



Supporting People:
helping our residents live **independently**

Lambeth



Lambeth Supporting People Service
Supporting Young People & Homeless Families



Young People & Homeless Families



The Lambeth Supporting People (SP) Service helps people live in the community by commissioning housing related support across the borough. Our plans for the type of support we want to provide are described in the Lambeth Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010. The summary below is taken from the strategy and is about services for young people and homeless families. Information about the whole programme is contained in the Executive Summary and detailed information is contained in the full strategy. Both are available on the Lambeth Website or from the Supporting People Service. Contact details are at on the back cover.

Young People

Types of Services

The services include accommodation, support and mediation, tenancy support and two Foyer projects with a total of 89 places. Foyers provide integrated accommodation, training, career guidance and employment services for young people aged 16-25. Support aims to provide assistance and guidance, life skills development and working to minimise anti-social behaviour.

For teenage parents there are a mix of accommodation-based services and floating support linked to RSL tenancies. Most services provide a low level of support in shared accommodation.

Currently no services are jointly commissioned.

People who use the services

Lambeth commissions services for young people at risk, young homeless people, young people leaving care and teenage parents.

More than two thirds (70.5%) of young people using Lambeth SP services for young people at risk were of Black or Black British background, with young Black Caribbean making up 38.2% of service users. One tenth (9%) of service users were of White background.

At 357, Lambeth has a high number of looked-after children compared to other London boroughs, In 2003/04 Lambeth accepted 175 homeless 16 and 17 year olds and there were 255 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people being cared for by Lambeth Social Services.

Teenage parents

Lambeth's conception rate for 15-17 year olds is more than double the national average, or 99.6 per 1000.¹ This compares to an inner London rate of 66.9 and a national rate of 42.6. Lambeth has seen a 16.8% increase in rates from 1998-2002 whilst in England the figure declined by 8.7% and inner London had a minor increase of 0.3.

Chart 1 demonstrates the current position of young peoples services

SP services 2004/05	Young People at Risk	Young People Leaving Care	Teenage Parents (incl. Homeless Families)
Total spend	£780,842	£31,395	£529,314
Percentage of total SP spend	3.4%	0.1%	2.3%
Number of people supported	220	7	108
Percentage of total SP clients	4.2%	0.1%	1.7%
Percentage of people local to Lambeth			22%
Commissioning partners	-	-	-
Consultation forums	Young People's Stakeholder Group		Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board

1. The most recent data available from Office for National Statistics for 2002.

Needs of this group

Some young people are more at risk from social exclusion, including homelessness, than others. Factors such as exclusion from school, lack of life skills, learning disabilities, mental ill-health, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy and a history of running away are all problems that can lead to social exclusion.²

The provision of stable housing is accepted to be a prerequisite of effective work with young people to help them reintegrate back into society through work and training and to modify offending or anti-social behaviour.

SP services can provide housing-related support to those young people unable or unwilling to stay with their families and who may be most at risk.

Gaps in Services

Lambeth has a comparatively young population, with a high proportion of young people who are vulnerable and at risk of homelessness. There is currently little information about those who have suffered tenancy breakdowns in the past (some of whom may be subsequently regarded as intentionally homeless) or who are subject to repeat homelessness.

Work with young people is a priority for the Council, particularly to tackle social exclusion and offending within this group. SP can provide strategically relevant services for young people, with a focus on prevention and early intervention.

Consultation and research

Further research into the needs of young people and more detailed analysis of services is planned. This will include an assessment of the strategic relevance of SP services in July to September 2005.

In July 2002, Lambeth's Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Partnership consulted with young parents (including fathers), carers and providers on "the individual needs of young parents in the borough." On the whole, the experience of supported housing was found to be positive, young women expressed the need for more choice in services provided that would allow for the involvement of fathers. The need to develop high-level support and self-contained units was highlighted. The research also highlighted the need for any development to reflect different levels of need.

Our vision for 2010

In 2010, SP services will be delivering quality interventions with a focus on prevention and early intervention, providing appropriate support and guidance to young people. Joint working and commissioning of services will ensure that young people receive an integrated and holistic service to meet their housing support and other needs. Programmes of early intervention will equip young people to make a planned move from the parental home.

For teenage parents there will be different levels of support available as they move from supported accommodation to independent living. Supporting People will be linked with other initiatives, such as childcare, education, training, and health to ensure the optimum outcomes for teenage parents and their children.

Homeless Families

Types of Services and people who use them

Historically, Lambeth has not funded housing-related support services for homeless families. Through existing tenancy support services, providers have worked with families however this has not been in a planned way.

Needs of homeless families

Homeless families have a broad range of needs and issues, many of which extend beyond their need for housing.³ These include support services relating to finances and budgeting, drug and alcohol use, mental health, domestic violence, and access to education and training opportunities.

Our vision for 2010

Meeting the housing support needs of homeless families has been identified as a priority in the Strategy. SP services for homeless families will focus on prevention and early intervention, as well as supporting families living in temporary accommodation.

We will ensure that homeless children and young people are placed at no disadvantage because they are in housing need and that all homeless people can share employment, training, education and health opportunities.



2. ODPM, More than a Roof: a report on tackling homelessness, 2002

3. Taylor-Gaubatz, Behind Closed Doors: Addressing the needs of homeless families in Britain, Camden Housing and AFPP, 2000

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The following sections of the Lambeth Supporting People Strategy are available: Executive Summary, Young People & Homeless Families, Domestic Violence, Vulnerable Adults, Mental Health, Older People, People with Disabilities and Socially Excluded Groups.

If you would like more information or have any comments or suggestions about the Lambeth Supporting People Strategy or any Supporting People Service, please contact:

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If you would like this information in large print, braille, audio tape or another language please call 020 7926 7520.

Spanish

Si desea esta información en otro idioma, rogamos nos llame al **020 7926 7520**

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French

Si vous souhaitez ces informations dans une autre langue veuillez nous contacter au **020 7926 7520**

Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্য কোনো ভাষায় আপনার প্রয়োজন হলে অনুগ্রহ করে ফোন করুন **020 7926 7520**

Twi

Se wope saa nkaeboy yi wo kasa foforo mu a fre **020 7926 7520**

Yoruba

Ti e ba fe imoràn yii, ni èdè Òmiràn, ejò, e kàn wà l'ágogo **020 7926 7520**