

# LEWISHAM PARENT PARTNERSHIP SERVICE

ISSUE 17

Autumn 2011

## Parents & Carers Forum

Our Parents Forum Group is up and running and meets regularly.

The purpose of our meetings is to give parents of children with Special Educational Needs within Lewisham an opportunity to discuss issues that affect them and their children, whether in school, an early years setting or within the Local Authority.

We can then raise these issues, along with the elected Parent Representative, at meetings with the Local Authority. This enables parents to have input into the shaping of local services and of ensuring that important matters are brought to the attention of the Senior Council Officer.

Next forum:

**Wednesday 9th November**

10am - 12noon at

Limelight Family Learning Centre,  
Goldsmiths Community Centre,  
Castillon Road, SE6 1QD

## Primary Transfer Drop-in

We will be holding two Primary Transfer Drop-ins for parents to come and get advice and information about the Primary Transfer process.

**Wednesday 5th October, 10 - 12**

Clyde Early Years Centre  
Alverton Street,  
Lewisham, SE8 5NH

**Friday 21st October, 10 - 12**

Kaleidoscope  
32 Rushey Green  
Catford, SE6 4JF

## Win £20 shopping voucher

To help secure our funding and improve the service, we rely on the parents and carers who have contacted us, to give their feed back. We would greatly appreciate you sparing a few minutes to complete this form.

As a thank you, we are holding a prize draw to win a £20 shopping voucher.

Go to the link below to start the survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JS7HXHK>

## Parent Champions

### Description of role

We are looking for volunteers to act as an information point for parents of children with SEN in local primary schools and early years settings.

The tasks will include:

- Acting as the link person for parents of children with SEN
- Being available for a minimum of 1 hour each week to pass on information to parents
- Maintaining stock levels and information sheets (supplied by Pre-School Learning Alliance) at the school or early years site.
- Some administrative tasks
- Communicating with school or early years site

It is acceptable for this to be the school your own child attends if you are a parent or other family member.

### When required

One day a week (Mon-Fri) for a minimum of one hour in the school or early years setting.

### Skills and qualifications

- Friendly and approachable
- Some admin skills
- Good communication and organisational skills

**If you are interested in volunteering contact Lynn Attoe on 020 8695 5955**

**or email [lynn.attoe@pre-school.org.uk](mailto:lynn.attoe@pre-school.org.uk)**

Lewisham Parent Partnership Service

The Kabin, Forster Park School, Boundfield Road, SE6 1PQ

Tel: 020 8695 5955 Email: [lewishampps@pre-school.org.uk](mailto:lewishampps@pre-school.org.uk)

Website: [www.lewishamparentpartnership.org.uk](http://www.lewishamparentpartnership.org.uk)

## Drop in Sessions

For children with special needs.

An opportunity to meet others, share experiences and play together in a safe environment.

For parents and carers and their children under 5 years. The group meets every Tuesday 10am - 12noon

Deptford Park Generation Play Club,  
The Pavillion, Deptford Park,  
Scawen Road off  
Evelyn Street, SE8 5AG

**For more information please ring  
Evelyn Children's Centre on**

**020 8314 3417 or**

**Deptford Park Generation Play Club on  
020 8469 0772**

On a Friday morning there is a drop-in session for families who have children with special needs at the Lewisham Opportunity Pre-School. This is to answer the needs of families who are facing recent diagnosis of their child's special need and for families who are waiting for a pre-school placement for their child.

The drop-in has full use of the play hall and its facilities, and is therefore able to support a large group if necessary.

**For more info visit [www.lops.org.uk](http://www.lops.org.uk)**

## Family Services UK

This service is based in Deptford and specialises in providing low cost therapy to individuals and families, walk-in counselling without appointment to those in crisis, as well as support to groups.

It provides access to a counsellor in Deptford, in libraries and schools.

Family Services UK offers a range of interventions to support individuals, parents and families, including 1-2-1 therapy, 1-2-1 mentoring, family support parent group, interventions and external social activities for individuals and families.

Also anger management for adults.

