

LEWISHAM PARENT AND CARER'S FORUM WELCOME

- Who we are
- What our aims and objectives are
- What activities we do



I hope you find this information helpful and it encourages you to get involved. If you have any further questions, please do ask me.

If you wish to register with us to receive information or to become involved with Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum, please contact me at:

sue.stocks@cafamily.org.uk or
info@lewishamparentcarer.org.uk

Telephone 02082978056

Contact a Family Lewisham -Leemore Central
Community Hub, Bonfield Road, SE13 5EU

Who we are?

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum (LPCF) are a registered charity (Charitable Independent Organisation). We are a group of parent carers who have a child or young person with a disability or additional need, living in the Borough of Lewisham. Apart from the Parent Participation Officer, the Board of Trustees and all other members are volunteers who give their time freely.

The aim of the Parent Forum is to try and get the best services for our children, working with the local authority, health and social care.

The important thing about a parent forum is that our aim is not just to think about our own children but ALL of the children living in our area, as collectively we have a stronger voice.

There are 152 parent and carers forums across the country, 33 of them in London, totalling more than 55,000 parents and carers across the country collaborating to try to improve the services for their children – such is the commitment of parents.

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Aims and Objectives

- To be the strategic consultative body contributing to the development of policies and practice within Lewisham representing families of children with special and additional needs, providing a liaison point for Statutory and Voluntary Agencies within Lewisham.
- To consult with and inform our membership with a view to ensuring that all children in Lewisham with special and additional needs have the best possible outcomes. These outcomes may be updated from time to time in the light of changes to Government policy.
- To raise awareness of issues faced by disabled children and young people and their families.
- To share experience, knowledge and skills.



- To promote independence, empowerment and initiative in our members.
- To inform the local authority of occasions when our experience of practice does not match current policy.
- To expect a 'can do' approach from Service providers.
- To positively change and enhance the lives of disabled children young people and their families
- To enable and ensure parent carer's participation in the development of excellent services for disabled children young people and their families.

Vice-Chair Lee speaking at an Education, Health and Care Plan event

What activities do we do?

- We have attended Progress/Project/Programme meetings with Lewisham Local Authority on the SEND Pathfinder and new single assessment Education Health and Care Plan, together with attending meetings/workshops with Health Services and voluntary groups in the borough of Lewisham.
- We are currently on six project groups with the Local Authority surrounding the new SEND Reforms
- We put on information events for parents and carers in Lewisham.
- We produce a regular bulletin which is sent to our parent carers.
- We have a website (which is in the process of being updated).
- We send out information by post or email on various activities and events in the Borough.
- We provide a drop in information service at Kaleidoscope Children's Centre once a month together with other voluntary organisations.
- We talk to other parents about what is going on in the borough and get their views and opinions and feedback to the Forum.



We offer training and workshops

What being part of a forum can offer you

- To learn more about local and national policies for children with disabilities and additional needs.
- To learn more about health, education and social care in the borough of Lewisham.
- Develop skills and confidence.
- Benefit from relevant training and development opportunities.
- To be a better advocate for your child and family.
- To be able to contribute your knowledge as a parent carer to other parents, the Local Authority and Voluntary Organisations.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Person Specification

- To live in Lewisham
- To be a parent carer of a child/young person with a disability or additional needs
- To be a good listener
- To be able to take the general views and experiences of other parents and raise them at meetings and consultations
- To be willing to participate and prepare for meetings by reading papers, listening, asking questions and making comments
- To be fair and unbiased



The Board of Trustees

Tasks

- To attend as many Board of Trustees/Parent Forum meetings as possible
- To attend meetings/consultations/workshops with the Local Authority/Health Service/Voluntary Organisations
- To provide feedback from meetings/consultations/workshops to the Parent Forum (feedback form is provided)
- To read papers/documents/minutes relevant to meetings or consultations
- To attend training or information sessions
- To talk to other parents about their experiences and feeding these back to the Parent Forum
- To inform Parent carers about the Forum



Members of the LPCF take part in consultations

Code of Conduct

All members shall agree to abide by the Lewisham Parent Forum Code of Conduct and failure to do so will result in the member being asked to resign from the organisation.

- To be honest, open, objective and non-judgemental. To be friendly and courteous to all present.
- To treat others with dignity and respect, giving everyone the opportunity to finish speaking and not to talk over others.
- Everyone should be treated equally, with no abusive or discriminatory language or swearing.
- To follow the Agenda and observe any time limits.
- To speak through the Chair and to follow and respect the Chairs guidance.
- Members of Lewisham Parents Forum should aim to be properly prepared for meetings by reviewing all relevant papers beforehand and bringing them to the meeting. They should be punctual and if possible stay for the whole of the meeting.
- If a quick decision is needed all members of Lewisham Parent Forum will be consulted by their chosen method of communication, and action will follow a quorate agreement.
- All Lewisham Parent Forum members should ensure that they follow aims and objectives as per the Terms of Reference.
- At any meeting, any individual's right to confidentiality shall be respected.
- To appreciate that some people at the Parent Forum meetings will have roles and responsibilities and certain duties they will have to adhere to and perform.
- Lewisham Parents Forum does not have and is not a platform for political bias.
- Any conflict of interest shall be declared immediately.
- Time will be included to answer questions if members are uncertain or worried about any Forum business or procedure.
- Reasonable and essential expenses will be met by Lewisham Parent Forum



External Representation

- Remember you are representing Lewisham Parent Forum for all parent carers of children and young people with a disability and/or additional needs up to the age of 25.
- You are not representing and should not seek to promote your own child or young person, your personal aims, or own organisation.
- When representing Lewisham Parent Forum at meetings, you must state that the action must be agreed by the forum first, and a vote may be necessary, before you can proceed. Any actions agreed must be completed.
- When representing Lewisham Parents and Carer's Forum you will be accountable for what you say.