

The Looked After Children Education Achievement Team

Welcome to the seventh issue of the LACEA Team newsletter!

Event for Lambeth foster carers and social work teams – 23rd February 2006

The LACEA team held an education information event for foster carers, residential care workers and social workers on 23rd February 2006. The event provided professionals and carers with opportunities to network and improve their knowledge of the education system and education support services available in Lambeth.

The day, which was opened by council executive members Roger Giess and Anthony Bottrall, formed part of the council's overall aim to improve educational outcomes for this group of young people. Over 80 professionals gathered to hear key note addresses from Lambeth Children's and Young People's Divisional Directors, Chris Ashton (Inclusion & Standards) and Yashi Shah (Children's Services) and a looked after young person Ashley Hollis, who gave a powerful account of his time in care and made suggestions on how key agencies can work together to improve education outcomes in the future.

Officers from key CYPS education sections were on hand to provide information, advice and guidance to those in attendance. The event also launched 'Understanding Education: a guide for social workers and foster carers' produced to assist professionals to better understand the education system and be able to support the education needs of children in their care.

LACEAT Team leader Colm Doyle was enthused with the turnout "I would like to thank colleagues, carers and social workers for their support in making this event an overwhelming success". Summaries of the guide are available by contacting the LACEAT team whilst full versions of the guide can be viewed on the LACEAT website at:

<http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/LookedAfterChildrenEducation/LACEASchools.htm>

Children and Young People's Services
8th floor, International House
Canterbury Crescent
London SW9 7QE

<http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/Services/EducationLearning/LookedAfterChildrenEducation>

Training Update

A second programme of 'Effective Personal Education Plan (PEP)' training sessions for teachers and social workers has recently been completed. The highly rated programme aims to ensure that professionals are able to successfully plan and review the educational development of looked after children. Further to this, the LACEA Team has also ran an education programme for Lambeth foster carers. The three sessions aimed at raising awareness of the role that carers can play in supporting LAC education achievement were well received with 82% of delegates rating the training as good to excellent.

LACEAT have developed a short training programme for school governors. Governors play a crucial role in promoting the needs of looked after children through effective policy and planning, monitoring and evaluation. These sessions are will run in June 2006. Contact Pat Petch at Lambeth Governor Support on 020 7926 9636.

The team will continue to deliver training for professionals in 2006-07. We will keep you posted about this via the newsletter and the LACEA website.

Guidance Materials

LACEAT have developed a range of materials aimed at supporting professionals in completing high quality effective PEPs. These include: PEP completion Guidance, an example of a good completed PEP and documents to support the PEP review process. These are available (and can be downloaded) from the LACEAT website. See listed address

Further Information

For more information about anything you have read here, please contact LACEAT on 020 7926 9958 or cdoyle@lambeth.gov.uk