



Lambeth Council advises you that The Participation and Engagement Service (PES) is moving from Family Action to Contact on 1 December 2021. Lambeth has thoroughly enjoyed working with Family Action to support parents and carers with children with SEND in the borough over the last three years. We also appreciate their dedication and commitment in supporting the Lambeth Parent Carer Forum in ensuring that you have your say in how you want services in Lambeth to serve you.

Both services will now be hosted by Contact, who have spent many years working in Lambeth and have local knowledge and understanding of the needs of families with children who are SEND. Although our current contract with Family Action is coming to an end, we're all working hard to ensure you continue to receive the same excellent level of support offered throughout and following this transition. This includes:

- advice on what services are available to you via the SEND Local Offer
- much needed practical family support via one-to-one sessions, support groups and workshops
- the re-introduction of some family day trips for the whole family.

Sharon Kitson and Rosemary Merricks will continue to lead on the PES project and facilitation of the Lambeth Parent Forum, respectively. We're proud of the relationship between the two services and the stability they provide to SEND families in the borough. We look forward to continuing working with them both.

**Children's Commissioning, Lambeth Council**

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We're delighted to let you know that Contact will once again be hosting Lambeth Parent Forum from 1st December 2021. We have seen lots of progress in the forum during our time with Family Action as our host organisation but factors beyond all our control have meant they cannot continue to host us. Family Action are working together with us and Contact to ensure a smooth transition.

We know that Contact fully understand the role of Parent Carer Forums and we have every confidence in being able to continue to move forward and grow Lambeth Parent Forum with their, and your, support. In addition to hosting Lambeth Parent Forum, Contact will also be taking over from Family Action to offer direct support for families, with Sharon Kitson continuing to manage the service.

We look forward to sharing all the news about the new service in due course and encourage parents to sign up with Lambeth Parent Forum here if you haven't already.

**Lambeth Parent Forum**

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Dear Lambeth Families,

We write in the hope that you have now been made aware of the changes with the Lambeth Family Action Participation and Engagement Service (Lambeth PES) and the transfer of this service back to Contact.

This message is to inform you that from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, Contact will be managing the Lambeth Participation and Engagement Service for families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Contact have previously worked with families in Lambeth and have a lot of experience of working with SEND children and their families across the Country.

We understand that it is difficult when the service provider changes. We've been doing some great work with you all, and we hope by working together we can continue to achieve this outcome.

**The phone number for the Lambeth PES Service will stay the same - 07976 201 031. Do come and talk to us to find out more information about the transfer. We will be available at Weare336, 336 Brixton Road, London, SW9 7AA, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 10am – 2.00pm (drop in during this time). If you are already registered with Lambeth Family Action PES, you will receive further information regarding the transfer of your details from Family Action to Contact.**

**Family Action**

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Contact already has a long history of working with Lambeth Council, and we are looking forward to working with them again as we take over the service from the current providers, Family Action, on 1 December 2021. Alongside offering direct support for families, we will also be working with Lambeth Parent Carer Forum and the important work they do giving local families with disabled children a vital say in shaping local services.

Our new service will see the return of Sharon Kitson, Manager of the Parent Engagement and Support service, and Rosemary Merricks, Facilitator of Lambeth Parent Carer Forum. Their expertise and in-depth knowledge of local services in the borough means the needs of Lambeth families will continue to be a high priority and make the transition of the service a smooth one.

We are now working hard getting ready to take over the support for families and would like to thank Lambeth Council and Family Action for working constructively with us in the transition of the service. We will be providing information workshops, individual advice, group work and some family events.

Please look out for further details if you would like to be able to hear about our programme, or to continue to access support information, advice and support. Alternatively, you can call the PES Service number on 07976 201 031.

#### **Lambeth Contact**