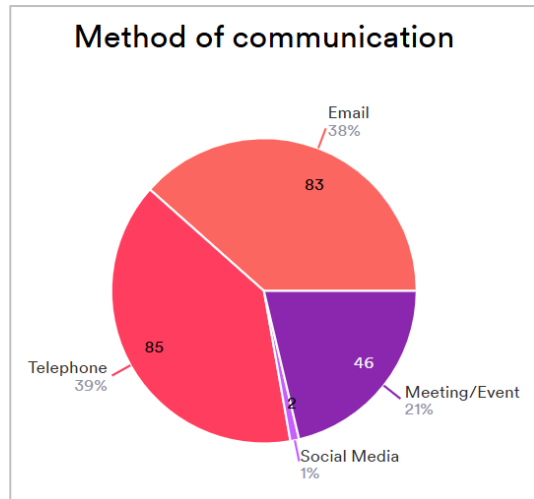
Apart from the four boroughs our Association covers, following the closing of the Kent West Dyslexia Association we are now taking calls from Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Dartford areas as well. In addition, we are increasingly getting calls from well outside our area, and always give as much information as we can without having the more specialist knowledge of our own areas.

Our Adult Dyslexia helpline in particular deals with calls from all over London and beyond. Many callers have kept their dyslexia secret in one way or another from family, friends or work and spend every day of their lives hiding it until they can no longer do so and need help. Others are beginning to realise there may be a reason for their daily struggles and understanding it better and finding ways to work with it will help them improve their situation. Along their journey they have developed extremely low self-esteem, struggles at work are an everyday occurrence and accessing support is difficult without a formal assessment and acknowledgement of their dyslexia. Many are hoping to improve their situation either in their current job, with a promotion or in a new job. Others want to find ways to improve their daily experience and some need very practical help with learning to read, form filling or discrimination. Often the callers want someone to talk to who understands them and their daily struggles and acknowledges that their difficulties are real. The helpline serves as much an outlet for someone to talk to as for practical advice given.

The calls received on both helplines and outside events covered a wide range of enquiries, covering Assessments, Screening, Tutoring, Education support post assessment in both Primary and Secondary schools, Support for Educational Tribunal Appeals, University and College diagnosis and support available, Employment, Mental Health difficulties and links to other Neurodiverse Conditions

The team continues to support all who contact us using their knowledge and local expertise to try to help callers navigate through their own specific issues. Some call us once and are then armed with the knowledge they need, others call us back at various stages of their journey and it's lovely to hear of progress made. Our team includes Nadani Chandramohan and Lindy Springett answering calls to the general helpline, and Diana Edmonds managing calls to the adult helpline, Helen Buckley managing email enquiries and Catrin Cox as invaluable expert resource behind the scenes. We are always looking for more people to be trained as helpliners too.

The nearly 300 enquiries we received were broken down as follows:



“Thank you so much. I really appreciate the time you have taken to respond. You have made my day” Mother of 10 year old boy.

“We just wanted to say a big thank you for sharing all that helpful information. It was really insightful and made a big difference”. Adult caller and wife

Essential Administration

Immense thanks go to Helen Buckley for the lion’s share of our general administration. Also to Kim Davie who not only operates our database so well and keeps our website up-to-date, but has continued to develop new state-of-the-art IT systems and processes as part of our GDPR (Data Protection) compliancy work; and to Fatima Conteh for her sterling work as our Treasurer. Indeed our very grateful thanks go to all our superb volunteers who work so very hard for the benefit of all our community.

As virtual tenants of Community House, we maintain our valuable links with the other charities there.

Dyslexia Screening

Catrin Cox screened over 40 children for dyslexia this year. The results of these screenings give an indication of dyslexia tendencies in each individual case. Our screening sessions are always combined with information-giving and advice, and due to Catrin selflessly giving of her time and many years of experience and expertise, we are able to charge a very low fee which merely defrays the expenses for the Association.

“You were so helpful and patient and wanted to really thank you for allowing us to come along today and not wait till next year”. Mother of 8 year old girl

Technology

Our constantly up-dated and informative website received over 5,000 hits during the year, whilst our General group FaceBook page proved a useful resource for many people and now has over 900 members. Our website highlights Holly Royal's fascinating and inspiring interviews with local adults with dyslexia - My Dyslexia Journey.

Meetings & Events

Meetings

This year we had four Open Meetings, where people could meet and chat, gain mutual support, and sample the delicious homemade cakes from Holly, Otis and Lila. We also held 2 meetings on Zoom, as many people are unable to get out in the evenings.

