

Short breaks transformation

Specialist Summer play scheme pilot

This year Aiming High funds will pilot specialist Summer play schemes at Michael Tippett and Livity schools. Places for this year are already allocated and are limited to those children and young people who have never accessed any Summer play schemes in the past due to their medical condition. Harry Tuck, who is coordinating the scheme said: "parents and carers told us at an Aiming High consultation event last year that they would like additional play schemes and this is the first of many steps we are taking to address the need for more accessible play schemes in the borough throughout this year."

For more details about play schemes contact Harry Tuck AHDC Service Development Manager,
htuck@lambeth.gov.uk, 0203 049 6098

We are piloting a range of activities from July 27- 14 August within selected Children Centres running specialist and inclusive activities for children under 5 and their families.

For more details about Aiming High under 5's Summer activities contact Lambeth's Family Information Service (FIS)
fis@lambeth.gov.uk

The aim of both pilots is to:

- create an extensive range of activities for children with complex medical needs and challenging behaviour who have traditionally 'missed out' on services due to the complexity of their needs and conditions
- test out a range of new and exciting providers

This will ensure that next year we will be able to deliver a range of exciting activities across Lambeth.



Lambeth secures new short breaks money

The transformation of short break services for disabled children and young people came a step closer with the announcement that Lambeth has successfully met all nine government short break readiness criteria. This means that the government will now release significant new Aiming High for Disabled Children funding.

Aiming High for Disabled Children (AHDC) is the transformation programme for disabled children's services. It is a government programme to improve outcomes for disabled children and their families.

The short breaks transformation programme is part of a wider change programme for disabled children's services, which includes childcare and transitions provisions.

The government has stipulated that the significant investment being made in short breaks results in changes that not only transform the volume of provision available, but also transforms the quality, appropriateness, range and capacity of provision to meet the needs of those children who are commonly unable to access provision.

John Sloan, Lambeth's short breaks transformation programme manager, said: "over the last six months Lambeth Council and NHS Lambeth have been working very hard to realise this opportunity. Now we have the money to radically transform short break services for our young disabled population".



Short breaks Q&A

Q What changes will parents, disabled children and young people see as result of new government funding for disabled children and their families?

A The short breaks initiative forms part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children strategy launched by the government in 2007. It aims to give children and young people who are disabled and their carers more opportunities. In particular, these include more short breaks.

These breaks can provide:

- a chance to enjoy new and exciting experiences
- the opportunity for children to mix with others of their own age, make new friends and play
- time for parents to recharge their batteries and take a break from caring

Q What's happened so far in Lambeth?

A Lambeth Council and NHS Lambeth received the new funding a few months ago and have hit the ground running. We have provided additional play schemes and are exploring ways of improving access to universal services, which parents, children and young people have told us is a priority. This year we will be focusing on making sure we have the infrastructure in place to deliver short breaks transformation.

Q Will parents and carers have a say in what services are delivered?

A Disabled children and young people will be involved in shaping the services that they want to access at a local level. This will be achieved through consultations with their parents and where possible the children themselves. This

will help services be more efficient, effective and flexible to individual needs.

Q Many parents in Lambeth have fed back that they do not understand what their entitlement to short breaks is. How will this be addressed?

A We are looking at how to make access to short breaks a simple and transparent process. We will provide more information about short breaks and reduce the length of time decisions on support packages take. We are also reviewing the eligibility criteria in light of new government guidance.

Q Transition at various points of a disabled child's life often puts families under strain, what is Lambeth doing to address this?

A Lambeth Council and NHS Lambeth are looking at ways to improve the services that support families at these times to ensure that families do not feel isolated and unsupported. This will be achieved through regular and ongoing engagement with children and young people with disabilities and their families.

Q In some areas the services required by children with disabilities and their families are often in short supply or inaccessible. What will be done to address this?

A Lambeth Council and NHS Lambeth will ensure that finances, equipment and additional staff resources are available to boost provision of these much needed services. The vision behind Aiming High for Disabled Children is to ensure all families with disabled children have the support they need to live ordinary family lives.

Parents' voices

Short breaks and other services for children are being transformed throughout Lambeth. The development of new support networks and the creation of more opportunities means that there is real need for your input—for your voice to be heard. After all, as parents and carers YOU are the experts in the needs of your child and by working and speaking together you can really help to transform services for the future.

To support this we have undertaken development work to look at how to best engage parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities. We have commissioned Parents for Inclusion to undertake some research over six months that will result in a group of parents (representative of families in Lambeth) who will be supported and trained to get more involved in helping us develop our short break services in Lambeth. We see this approach as part of our longer term vision of ensuring parent/carer engagement in service delivery.

We recognise that it is often not easy for parents and carers to give up their time and have therefore set aside funding to pay parents a small fee for their time as well as expenses.

This Summer as part of the above we will be providing free of charge parent partnership training. The course will be run over two days and lunch will be provided.

