

Childcare Matters

September 2007

Issue 10



The professional magazine for all providers of childcare in Lambeth

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Launching Lambeth's Play Strategy

A ten year strategy for improving the play opportunities for children in Lambeth was launched on 1 August. The Lambeth Play Strategy, 2007-2017 looks at where children play and how to improve these play opportunities - in parks and housing estates, existing play services, providing safe routes for children to walk to school and developing the role of managing play work as a profession.

Councillor Florence Nosegbe, Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, launched the strategy at the Max Roach Park Play Project along with Veronica Plowden, Chair of Lambeth Play Association, and members of the voluntary sector.

Cllr Nosegbe said: "Play is important for all children, no matter what their age. Being outdoors and able to explore and develop and do that safely should be part of every child's experience. This document is about making that a reality for Lambeth's young people."

Local children participated in and attended the launch and were entertained by a magician and a rap band made up of local young people. Young people helped design the short child-friendly version.

Copies of the full strategy and the child-friendly version can be obtained from the Children's Information Service on 0845 601 5317 or download them from www.lambeth.gov.uk or www.younglambeth.gov.uk



Mr. Bonkers entertaining children at Lambeth Playday, Max Roach Play Project.

Introduction

Welcome to the September issue of Childcare Matters. We hope you have had a good summer, even though the weather has been disappointing.

In this issue we have linked the articles to the 5 Outcomes of the Every Child Matters agenda that we all work towards. Please use the key below - it explains the objectives of each of the outcomes.

Key linking articles to the Every Lambeth Child Matters 5 Outcomes:

Being Healthy

- Further improve physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of children and young people
- Further reduce substance misuse
- Further reduce teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections

Staying safe

- Further improve services for children and young people with disabilities and special needs
- Further improve stability and security for children looked after
- Continue to safeguard children and young people

Enjoy & Achieve

- Further improve attainment and achievement
- Further improve standards and experiences for under 5s and their families
- Further improve transition from childhood to adulthood

Making a Positive Contribution

- Provide more positive activities for young people to do and participate in
- Involve more young people in decision-making
- Further reduce youth crime

Achieve Economic Well-being

- Further increase number of young people in employment, education and training
- Further improve opportunities for 14-19 year olds

All outcomes

- This symbol is used in the publication if all outcomes are covered by that article.

All outcomes

The Early Years and Sure Start Service has a new name.

As part of the recent Children and Young People's Service restructure the parts of the Early Years and Sure Start Service that are not moving – Children's Centres Development, Family Support, Childcare Development and Early Years Foundation Stage – are joining together with Play and Sports and forming 'Community Children's Services'.

The Business Development Team have become part of the Resources Division and the Research and Information team have split into different teams and divisions but the staff that were in those teams are still doing the same jobs and are still contactable as before, unless they have communicated anything different.

If you have any questions about the new name and service please call either Laura McFarlane or Stella Clarke, Joint Interim Assistant Directors on 020 7926 9568.

Achieve Economic Well-being

Staying safe

Website for Looked After Children

Lambeth Council has launched an innovative website for its Looked After Children, which was designed and developed by the children and young people themselves, exclusively for this group.

Lambeth's Corporate Parenting Team was given the idea by looked after young people in the borough, who range in age from five to twenty-one.

Dubbed G2K (Get 2 know), the new site consists of public pages containing general information relevant to any child in care, and to carers, social workers and members of the public. There is also a private interactive members-only sub site specifically for Lambeth Council looked after children and selected council staff. This will facilitate online discussions and consultation and direct communication with councillors and senior managers.



Francesk, Michael and Kimberely at the website launch.

"Lambeth Council has 559 looked after children, and we have a strong commitment to working with them to improve services," said Councillor Sally Prentice, Lambeth Council's Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services.

"The aim of this website is to improve communication between looked after children and the council, their corporate parent, and we are particularly excited about this initiative because of the direct involvement that the young people have had in its development", she explained.

The new website was officially launched with a celebration at the Oval Conference Centre, which was attended by children, foster carers, social workers, councillors and senior managers. Many of the young people attending had been involved in the creation of the website, and they were very excited to see it up and running.

