



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

## NEWS 16.11.2020

### Virtual Come Together! Coffee Morning, UK Disability History Month, Carers' Rights Day and more

We hope you are keeping safe and well.  
Here's our round up of information that you might find useful.

#### Coronavirus & Lockdown 2

**Government Guidance** on the restrictions for the current lockdown can be found [here](#).  
This is also now available in Easy Read format [here](#)

#### Letter from the Minister

Vicky Ford, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, has written an open letter to children and young people with SEND, their families and carers and those who work to support them. You can read it [here](#)

**Lambeth's support offer** is detailed on the Council [website](#)

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#### Coming Up

##### Lambeth Parent Forum and Family Action Lambeth Come Together! Coffee Morning

Save the date for our next Virtual Come Together! Coffee Morning on **Wednesday 25th November, 10.00 - 12.00**

We'll be sending out the Zoom link for registration soon. Do look out for it.

##### UK Disability History Month 18th November - 18th December 2020.

Disabled people are disadvantaged primarily by barriers of environment, attitude and organisational practices.

The theme for UK Disability History Month this year is Access: How far have come? How far have we to go?

Find out more on the UK Disability History Month [website](#), including how to register for the launch event on Wednesday 18th November 7 - 9pm

##### Carers' Rights Day is 26th November 2020

Carers Hub Lambeth will be marking the day with an online event on Caring & Mental Health and Wellbeing from 10.15 - 11.30am. Find out about local mental health support and top tips on looking after your wellbeing. For more information and to register for the event, contact Carers Hub Lambeth [connect@carershub.org.uk](mailto:connect@carershub.org.uk) or call 020 7501 8970

##### 2020 Contact and NNPCF Virtual National Parent Carer Forums' Conference, 30th November - 4th December 2020

Usually only invite one or two parents from each Forum can attend the national conference. This year it's a virtual conference so all members of Forums across the country, including Lambeth Parent Forum, can attend the week long virtual conference. Details are being added on the [Contact website](#) and we will share the full calendar of events nearer the time.

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## Support for parents, carers and families

### Lambeth SEN Team Online Drop-In

You can book a 15 minute online session to talk with an SEN Officer about your child's Special Educational Needs or their Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

Sessions take place on the first Wednesday of the month from 11am - 12.30pm The next one is **2nd December 2020**.

To book a session or ask for advice regarding these sessions, you can

email [TImms@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:TImms@lambeth.gov.uk) or text on [07740745580](tel:07740745580) with your preferred contact number.

**Lambeth IASS (Information Advice and Support Service)** have launched their new [website](#)

Lambeth 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.

**Young Minds** is a useful resource if you're worried about a child or young person's behaviour or mental health. There is information on their [website](#) including details of their [Parent Helpline](#)

**Tavistock Relationships** offers free parenting and relationship support for families in Lambeth. Building Relationships for Stronger Families' programme may be able to help you if you feel that stress and conflict in your relationship is affecting your family. Find out more [here](#)

**Parenting for Lifelong Health** has useful tips for parenting during Covid-19 in over 50 languages on their [website](#)

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## Activities

**Soundabout** is a charity that provides interactive music sessions for children and young people with profound and severe learning disabilities. Have a look at their schedule [here](#) or catch up on previous sessions [here](#). And they're having a Virtual Christmas Concert on 16th December at 6pm

**Christmas for Kids (C4K)** is a charity which usually performs shows at children's hospices. Due to Coronavirus, this year they will have a digital version of their Christmas Show - [Benson's Christmas Letter](#) - which they are sharing with hospices and Special Schools. Families can book too. Email Claire Sundin [claire@christmasforkids.org.uk](mailto:claire@christmasforkids.org.uk) for more details and how to book.

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## Health Matters

**Kings College Hospital** A&E department at Denmark Hill are keen to hear from young people aged 16-18 years who have come into the department in the last year. They would like to know what was good and what could be improved about the care they received and their experience. They would also like to hear young people's ideas about how to make the A&E department more friendly for 16-18 year olds.

The survey is very short and young people can link to it from the attached flier - which includes a QR code and a web link.

### Learning Disability Annual Health Checks

If your child has a learning disability you should make sure that they are on your GP's Learning Disability Register. Contact your GP and ask if your child is on their register. From the age of 14,

young people with a learning disability should be invited for a free Annual Health Check. This is important to ensure your child stays well as people with learning disabilities can often have poorer physical and mental health than other people.

NHS information about the Health Check can be found [here](#)

The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) have a [toolkit](#) for practitioners which details how the check should take place.

### **Communication Access**

Look out for a new symbol in shops and businesses - the Communication Access Symbol for the UK launched this month.



The Communication Access symbol means that staff have been trained in how to interact with people who have difficulties communicating.

You can find out more about the scheme [here](#)

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### **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](http://www.lambethparentforum.com)

Hope you find this useful



## Are you 16-18 years old?

Tell us about your recent visit to King's  
Emergency department.



What did we do well and what could be  
better?

Please scan the QR code or use this link

<https://bit.ly/2F6oA0i>

to fill in a short survey on your phone



You don't have to give your name.

Your feedback will help us improve the care for young  
people. Thank you.