



LEWISHAM PARENT AND CARER'S FORUM

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

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

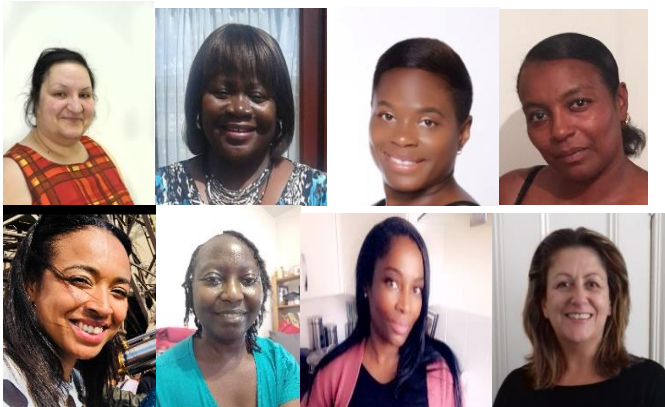
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www.lewishamparentcarer.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/ParentCarerForum>

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Leemore Central Community Hub, Bonfield Road, SE13 5EU



Our Board of Trustees

Nalan Salih (Chair), Joyce Brako-Amofo, Chantelle Francois-Grimes, Bel Corette, Nicole Gayle, Abi Tobun, Dulcie King, Sue Stocks (PPO),

Who we are

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum (LPCF) are a registered charity. We are a group of parent carers who have children or young people 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, education, health and social care, voluntary organisations and universal services.

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.

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.

We undertake the following activities:

- Work with the Local Authority on the SEND Strategy, in particular we will be looking at the Local Offer and Communication and Engagement, together with Supported Employment and the SEND Guidance for parents and carers.
- Work with the Local Authority on consultations that are relevant to the services that our children receive and we invite our Forum members to participate.
- Represent parents and carers at strategic level on the SEND Programme Board.
- Attend training, events and network on behalf of parents and carers.
- Organise Parent Forum Meetings, training workshops and topical events for our parents and carers.
- Provide a regular newsletter.
- Provide a new website which has a lot of information available and details of local events.
- Run a drop in information service at Kaleidoscope Children's Centre once a month together with other voluntary organisations.
- Talk to other parents about what is going on in the borough and get their views and opinions and feedback to the Forum.



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

- Ideally to have a young person with additional needs or disability, but not essential. If you have a special skill that would benefit the Forum and it's work then you are welcome to become a Trustee
- 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
- We are all inclusive and we do not tolerate discrimination of any kind towards anyone.

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
- To volunteer support to the PPO – office based support



Members of the LPCF take part in consultations

Code of Conduct

Trustees and all Parent Forum 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.
- We are all inclusive and we do not tolerate discrimination of any kind towards anyone
- To follow the agenda and observe any time limits.
- To speak through the Chair and to follow and respect the Chairs guidance.
- Trustees of the Parent Forum should aim to be properly prepared for meetings by reviewing all relevant papers beforehand and bringing them to the meeting. All member should be punctual and if possible stay for the whole of the meeting.
- If a quick decision is needed all Trustee of LPCF will be consulted by their chosen method of communication, and action will follow a quorate agreement.
- All LPCF 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 and Carer's Forum
- It is important to note that when attending a Parent Forum event at the Leemore Centre, it does not give a person access to the rest of the building or services. You will be asked to make an appointment.

External Representation

- Remember you are representing Lewisham Parent and Carer's 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 and Carer's 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.**
- We are all inclusive and we do not tolerate discrimination of any kind towards anyone



Membership is free, please join us.

We provide a bi-monthly news bulletin, information on activities, events and the SEND Reforms via emails, post, Facebook, and our website to families of children with disabilities. We also organise workshops and parent training. Please complete our membership form to join. If you do receive information from us and no longer wish to receive anything further, please let us know and we can remove you from the mailing list. Email: info@lewishamparentcarer.org.uk

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Registered Charity No. 1159533 - Registered in England

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum will never share your information with any third party. However, if you wish us to do so we will require written consent specific to that request. Please see our Data Protection Policy and our Website and Media Policy Declaration, which covers all personal information which is collected by Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum. This can be provided upon request until it is available from our website. If you have any questions about your information, or you wish to delete or unsubscribe with us, please contact info@lewishamparentcarer.org.uk or call 07534568020.