**Parents and professionals can make referrals on the website**

**[www.familyservicesuk.org](http://www.familyservicesuk.org)**

**For further information please phone  
020 8265 1177**

## Online Forum For Young Disabled People

Scope has launched an online forum for young disabled people. It's a secure place to talk, share ideas and information and raise concerns with peers. The forum, Meeting Point, has been set up as part of Scope's young people's project Trendsetters, developed to highlight priorities for support and information. It enables young people to work with them to produce resources for other young disabled people facing similar challenges in their day to day lives.

**Contact Scope Response on 0808 800**

**3333, or Join Meeting Point at: <http://www.scope.org.uk/help-and-information/young-people/meeting-point>**

## Free Swimming secured for 15 Years

Following the signing of contracts with the Council's Leisure Centre contractors, it has been agreed that the free swim programme for Lewisham residents aged 16 and under, 60 and over and those who are disabled and receive benefits will continue for the next 15 years.

To take up the offer, those aged 16 or under need to show a valid Lewisham library card. Residents aged 60 and over or those on a disability living allowance can use the Lewisham Plus Card.

**For further information Call: 020 8314 9274**

**Email: [sportandleisure@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:sportandleisure@lewisham.gov.uk)**

## Young Carers - Resource For Schools

Teachers - Do you know a pupil who looks after a family member who is unwell, disabled or has mental ill-health issues?

To support this vulnerable group and help them to reach their potential, you can access a free online resource "Supporting Young Carers: a resource for schools" at

**[www.carers.org/professionals](http://www.carers.org/professionals)**

**Young Carers can visit [www.youngcarers.net](http://www.youngcarers.net) to chat with other young carers and get advice and information.**

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## Family Lives

Family Lives is a charity, formerly known as Parentline Plus. It offers a range of services for families of children of any age.

Many people play active roles on the raising of children within any family, including dads, grandparents, step-parents and non-resident parents. The charity's service is designed to help anyone caring for a child.

Services include:

### 24-hour helpline:

The helpline is free and offers confidential information, with an opportunity to talk and be listened to.

### Leaflets:

Single copies of leaflets will be sent out free, or can be downloaded from the website.

These include:

- Families - We are here to help
- Off to a good start at primary school
- Moving to secondary school
- Bullying
- Risky behaviour

### Videos:

To view and download. Titles include:

- Keeping your children safe on social networks
- School phobia and refusal
- An essential guide for parents - bullying
- Truancy: problems in school

### Website:

provides information advice and a range of resources. There are also online forums and a facility for online chat.

Family lives also offers a wide range of group workshops and courses, tailored to parents' needs.

**24 hour helpline: 0808 800 2222**

**Website: [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)**

## Closing Dates for School Applications for September 2012 - 2013

**Primary Transfer - 15 January 2012**

**Secondary Transfer - 31 October 2011**

**Pupils with Statements - 3 October 2011**

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

**ADDISS (ADHD):** 020 8952 2800  
[www.addiss.co.uk](http://www.addiss.co.uk)

**ADVISORY CENTRE for EDUCATION(ACE):**  
GENERAL ADVICE LINE: 0808 800 5793  
EXCLUSIONS LINE: 0808 800 0327  
[www.ace-ed.org.uk](http://www.ace-ed.org.uk)

**AFASIC HELPLINE: (SPEECH & LANGUAGE)**  
0845 3 55 55 77 or 020 7490 9420  
[www.afasic.org.uk](http://www.afasic.org.uk)

**CARERS LEWISHAM:** 020 8699 8686  
[www.carerslewisham.org.uk](http://www.carerslewisham.org.uk)

**CHILDLINE:** 0800 1111 [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

**CHILDREN'S LEGAL CENTRE:**  
NATIONAL EDUCATION LINE: 0845 345 4345  
CHILD LAW ADVICE LINE: 08088 020 008  
[www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

**CONTACT A FAMILY: (For Families with Disabled Children)** 0808 808 3555  
Lewisham: 020 8297 8056  
[www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk)

**IPSEA ADVICE LINE: (Independent Parental Special Education Advice)** 0800 0184016  
[www.ipsea.org.uk](http://www.ipsea.org.uk)

