



Supporting families with children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

NEWS 18.01.2021

Events, Covid Testing and Vaccines, Exclusions film, surveys

We hope you are keeping safe and well, and that the new lockdown is not causing you too many problems.

We will be sending out a **survey** later today to capture your experiences with education during this current lockdown. Please do look out for it and let us know how your school/education setting is working for your child.

If you are experiencing any issues with schools, social care or health services that you would like to share with us, don't forget you can also use our **Issues Log** form which is available on our website [here](#)

Events

Thank you to everyone who came to our virtual Coffee Morning last Wednesday. We hope you found it useful to hear what Lambeth are doing with regard to the Local Offer, an Inclusive Youth Forum, and how they will be communicating the offer.

The **Inclusive Youth Forum** is being set up to enable young people with additional needs to have their say about the services available to them.

If your young person would like to be involved in this, with your support if necessary, please contact Jerome Martello in the Commissioning Team JMartello@lambeth.gov.uk

Save the Date - Our next **Come Together! Coffee Morning on Zoom** will be on **Wednesday 24th February 2021, 10.00 - 12.00**

We'll be sending out more information nearer the time.

Thanks too to everyone who has signed up to take part in our **EPEC Being A Parent course**. We had a lot of interest, and unfortunately couldn't offer a place to everyone who wanted one. We are hoping to be able to bid for more funding in April to run the course again.

Workshop: Money Matters with Contact - Tuesday 26th January 2021, 10.00 - 12.00

There's still time to register for our workshop which will give an overview of benefits and how carers can get help with grants and discounts.

If you would like to attend, please register here: <https://family-action.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0rc-mhpjIqGd0VgubExAeyelgtACCTaWns>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Please note, this confirmation email will come from rosemary.merricks@family-action.org.uk
We will also confirm Zoom meeting details on the day before the Workshop.

Local Support

Family Action Lambeth PES Service supports parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Lambeth.

If you are struggling with online learning due to not having enough devices for your children, Family Action Lambeth may be able to help.

If you would like more information or support, you can find out more and register on their [website](#) or contact Sharon Kitson on LambethPES@family-action.org.uk

Lambeth Information Advice and Support Service (IASS) have information on their new [website](#) and will be hosting an **SEN workshop for Spanish speakers on Thursday 21st January 2021**. Details on their website.

SEN Online Drop In - The January Drop In session with Lambeth SEN Team has been moved to **20th January 2021, 11am - 12.30** to allow everyone to get back after the holidays. You can book a 15 minute slot to speak with a member of the SEN team by emailing Tlms@lambeth.gov.uk or text **07740 745580** with your preferred contact number. Sessions are held via Microsoft Teams.

In February they will be back to the first Wednesday of the month, **3rd February 2021**.

COVID related information

Open Letter to children and young people with SEND, their parents and carers, and those who support them

Vicky Ford MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families published an open letter to the SEND community on 14th January 2021. You can read it [here](#) and it contains links to updated Government guidance.

COVID Testing

In Lambeth, you can now get a rapid Covid test if you don't have symptoms at three sites across the borough. Tests are free and available to anyone living or working in Lambeth, including for children aged over 3 and young people. Full details and how to book can be found on [Lambeth's website](#)

COVID Vaccines

Information about how the vaccine is being delivered in South East London can be found on the [SELCCG website](#)

Details of the Priority Groups for Vaccination can be found in the advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, 30th December 2020, [here](#)

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals are in priority level 4.

Unpaid carers under 65 are included in priority group 6: all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality.

Carers are mentioned in Footnote 3: "*This also includes those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill*". This includes parent carers.

Unpaid carers do not have to be registered as a carer with their GP to be included in priority group 6 but it is **strongly advised they do register** as this will make it easier for them to be identified. Most Practice websites will have an opportunity for people to register as a carer online. The online form can be hard to find so it's probably quickest to put the word carer into the search bar.

Easy Read information about Covid vaccines can be found [here](#)

Healthwatch Lambeth Webinar

If you have questions about the Covid Vaccine, Healthwatch Lambeth is holding a webinar on **Wednesday 20th January 2021, 1 - 2pm**. You can find the booking link [here](#)

Consultations

Public Survey - National Strategy for Disabled People

The Government has launched a survey to gather views and experiences for the National Strategy for Disabled People, to help with understanding the barriers that disabled people face and what is needed to improve the lives of disabled people. Details of the survey can be found [here](#)

Mental Health Act

Changes to the Mental Health Act are being proposed to help put patients at the centre of decisions about their own care. Details of the consultation on the proposed changes and how to comment on them can be found [here](#)

Other Information

Oak National Academy has lots of resources for online learning and this week have launched a virtual library for primary school children. Have a look [here](#)

Excluded is a film co produced by EachOtherUK and young people which looks at school exclusions from the point of view of the young people affected. It includes young people from Lambeth filmed locally.

Let's not talk about school refusal, let's talk about barriers to attendance

If your child struggles with school attendance, this recorded webinar by Fran Morgan of Square Peg talks about 'School Refusal'

David Ogwe - Oasis Playground

We were saddened to hear that David Ogwe, Project Manager at Oasis Play, passed away at the beginning of January. Many of our families will have known David, who worked in Lambeth with children and young people for many years. Oasis Play have set up a tribute page, which is shared with David's family, and a go fund me page. The links are below:

Link to tribute: <https://davidogwe.muchloved.com/>

To help support David's family: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/d4tsey-support-for-davids-family>