The general information section of the site can be found at www.get2know.org.uk

Being Healthy

Holiday Activities Programme (HAP) Launch

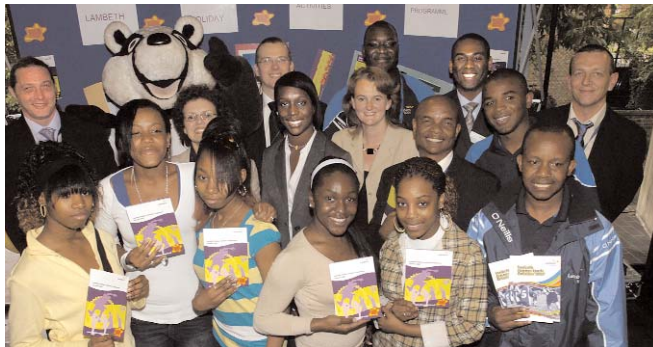
Designer -
please
add HAP
logo

The 2007 Holiday Activities Programme was Lambeth's biggest ever summer programme of events and activities for children and young people in the borough. There was a 20% increase in funding secured for summer provision for 2007, through council growth in youth services budgets and accessing new external grants.

The Holiday Activities Partnership is the multi-agency body (led by the Children and Young People's Service) that has been working to fundraise and co-ordinate the programme. The HAP was launched at Nettlefold Hall in West Norwood. Over 80 council officers and young people were treated to an hour of exciting, thought-provoking and entertaining poetry, dance and songs from the Accapella youth group. Jason Hoyte, Accapella's Director, was the compere and the event was opened by Councillor Sally Prentice, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People and her new deputy Councillor Florence Nosegbe. Councillor Lib Peck, Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture also spoke, thanking the team for making the HAP and the launch a success.

Highlights of the HAP include the Football World Cup forming a partnership across the Children's and Young People Service, the Police, Fulham football club and sport and parks in a summer long tournament and 'The Big Wild Read' giving an exciting opportunity to children and young people to access and enjoy books across the borough.

For a hard copy of the HAP please contact the Children's Information Service on 0845 601 5317 or download a copy at www.lambethchildrensfund.gov.uk.



Presenting the Holiday Activity Programme



Information giving at the launch

New Brockwell Sensory Room

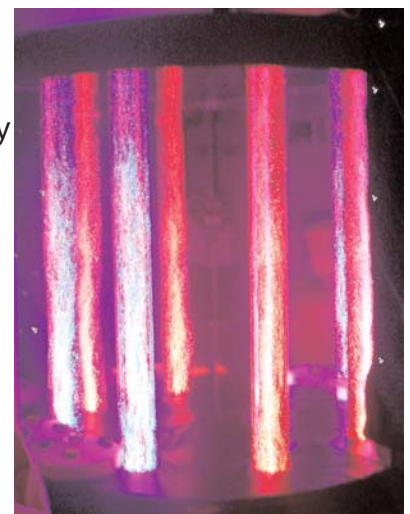
Enjoy & Achieve

The sensory room at Brockwell One O'clock Club, Brockwell Park, provides a holistic pre-school opportunity for all children including those with additional needs.

Making a Positive Contribution

Children under 5 years old can enjoy a wide range of sensory experiences for therapy, learning, relaxation and fun. This inclusive provision is accessible, affordable, well equipped and of high quality.

Sessions can focus on particular senses such as touch, sight, sound or smell. Children can interact with, change, influence and control their environments in a positive way. From September, the Early Years Inclusion Team will be running inclusive play opportunity groups incorporating use of the sensory room.



Lights in the sensory room

For information on groups please contact: Sonia Abed El-Razek- Acting Inclusion Team Leader 020 7926 8609 SabedEl-Razek@lambeth.gov.uk

Lambeth Country Show

There were even more activities at the Early Years and Sure Start marquee at the Lambeth Country Show this year, when we linked up with the Primary Care Trust. There was face painting, arts and crafts, a dental puppet show and song and dance activities for the children and free massage for the parents.

