



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

NEWS 29.01.21

Schools Guidance in Lockdown; Money Matters; Children's Mental Health Week; Resources for Carers; Covid Vaccinations;

News from Lambeth Parent Forum

We hope you are keeping safe and well. As we settle into the new lockdown and home schooling for many of our children, we've got a round up of information for you.

Guidance for Schools in the new lockdown 2021

Latest Government Guidance about what to expect from mainstream schools during the current lockdown can be found on the Gov.uk website [here](#) and for special schools and settings [here](#)

Ofsted has produced an in depth report into remote learning, published on 25th January 2021, which highlights the concerns about how children and young people with SEND engage in remote learning. You can read the full report [here](#)

Survey: Lockdown 2020/21 and impact on SEND Provision.

There's still a little time to tell us how you're finding the new lockdown. We have a short survey which would very much like you to complete:

[Lockdown 2021 SEND Provision Survey](#)

You can fill it out more than once if you care for more than one child with SEND.

The survey is anonymous and we will use the summary information to let Lambeth know what is and isn't currently working for families with children and young people with SEND. The information may also be shared with the London Region of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) to inform the advice given to Central Government and the Department for Education about how to best to support our children and young people.

Please do complete it if you can. The more information we can gather, the better we are able to flag issues to Lambeth to try and get them addressed.

Money Matters

Thank you to everyone who came to our Money Matters workshop with Contact this week. We got a lot of information about benefits for children and young people with disabilities and their parents/carers. It's all

on the [Contact website](#), and you can get a telephone appointment with a Welfare/Benefit Specialist by calling the Contact Free Helpline on **0808 808 3555**

Here are some useful links:

[Money Matters Parent Guide](#) - financial help when your child has additional needs

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is the main benefit for children under 16 with a condition or disability. DLA helps to meet the extra costs that you might have as a result of your child's disability.

There's a short guide for parents and carers [Claiming Disability Living Allowance for Children](#) and more information, including Frequently Asked Questions and podcasts [here](#)

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) is the main benefit for adults aged 16-64 with a condition or disability. Children on DLA will be invited to apply for PIP when they reach age 16

Contact's guide to Personal Independence Payment can be found [here](#) and more information, including Frequently Asked Questions and podcasts [here](#)

Carers Allowance is the main benefit for carers. If your child is on DLA or PIP you may be eligible to claim Carers Allowance. There's a fact sheet [Carers Allowance Factsheet](#) and more information, including Frequently Asked Questions and podcasts [here](#)

If you missed our workshop, have a look at the range of free online [Family Workshops](#) available from Contact, including Money Matters, Encouraging Positive Behaviour and Helping your Child Sleep. Dates being added regularly.

Save the Date - Our next Lambeth **Parent Forum and Family action Lambeth 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.

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place **1 - 7 February 2021** and the theme this year is Express Yourself.

Here are some resources you may find useful:

[Place2Be](#) - free resources for parents and carers, and schools, including activities and Top Tips.

[Families Under Pressure](#) - bite sized videos with simple tips and tricks, formulated by researchers and NHS mental health experts, which are backed by science and proven to work with families.

[Young Minds](#) - provides young people with tools to look after their mental health and also has a [Parent Helpline](#) via phone, email or webchat.

[BBC](#) - videos, films and animations for Primary and Secondary aged children.

[Lambeth Educational Psychology Team](#) - Top Tips for parents during Coronavirus on the Local Offer and videos on [YouTube](#) in English and Spanish

[NHS Every Mind Matters](#) - top tips to support children and young people, and where to get support

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) provides free, impartial and confidential information about education, health and social care for children, young people and their parents relating to special educational needs and disability (SEND). Have a look at their new [website](#)

SEN Online Drop In - You can book a 15 minute slot to speak with a member of the SEN team by emailing TImms@lambeth.gov.uk or text **07740 745580** with your preferred contact number. Sessions are held via Microsoft Teams on the first Wednesday of the month from 11.00 - 12.30. Next session is **3rd February 2021**.

Workshops and Webinars

Here's a round up of workshops, courses and webinars for parents and carers of children and young people with SEND that we have heard about:

Rites for Girls - 'Parenting through Difficult Times' is an online 3 week course with parenting guide and author Kim McCabe, flier attached. For more information and to book a free place, contact info@ritesforgirls.com Check out their [website](#) for details of their mentoring offer for girls as they journey through adolescence.

Yvonne Newbold - Last January (feels like more than a year!) Yvonne Newbold, author of '[The Special Parent's Handbook](#)', came to 336 to share her workshop on 'Reducing violent behaviour in children with additional needs' with our parents and carers. During the pandemic, Yvonne has been running workshops online on a range of topics for parents of children and young people with SEND. You can find the details of upcoming webinars [here](#). There is a small charge for these.

High Trees Community Development Trust in Tulse Hill - 'Supporting Children with SEN' during Covid-19' is a 5 week online course starting on **5th February 2021**. More details and booking [here](#)

Caleidoscope - 'Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) Online Workshop', Monday 1st February 2021, 10.00 - 12.00 Details and booking links on their [Facebook page](#)

Autism Voice - 'Autism and Occupational Therapy to enhance everyday living', 17th February 2021, 11am - 1pm Details and booking links on their [Facebook page](#)

Clapham Film Unit is offering a second series of **Animate at Home free workshops** for families in Lambeth. Contact claphamfilmunit@gmail.com to take part. You can see examples from the first series [here](#)

Resources for Carers

Lambeth Carers Card - The Lambeth Carers Card is for unpaid carers aged 18+ who live, or care for someone, in Lambeth, and gives carers free access to digital tools and essential resources, local updates and webinars. Contact info@lambethcarerscard.org or sign up [here](#)

Carers4Carers - Look out for updates about wellbeing activities for carers on [Carers4carers Facebook page](#)

Listening Ear - Contact is offering 1:1 confidential phone appointments with family support advisers for parents looking for a listening ear, reassurance and practical and emotional support during these difficult times. You can book an appointment during the day or evening [here](#)

Covid Information

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](#)

Join Lambeth Parent Forum

Lambeth Parent Forum is open to all parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs and disabilities aged 0 - 25 in the London Borough of Lambeth. Our aim is to provide opportunities for parents and carers to contribute to developing services that meet the needs of their families, whilst sharing experiences and knowledge with other parents and carers.

If you know anyone who would like to join Lambeth Parent Forum, please ask them to complete our joining form on our website www.lambethparentforum.com