If you would like to join in with any of the above contact:
Anna Eracleous, Aiming High for Disabled Children, Project Support Officer, aeracleous@lambeth.gov.uk 020 7926 9656
Alternatively visit the Parent Forum website:
www.lambeth.gov.uk/parentsforum

Young voices

Pupils from Livity, Michael Tippett and Turney schools showed off

their creative talents at a special art exhibition held at Carnegie Library. 'Off The Wall' is a long-term project facilitated by Whippersnappers who work with children with special needs. Based at the Brockwell Lido, Brixton, Whippersnappers, a community interest company, encourage children to develop their abilities, find and focus on different styles of paintings through visiting art galleries and looking at specific artists. All the work produced by the children will be put into Herne Hill passage as part of a local regeneration scheme and will promote positive images of children with special needs.

The 'OFF THE WALL' exhibition can also be seen at the Lambeth Country Show, Arts Zone on the 18 and 19 July.



Who does Aiming High for Disabled Children cover?

A priority group within a priority group

According to the Aiming High programme, children with the highest level of need are the least likely to receive vital services they require. A clear goal of the short breaks transformation programme in Lambeth is to address this by prioritising the following groups of children:

Group A Children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (who have severe learning difficulties or behaviour which is challenging) OR those children and young people whose challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments such as severe learning difficulties

Group B Children and young people with complex health needs including those with disability and life limiting conditions, and/or those who require palliative care/or those with associated impairments such as cognitive or sensory impairments and/or have moving/handling needs and/or require special equipment/adaptations

De upside Van Down

Bram lacks some diplomacy, some social skills, Don't we all?

The Dutch photographer, Mevrouw Fluitekruidje, recently launched her ground breaking open air photographic exhibition, which turns public perceptions about disability as the title suggests "De upside Van Down". Launching the exhibition Mevrouw said: the photographs in a playful mood challenge our assumptions around disability and hopefully challenges us all to re-think the way we view disability in society.

The exhibition can be viewed on:
www.deupsidevandown.nl



Photo of Bram at an exhibition in Amsterdam challenging assumptions about disability.

Beyond Boundaries event

Inspired by the highly acclaimed Beyond Boundaries TV series, the event offers an inspirational, interactive and fun day out for children and young people with disabilities, their friends and family. The new look event will play host to a number of interactive features, theatres and activities.

For further details on this fun day out for all the family email:
fiveenquiries@farnborough.com





Grand Designs for super playground

A £800,000 “super playground” is being planned for Lambeth and will create an exciting new type of play area which will see the Max Roach adventure playground integrated into the wider Max Roach Park in 2010. The project will include a performance area, relaxation area, spaces and art and musical elements for 8-13 year olds. The existing building in the park will be redeveloped into a flexible space that can be used for play, training play workers, and as a resource for the whole community.

The new play park will be open all year round and staffed by a skilled team of play workers who will provide outreach – delivering play provision for children and offering guidance and support to play workers across the borough. The project will also feature a play volunteer programme – recruiting, training, and placing volunteers of all ages to provide a range of fun activities for children and families.

Phyllis Dunipace, Director of Lambeth’s Children and Young People’s Service, said: “This is an inspirational project that will transform play in Lambeth. We know how important it is to provide positive activities for children and encourage them to be fit and active.”

The consultation for the design of the new Max Roach Play Park will be happening throughout July with targeted workshops and community events. Architects will be engaging directly with residents and users to offer a real hands-on approach to consultation. The architects are particularly keen to talk to parents, carers, disabled children and young people about what they would like to see incorporated into the design of the playground.

For further details contact: Clovis Bergère, Play & Sport Unit, cbergere@lambeth.gov.uk 0207 926 9953.

Eat Better, Do Better

On the 9 June Livity School launched the Eat Better, Do Better a practical guide to adopting a whole school approach to food in special schools. Lambeth’s Children and Young People’s Service contributed to this guide which has been developed through joint collaboration involving the National Healthy Schools Programme. The guide reinforces the good work that has already been done at Livity School to make a real difference to pupil’s eating, social and educational development and their independence.

Key dates

Parent Advisory Group will be meeting at Lambeth Town Hall on 16 September, Room 101, 09:30 to 12:00pm.

The Aiming High for Disabled Children Steering Group meets on:

3 July, 7 August, 5 September,

If you would like to join the Aiming High Steering Group or attend the meetings as an independent observer contact:

John Sloan, jsloan2@lambeth.gov.uk

Max Roach Consultation Dates

- Tuesday 7 July 2009, 3:30pm to 6:30pm
- Thursday 9 July 2009, 4:30pm to 7:30pm
- Saturday 11 July 2009, 12:00 pm to 4:00pm

All consultation dates will be held at Max Roach adventure playground, Wiltshire Rd, London SW9

If you would like this information in large print, braille, audio tape or another language, please contact 020 7926 9653