Information was provided on all early years provision, including services available at Children's Centres. The Children's Information Service gave out hundreds of leaflets covering options for childcare, play and toddler groups, summer holiday schemes and paying for childcare.

The health stands included 'bottle to cup', where parents could exchange their baby bottle for a training cup, 'safety in the sun', with free children's suntan lotion, literacy development, general child safety and there were speech and language therapists and health visitors on hand to give advice to parents.

While the parents found out about childcare inside the marquee, children also had the opportunity to entertain themselves outside, by having a go at the coconut shy and hook the duck.

For more information, contact the Communications Team on 020 7926 8613/8620



Children play Hook the Duck



A busy tent at the Country Show




Lambeth

Lambeth Children's Centre
Directory 2007

**You can obtain copies of the
new directory by calling
Lambeth's Children's
Information Service on
0845 601 5317**

Designer - please add high res proof of pdf from
original whole document

The Adventure Playground Service re-joins Community Children's Services

After a number of years the borough wide Adventure Playground Service re-joins Community Children's Services formerly the Early Years and Sure Start Service.

There are seven council managed Adventure Playgrounds and they are all community based and offer a range of activities throughout the year.

Activities are based around arts and crafts, sports, indoor and outdoor games and culturally focused programmes. There is a big emphasis on outdoor play, with gardening and the chance to build and make things.

There are no direct costs to children for attending but there are small charges for off site activities.

Play is central to children's lives and an essential ingredient of a happy childhood.

Play is fundamental to how children develop their emotional, physical and intellectual potential. Play encourages children to explore, practice, build up skills, take risks, make mistakes and learn how to cooperate with other children.



Enjoying outdoor play

Children wanting to use the adventure playground can just turn up - staff are on hand to help ensure their safety and prevent bullying.



Learning new skills

Parents and carers are welcome. Childcare groups and play schemes are also welcome but must phone in advance to avoid overcrowding.

You can find out where your nearest adventure playground is by looking on the Lambeth internet - www.lambeth.gov.uk under Services/Environment/Greenspaces/Adventure playgrounds.

Peter McNally - Operations Manager Children's Play



SAFEGUARDING - Updated Guidance and Training



What to do if you're worried a child is being abused – Summary



Have you got a copy of the updated version of **“What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused – Summary”**? Community Children’s Services has distributed copies of the updated summary to all PVI settings and Childminders in August 2007.

This booklet provides best practice guidance for those who work with children in order to safeguard their welfare. It is strongly recommended that you read the new guidance booklet, and take time to understand the key messages:

- **What you should do if you have concerns about a child’s welfare**
- **What will happen once you have informed someone about those concerns**
- **What further contribution you may be asked to make**

It is also important that all staff in your setting understand the key messages of this guidance booklet, and know where to locate a copy of the booklet should it be required. Please discard any earlier versions of the guidance booklet, dated prior to 2006.

Everyone working with children has a responsibility to contribute to the safeguarding and promotion of children’s welfare. Attending child protection training is one important way that you can help safeguard children. The following table lists the dates of Child Protection training that is to be delivered in 2007/08 by Community Children’s Services. Please contact our training administrator, **Rochelle George on 020 7926 9552 to book your place.**

Childminders	PVI Settings	Lambeth Safeguarding Children’s Board	Lambeth Social Care Referral & Assessment Team
5 October 2007	10 October 2007	5th Floor International House	Duty Social Worker
31 January 2008	1 February 2008	Canterbury Crescent, London SW9 7QE	020 7926 7856 or
9 February 2008	21 February 2008	www.lambethscb.org.uk	020 7926 7868
19 March 2008	12 March 2008		After Hours 020 7926 1000
15 May 2008	21 May 2008		
10 July 2008	18 July 2008		



Risk Assessments – in/outdoors including outings

Under the National Standards 4, 5, 6 and 13 and the Birth to Three Matters - A healthy child, keeping safe, it is a statutory requirement for all providers to protect children from harm or neglect and help them to stay safe.

