



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

NEWS 09.03.21

Returning to School; Local Support; Covid Vaccinations; Census 2021;

The situation with Covid is now improving. Hopefully your children are back at school or going back soon, and our lives will begin to resume some normality.

Do let us know how it goes - both good and bad. You can contact us by email or text (details below) or complete the Issues Log form on our [website here](#).

Returning to School

Department For Education 'Guidance for Parents and Carers' has been updated with information about the return to school and can be found [here](#) This includes information about asymptomatic testing of pupils, staff and families, wearing face coverings at school, and other information.

Public Health England 'Guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus pandemic' can be found [here](#)

Barnardo's See, Hear, Respond Support Hub has lots of information to help support children and young people during the pandemic and with the return to school. Have a look [here](#)

Consultation on Lambeth's draft Local Area SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2021 - 24

The strategy outlines how Lambeth plans to further develop the SEND and Inclusion offer in the borough over the next three years.

Consultation on the new draft strategy is now open on the Lambeth website [here](#) where you can read the strategy document and complete an online survey.

There is also an opportunity to attend an online open session via Microsoft Teams to give your views verbally on Wednesday 10th March 2021, 4pm - 4.45pm, the link to join the meeting is on the [consultation page](#)

The consultation closes on Friday 2nd April 2021 at 10.45pm.

Lambeth Parent Forum and Family Action will be discussing the consultation at our **Feedback Forum** this **Friday, 12th March 2021, from 11am to 12.30 via Zoom**.

There is still time for parents and carers to register to join us. Register in advance here:

https://family-action.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYkcOmrrTkqGNfYgh0z4_XtOa2MgNZInjwO

and you will receive the joining link for the Zoom meeting. (Please note, this email will come from rosemary.merricks@family-action.org.uk)

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 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. Due to the Easter holidays in April, the next session will be **5th May 2021**.

If your child is staying in or visiting hospital, **Contact's By Your Side Parent Adviser** is available for advice and support by email toni.rushton@contact.org.uk Toni is usually based at Evelina Hospital but can help wherever your child is attending hospital.

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:

National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF) & Contact Virtual Conference continues with the AGM and more workshops over two days next week, **Monday 15th March and Tuesday 16th March**. Parent carers are welcome to attend. Full details are on the **attached flyer**.

Autism Voice are continuing their support services for families of children with autism during the pandemic. Tomorrow, **Wednesday 10th March 11am - 1pm** on Zoom they have a workshop '**How to support young children during meltdown**'. Details of how to join are on the **attached flyer**.

SOS!SEN is a small charity with lots of useful information on their [website](#) They have a number of webinars coming up for which there is a small charge. All webinars are recorded and are available to purchase a few days after they have aired. Parents need to register/log in & book here: <https://sossen-sandbox.mxapps.io/>

Tuesday 9th March 2021 6-7:30pm Home Education for children with SEN, led by Eleanor Wright, SOS!SEN coordinator and Solicitor and Laura Kerbey, Autism & Education Consultant, Founder of Positive Autism Support and Training (PAST), Healthy Happy Me, and KITE Therapeutic Learning Services

Tuesday 16th March 2021 6-7:30pm What is Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)? Differential Diagnosis and assessment led by: Nataša Marić, Head of Therapy and Gail Turner, Principal Speech and Language Therapist at Moor House School & College

If you have any queries regarding the webinars, please email webinar@sossen.org.uk

NVR Practitioners Consortium's Online Introduction to NVR (Non Violent Resistance Parenting Approach) for parents and carers of children with challenging behaviour is this **Saturday 13th March, 10.30 - 12.30** Tickets can be booked via [Eventbrite](#) and reduced prices are available for those on low income/ means tested benefits.

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](#)

Qwell provides free confidential online emotional wellbeing and mental health support for adults aged 26+ in Lambeth. Find out more [here](#)

For young people aged 10 - 25 **Kooth** provides a similar service.

Covid Information

Covid-19 Vaccinations

The vaccination programme is continuing to be rolled out, and now all adults who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable or who have a Learning Disability should have been invited to get the vaccine. Carers should also have been invited to get the vaccine.

In our area, NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group (SELCCG) have provided updated information around accessing the Covid-19 vaccine, including the change that unpaid carers registered with their GP can now book a vaccination using the National Booking System:

- *If you are aged 56 and over, an eligible frontline health or social care worker, a main carer for someone at high risk from COVID-19*, have a learning disability**, are clinically extremely vulnerable (high risk) or clinically vulnerable (moderate risk) – you can book your vaccine online at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or call 119 without needing an invitation.*
- *See the full list of priority groups [here](#) and guidance on frontline health or social care workers and the high or moderate risk categories [here](#).*
- **Carers can book online if you get a [Carer's Allowance](#) or you are listed as a carer in your GP records. Carers can get advice from their local carers association such as [Carers Hub in Lambeth](#)*
- ***Lambeth GP practices are keen to finish vaccinating patients with learning disabilities in a familiar local setting, so if you are in this group you can contact your GP directly and discuss any additional support that might be needed*
- **NOTE:** The online booking system offers appointments at a larger vaccination centre or a pharmacy that provides COVID-19 vaccinations. If you are housebound you will be contacted by your GP to be vaccinated at home. If you are not housebound, you can wait to be contacted by your GP or until more locations closer to where you live become available.

If you have any questions about the vaccine, or doubts about whether to have the vaccine, you can contact your GP, or you can watch videos from local faith and community leaders and others [here](#)

SELCCG Learning Disability and Autism Team have arranged some Zoom sessions to share information about the Experience of having the Vaccine. These will take place this week on Thursday 11th March, 2 - 3pm and Friday 12th March 3 - 4pm. Anyone with a Learning Disability or Autism, and their family and carers are invited to attend. Details of how to register to join are on the **attached flyer**.

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

Coronavirus Testing

Lambeth Council are continuing to offer free rapid Covid-19 testing if you have no symptoms at a number of sites around the borough. Details of where you can go and how to book are on the [Lambeth Council website](#)

Census

Census Day is Sunday March 21st 2021

The census is a national survey which is held once every ten years and is a detailed snapshot of the population that helps to inform policy making, plan public services and inform where billions of pounds are spent, for instance on roads, schools and hospitals.

This year the Census will be completed online and you should be receiving letters about it now. It is so important that everyone needs to complete it.

An **Easy Read Guide to the Census** is **attached** and other support available includes:

1. **The census website** - <https://census.gov.uk/>

- More information on the census and why it is important
- Where you can go to complete your census online
- You can request a new 16-digit access code, if required
- You can request an individual form
- You can request a paper form
- You can find guidance in 49 different languages and in British Sign Language
<https://census.gov.uk/help/languages-and-accessibility/languages>
- You can request information in braille, easy read format and large print
<https://census.gov.uk/help/languages-and-accessibility/accessibility>

2. Census Telephone Support Centre - 0800 141 2021

- For any questions you have about the census
- To complete your census over the telephone
- To request an individual form or a paper form
- Relay UK users dial 18001 followed by the phone number

3. Census Language Helpline - 0800 587 2021

- A free translation service is available to help answer your census queries

4. Lambeth Census Virtual Workshop

- A series of virtual workshops on how to complete the census form
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/142697940381>

"A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed," Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

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