

# The team



## Jackie McDonald | Home Support Officer

After gaining a NNEB diploma, Jackie started working within Lambeth nurseries. Jackie has also studied for and achieved a diploma in post qualifying studies and is Portage trained. Jackie supports a couple of specialist inclusive groups at children centres for children who have additional needs.

“For the past 30 years, I have had the privilege of working with ‘special’ children and their families in their homes where I suggest and model activities for parents to practise with their child and help them learn new skills. My role is very rewarding and my greatest joy is seeing the children I work with have the opportunity to engage in new experiences and make progress at their own pace.” (Jackie McDonald, 2017)

## Tsotsoo Stephenson | Home Support Officer

Tsotsoo came to Lambeth as a Developmental Play Worker in 2002 to work in the Sure Start programme to provide a range of support services for parents with children under 5 years old. Tsotsoo has worked with Educational Psychologists to run inclusive learning through play programmes to empower parents to give their children the best start in life.

“What I enjoy most about my work is that I have the opportunity to meet, visit and work with so many children and their families. Every child I meet and work with becomes part of my family and every parent I meet becomes one of my HEROES.” (Tsotsoo Stephenson, 2017)

## Catherine Pearson | Early Years SEN Team Manager

Prior to coming to Lambeth in 2015, Catherine worked in various capacities in different settings, including nurseries, primary & secondary schools as well as outreach and respite care children with additional needs and behavioural difficulties. Catherine studied her degree in Childhood and Youth Studies with a special interest in Autism, through The Open University. Over the years she has attended many courses, including Makaton, PECs, Elklan, Autism, Behaviour and is a Sleep Scotland Councillor and EarlyBird Licensed trainer. Catherine took over managing the team after a restructure in April 2017.

“I am excited to have the opportunity to be able to shape and develop the service to support the needs of families within Lambeth.” (Catherine Pearson, 2017)

## Tracy Imms | Children & Young People’s Disability Register

Tracy is the newest member of the team joining us to coordinate the Children & Young People’s Disability Register in May 2016. Previously, she had worked for 23 years as an SEN Teaching Assistant in a Croydon Primary School. Over the many years working in a school, Tracy has been involved with all aspects of SEN training. Starting in 1992 as a 1:1 for a child with Autism she has vast experience in working alongside children and parents. Her role in school also included small group differentiated interventions, in and out of the classroom and whole class teaching.

“It was a big decision to leave a school setting after such a long time but when I saw the opportunity for the coordinator role it was a real challenge, one of which I have really enjoyed. It is great to still be involved with SEN children & their parents and watching the register grow on a daily basis is very rewarding.” (Tracy Imms 2017)