When ensuring the safeguarding of young children in your care, it is imperative that the setting or childminder carefully examine what steps are needed to prevent children being exposed to harm or danger. A risk assessment is an important tool to identify, measure and put systems in place to eliminate “as far as reasonably possible” potential harm to children. Before taking children on visits locally or long journeys it is important to carry out the 5 simple steps below (summarised);

- Look for hazards.
- Decide who might be harmed.
- Evaluate the risks and decide whether existing precautions are adequate.
- Document all the significant findings from your assessment.
- Review your assessment and revise periodically or as and when necessary - few settings or work environments remain the same.

For a more detailed information sheet call 020 7926 9954/1485 or log on to www.hse.gov.uk and www.ofsted.gov.uk

All outcomes

Support for Registered Childminders

If you are a registered childminder in Lambeth you may already have accessed the support offered by the Childcare Development Team. There are 5 Childcare Development Officers covering the 3 localities, the north, south east and south west. The amount of support you will be offered is varied and depends on your needs.

Childcare Development Officers will visit any childminder that is due an Ofsted visit. We will come round and do a 'suitable premises' check and also look at the actions/recommendations Ofsted set you from your last inspection to see if you have implemented these changes into your setting. We will also check if your policies are up to date.

Childcare Development Officers can also help you identify your training needs and signpost you to relevant training to develop your skills and qualifications.

As Childcare Development Officers we are your first port of call, but if your needs are outside of our remit we will sign-post you to other services that will be able to give the appropriate advice or help.

We will listen to what you want and have to say and have devised different forums to be able to do this. These include cluster groups, links to the Lambeth Childminding Association and information sessions on subjects such as The Early Years Foundation Stage and Marketing your Business.

Please contact the Childcare Development Team on 020 7926 9954/9553 for more information.

Introducing the Childcare Development Team



Jo Baker, Acting Childcare Development Manager



Dionne Smith, Childcare Development Officer



Maxine Henry, Childcare Development Officer



Grace Malcolm, Out of Hours Childcare Project Co-ordinator



Sue Morro, Childcare Development Officer



Shenola Atunwa, Childcare Development Officer

All outcomes

Update on Childcare Sufficiency Assessment research

We have now completed our Childcare Sufficiency Assessment which is the first major piece of research that we have carried out in Community Children's Services.

The research involved analysing the existing supply of childcare for under 5s and over 5s in Lambeth. We consulted over a thousand parents about their childcare needs through a questionnaire, and over a hundred parents through focus groups. We also consulted with over a hundred childcare providers through a questionnaire and focus groups asking them about their views of the childcare market and their plans for the future.

The aim of this research is to use the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of childcare of the type of childcare parents want in areas where it is needed. We will be making the results of the research widely available to the public in the autumn for comments and feedback.

If you would like any more information about the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment please contact: Iona Gordon, Research and Consultation Officer, Community Children's Services 020 7926 9567 igordon@lambeth.gov.uk

The Children's Information Service (CIS) - A Day In The Life of an Outreach Officer

The CIS provides free information on all local childcare, early education and other care and support for children and parents from 0 to 19.

My name is Louise Fuentes and I am the CIS Outreach Officer covering the South West and part of the South East localities of Lambeth. The other CIS Outreach Officer is Ximena Caicedo who covers the rest of the borough. **We are currently based on the 3rd floor at International House and can be contacted on 0845 601 5317.**

I really enjoy my job as each day brings different challenges. It allows me to meet different people and learn new skills. My team is really friendly and their support is invaluable.

8:30 I gather information such as CIS merchandise and leaflets to take on my visits that I have arranged for the day. I organise my administration work, look at my emails and answer phone enquiries such as how to become a childminder, parents wanting a list of nurseries, parenting courses and other general information. It is then time to leave, so I inform my colleagues about my whereabouts for the day.

10:00 I visit the childminder drop-in at the Sunnyhill Children's Centre in Streatham. Grace Malcolm, the Out of Hours Childcare Project Coordinator, is coming along. While I provide information on different parent and toddler groups and the Holiday Activities Programme, Grace talks about the Out of Hours scheme which provides approved childcare for families working unsociable hours.