**KIDSCAPE: (BULLYING ADVICE)** 08451 205 204  
[www.kidscape.org.uk](http://www.kidscape.org.uk)

**LEWISHAM AUTISM SUPPORT:**  
020 8699 3066

**LEWISHAM SEN TEAM:** 020 8314 7453

**LEWISHAM FAMILIES INFORMATION SERVICE:** 0800 085 0606  
[www.lewisham.gov.uk/fis](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/fis)

**LEWISHAM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:**  
020 8314 8320

**NATIONAL DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION:**  
Bexley, Bromley and Lewisham  
07000 50 50 55  
[www.dyslexiawise.co.uk](http://www.dyslexiawise.co.uk)

**FAMILY LIVES (formerly PARENTLINE PLUS):**  
0808 800 2222  
[www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

**SCOPE: (FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY)** 01432 370860  
[www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk)

**HER MAJESTY'S COURTS AND TRIBUNAL SERVICE (formerly SEND):**  
01325 392760  
[www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk)  
Email: [sendistqueries@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sendistqueries@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk)

# TERMLY TOPIC:

## PREPARING FOR MEETINGS

As a parent or carer of a child with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and/or a disability you may be invited to attend meetings about your child in school, hospital or other locations with other services. You may also want to request a meeting to discuss your child and are not sure how to go about it.

### Requesting a meeting

You have the right to request a meeting with any professional involved with your child. You may wish to discuss problems at school or worries about progress.

### What do I need to discuss?

Work out exactly what the problem is and why you feel you need to have the meeting. Write it down. This will help if you need to send a letter to request the meeting. Be as clear as you can about your reasons for needing the meeting.

### Who do I need to meet with to discuss it?

If the problem is related to school you may want to meet with the class teacher or the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO). If you don't know who the SENCO is, call the school to ask for their name and best time to talk to them. If the problem is related to health issues you may need to speak to your child's Doctor or Specialist Nurse.

### How do I organise it?

You can request the meeting by calling the relevant people and organising a time over the phone. You can request the meeting in writing and give times when you will be available and for them to get back to you to tell you when the meeting should go ahead. If you have involvement with a number of professionals you may have been allocated a Keyworker or Lead Professional. They can request the meeting and organise it on your behalf.

### Tools to help you get organised

Diary – If you can, try to keep a diary about your child and their difficulties. Make a note of:

- Date and time
- Areas of concern
- Any difficulties your child has
- Any improvements that you or your child notice
- Anyone you have spoken to at school and any action taken
- Any knock-on effects – behaviour, health, anxiety, self confidence etc.

### If you speak to someone on the phone about your child, check:

- Who you are speaking to
- What you have agreed to do
- What was decided

You could ask for them to put it down in a letter and send it to you to keep in your file.

Write down for yourself what was agreed in the conversation and who it was you spoke to and the date of the conversation.

### File for reports and correspondence

- Keep all important information about your child including school records and reports, important medical information, copies of letters from the school and copies of letters or reports from other professionals.
- Keep copies of all letters that you send.
- Try to keep them in a file in a safe place and put them in date order.

### Getting ready for meetings

- If you are not sure what the meeting is about ask the person holding the meeting
- Ask who will be there and why. If you feel there should be a particular person at the meeting ask for them to be invited
- Read any reports that are sent to you before the meeting
- Plan what you are going to say. Be clear about what you are going to ask and what you want to discuss, for example:

It may help to make a short list of your concerns, questions and suggestions so that you don't forget to talk about them when you get into the meeting. Use reports from professionals to help back you up if possible.

### Your child's views

If possible, ask your child for their views including what they enjoy. Do they have any worries? Are there things they would like you to ask the teacher?

### Taking people with you

- You may want to take your partner, a friend or relative with you for support. This is especially helpful when a major decision is going to be made.
- If you feel you might lose your temper or become emotional during the meeting take someone with you for support and guidance
- If you can't think of someone to take with you call The Parent Partnership Service. We will be able to give you information on the telephone and may be able to arrange to come to the meeting with you.

The person with you will be able to take brief notes at the meeting. This can be a great help for you as you may not be able to remember everything that was said after the meeting.