Meeting topics this year covered: Ways to help your dyslexic child thrive at home and at school; Dyslexia-friendly classrooms; How to build a good and effective relationship with your school; Maths Success for those with dyslexia and dyscalculia; How to help your child to revise; Counselling, dyslexia and neurodiversity.

“Thank you. My daughter in year 9 has found it very useful too and plans to try to implement some of these techniques”.

“I'll be using this with other students I work with (deaf studies) and not just my own son”.



Our refreshments



A popular Meeting

Adult Group

This year we set up friendly and informal “Come and Chat” meetings at a Café Bar. Very many thanks go to Claire Hutchinson and Andrew Eveleigh for all their work with this.

Events

We have again been asked to attend many events in our 4 boroughs this year, and our information table is always crowded with people needing our help.

At these events, apart from parents, we have had enquiries from Sencos, Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language therapists and Local Authority officials too. Quite a few had not known of our existence, and many valuable chats were held and contacts established.

By invitation, we visited several primary and secondary schools and voluntary organisations during the year, giving a presentation and information to parents, teachers and group leaders. These were very appreciatively received by both parents and teachers.

“Thanks so much for coming in last week- your presentation was so informative, myself and the parents present really got a lot from it”. Primary school Teacher

*“I’ve learnt more in the last 5 minutes than I’ve tried to find out in the last 5 years!”
Parent at school coffee morning*

In September we were invited by Bell House in Dulwich to exhibit at their impressive Dyslexia Fair. We were able to exhibit a large number of resources, and were incredibly busy all day long giving out information to a high number of visitors, a mixture of parents, children and adult dyslexic people.



Bexley Marketplace Event



Bell House Dyslexia Fair

Changing Policy and Promoting Best Practice

We consider the changing of policy and promoting best practice to be of overwhelming importance in our work. We are acutely aware that only a small proportion of dyslexic people and parents/carers will have the benefit of contacting us and getting our help and advice. By far the most effective way forward is to endeavour to ensure that society at large (and especially in schools) is a productive and understanding place for dyslexic people.

We were particularly delighted that Bromley Local Authority continued training for classroom teachers was a great success again. Greenwich retain their central assessment, training and advice service (STEPS), which makes a great difference to the level of support for and understanding of dyslexia and other SpLDs in their schools.

We have kept up our contacts with a whole range of other organisations and voluntary groups this year, including:

1. Parent Voice Groups
2. Independent Information and Advice Services
3. Local Councils for Voluntary Services
4. Support Teachers and Classroom Assistants
5. Other Dyslexia Groups around the country
6. Bell House, Dulwich
7. British Dyslexia Association

Training and Support

Training for our Volunteers

As an advice-giving organisation, it is vital that our skills and knowledge are kept updated. Helpliners and Befrienders have attended high-powered webinars with the Educational Law Association, PATOSS (Professional Association of Teachers of students with Specific Learning Difficulties) and had multiple zoom training sessions and nation-wide discussions through the British Dyslexia Association during the year.

National Involvement

Our involvement with the British Dyslexia Association (BDA) remains high. We had a profitable and interesting personal meeting with the incoming CEO this year. We are often consulted by the BDA and in turn helped them by feeding back local information. We are also very active on the national BDA internet forum. Our committee members attended the on-line BDA AGM and also the All Party Parliamentary Group for Dyslexia at the House of Commons.

Into the Future

After 51 years, we are proud that we remain a vibrant and enthusiastic group, consistently attracting new members and volunteers. The Association will continue to support dyslexics of all ages to the best of its ability, while it continues to secure funding for invaluable events for the whole community.

**Dyslexia Association of Bexley Bromley Greenwich & Lewisham,
Charity No: 1114382, Company Registration No: 5725573.**

Registered Office: Community House, South Street, Bromley, Kent. BR1 1RH

Tel. Nos: 0300 999 1800 (helpline) 07762 265 827 (Adult helpline)

Bankers: Lloyds Bank PLC, 9 Market Square, Bromley, Kent BR1 1ND

The Objects of the Charity are to help children and adults to overcome the problems of dyslexia and associated learning difficulties by such means as the Charity shall decide and will, whether directly or indirectly, promote those ends: provided that any activity carried on shall be charitable.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Report.

Signed on the Trustees' behalf: Lindy Springett

**Lindy Springett, Chair.
29th April 2026**