2:00 I meet with Nicki Brown, the Effra Children's Centre Childcare and Training Manager. I am visiting Effra for the first time so I give out information and publications on the services provided by CIS as well as some merchandise. Nicki shows me around the centre and informs me about the activities that are currently being held there. We agree to meet in September to organise regular outreach sessions.

3:30 I get back to the office and help my colleagues to organise information to take to the Lambeth Country Show, an event that takes place every year at Brockwell Park. The communications team has allocated duties such as unpacking boxes, displaying information in the marquee and organising games like hook the duck and the coconut shy. My aim is to promote the CIS as part of Community Children's Services.

All outcomes



Enjoy & Achieve

LAMBETH EARLY YEARS ALLIANCE

Lambeth Early Years Alliance Project was started in February 2007 with funding from Community Children's Services and Inclusion and Standards. It is the continuation of a previous project managed by Lambeth's Educational Psychology Service with support from Lambeth's Pre School Learning Alliance and Livity School that set out to ascertain and then meet the needs of children under 5 with special educational needs and disabilities living in Lambeth. This original project found that many children were not accessing services or those services for children with SEN and disabilities were not readily available. That is, many families with children with SEN & disabilities were not accessing support services *prior* to them starting in a provision.

This project operates within the Brightstart childcare strategy and has clear regard to both the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and the Team Around the Child (TAC) agendas. It also has regard to the Inclusion Strategy for Education 2006-2016.

Underpinning this process is the development of a one entry route for all children under 5 with additional needs. That is, in order to access support and intervention services from teams within the Early Years Alliance, all children would be 'screened' at a weekly panel. This process currently involves a Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) who meet at the Mary Sheridan Centre. We discuss a range of children with SEN / disability needs and develop clear intervention and support pathways for the families, making referrals to the agencies within the Early Years Alliance. We are hoping to bring our voluntary partners on line in September. Children can be referred to the MDT through a range of routes - we are currently developing a generic referral form and developing leaflets about our services and how to access them.

The Alliance is currently made up of teams from both Community Children's Services and Inclusion and Standards: Inclusion Outreach, Autism Outreach and Home Support from the former and Educational Psychology from the latter. The Alliance is also attempting to engage with or consolidate relationships with groups in the voluntary sector such as Contact a Family, Pre-School Learning Alliance, Parents for Inclusion and Lambeth's National Autistic Society. We are also supporting a number of new group initiatives for parents and carers in the borough, such as the Lewin Pre School parent and toddler group for children with complex needs and the Down's Syndrome parent support group, run for and by parents. I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to all who have given time, input and support in developing this project - particularly Chris Sey, Principal Educational Psychologist - who recently died - but who was instrumental in getting the project off the ground.

For further information about the Early Years Alliance please contact Sharon Synmoie on ssynmoie@lambeth.gov.uk



All outcomes

Early Years Workforce Forums for 2007/8

The Workforce Forums for Heads, Foundation Stage Co-ordinators, Managers and Leaders of Lambeth's early years and play settings will continue to be held each term. The dates for your diary are:

- 1st November 2007 at the Town Hall (Assembly Room)
- 6th March 2008 in the Professional Development Centre (International House)
- 11th June 2008 in the Professional Development Centre (International House)

The Forums share up-to-date information on funding, training opportunities and national and local initiatives relating to the continuing professional development of Lambeth's early years workforce. **Contact Rochelle George on 020 7926 9552 for further information.**

All outcomes

Business Development Team Move to Resources Division

As part of the CYPS realignment, the Business Development Team have become part of the Resources Division. The role of the team and staff has not changed and we expect the strong working partnerships will continue and strengthen further. The team, for the time being, is still based on the 3rd floor of International House alongside Community Children's Services, but will move within the building to join the Resources Division. You will be notified of the move in due course.

Childcare Affordability Programme (CAP)

The London Development Agency and Greater London Enterprise recently held a successful workshop for providers who participate in the Childcare Affordability Programme. The workshop is part of a drive to improve take up of places in Lambeth which are undersubscribed. The main aim of the programme is to provide working parents with cheaper and more flexible childcare and is specifically aimed at low income families. Support visits are being arranged for those providers who were unable to attend the workshop during the holiday period. **If you have any questions about CAP please contact Michael Materesi on 020 7926 8604**

Make Friends With Your Money

A series of three workshops are being piloted in November aimed at childminders' finance skills. The workshops, "Getting Things in Order", "How Much?" and "Keeping on Top" will cover several business management basics and show that finance can be simple and fun! The idea of workshops came about because groups of childminders carried out a SWOT exercise at their cluster meetings in the summer. From this, they were able to identify their own needs and discuss with us what they would like us to do to support them. If they are successful, we hope to offer the workshops regularly and develop something similar for nurseries. **For dates, venues and times see back page of this publication.**

**Enjoy &
Achieve**

**Making a
Positive
Contribution**

Children's Funding Update - Autumn 2007

The first edition of Children's Funding Update has now been published. This briefing highlights external funding opportunities that may be of interest to providers of play and other children's services in the borough. It is provided separately to the Children's Fund bulletin which covers wider issues. Funding opportunities are divided up into the following categories;

- Key opportunities
- Capacity Building
- Main Small Funds
- Lucky Dip

For a hard copy please call Lambeth Children's Information Service - 0845 601 5317 or download it at www.lambeth.gov.uk

Dates for your diary:

1 Nov - Workforce Development Forum - Contact Rochelle George on 020 7926 9552

22 Sept - Stockwell Festival at Slade Gardens, Brixton. Time - 12 noon until 5pm

Childminders Early Years Foundation Stage Briefings 2007 - Contact Rochelle George

Date:	Time:	Venue:
5 Oct	7-8.30pm	*Int House, Lecture Theatre
8 Oct	10-11.30am	Sunnyhill Children's Centre
9 Oct	7-8.30pm	*Int House, Lecture Theatre
15 Oct	10-11.30am	Effra Children's Centre
18 Oct	10-1.30am	Larkhall One o'Clock Club
18 Oct	10-11.30am	Hitherfield Children's Centre
18 Oct	7-8.30pm	*Int House, Lecture Theatre
19 Oct	10-11.30am	Clapham Children's Centre

Community Children's Services Workshops - Contact 020 7926 9954/9553

Date:	Workshop:	Venue/Time
18 Sept 2007	Private, Voluntary and Independent Settings Forum	4.30pm To be held in 3 locality areas (Letters being sent with addresses)
20 Sept 2007	Out of School Providers Forum	12.30pm *Int House, Lecture Theatre
27 Sept 2007	NCMA Information Session for Childminders about the Diploma in Home based Childcare Units 2-5	7.00pm *Int House, Lecture Theatre
7 Nov 2007	Part 1 - Making Friends with your money workshop for Childminders	7.00pm *Int House, PDC Rooms
19 Nov 2007	Part 2 - Making Friends with your money workshop for Childminders	7.00pm *Int House, PDC Rooms
26 Nov 2007	Part 3 - Making Friends with your money workshop for Childminders	7.00pm *Int House, PDC Rooms
15 Jan 2008	PVI Forum (as on 18 Sept)	4.30pm To be held in 3 locality areas

* International House, Canterbury Crescent, London, SW9 7QE

CHILDCARE MATTERS SCHEDULE 2007/8

Issue:	Article deadline:	Distribution date:
FEBRUARY	Fri 19th January	Fri 16th February 2008

Spanish

Si desea esta información en otro idioma, rogamos nos llame al

Portuguese

Se desejar esta informação noutro idioma é favor telefonar para

French

Si vous souhaitez ces in autre langue veuillez nou

Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্য কোনো ভাষায় আপনার প্রয়োজন হলে অনুগ্রহ করে ফোন করুন

Twi

Se woape saa nkaeboy yi wo kasa foforo mu a fre

Yoruba

10ràn yíí, ní èdè Òmíràn, ejò, gogo

Tel: 0845 601 5317