



# Whippersnappers **SEND Handbook**

For parents, carers and families of  
children with SEND navigating the system.

# Introduction

## What is the purpose of this SEND information guide for families?

This information guide aims to bring together in one place relevant information and resources for families with SEND children living in Lambeth.

It includes a high-level summary of benefits, support and resources which families may find useful and seeks to sign post them to obtain further information for specific areas relevant to their specific circumstances.

## Who is this SEND information guide for?

This information guide was specifically designed for parents/carers/families of SEND children. It was created with a focus on the early years (0-5 years old), however families may still find this guide useful for their children aged over 5 years.

It may also be useful to professionals working with families with SEND children to service as an information resource.

## What is the best way to use this SEND information guide?

This information guide is best used electronically as links have been provided which enable families to be directed straight to relevant websites for more information, contact details and/or registration.

Every effort has been made to ensure up to date information is provided; users of this information guide should check specific dates/times/locations with websites provided as organisations and venues will update these from time to time.

If you would like to have further support on accessing this information guide, you can email [info@whippersnappers.org](mailto:info@whippersnappers.org)

*This SEND Information Guide has been developed thanks to funding generously provided by the Walcot Foundation.*

**WALCOT**FOUNDATION

# Financial Benefits

## Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

DLA helps to meet the extra costs that you might have as a result of your child's SEND. Your child may be eligible if they are under the age of 16 years old and have more care needs than a similar aged child without SEND. Your child does not require a specific diagnosis as claims are assessed on care needs.

Application for DLA is made to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) via a specific form ([DLA1 Child](#)) which can be accessed [here](#).

You can complete the application form by hand or electronically (the form is PDF-fillable), whichever is best suited to your preference.

### Top tips!

This is a lengthy form to complete and can be quite emotionally and mentally challenging as you think about and document the struggles your child has. Be kind to yourself and give yourself lots of time (and breaks!), to complete it in 'bite sized' bits if necessary.

Keep a copy of all documents sent into DWP, and if possible send via tracked/recorded delivery. This is useful to confirm receipt by DWP and also for renewal applications (or if documents go missing during delivery!).

For renewals, give yourself enough time to ensure DWP receives your documentation before the expiry date so your benefit does not lapse.

There are some very useful information/guides on completing DLA forms provided by the following charities (click logo):



If your child is receiving only the care component of DLA, you do not need to wait for a renewal period to apply for the mobility component if you think your child is eligible (i.e. over 3 years of age). You can complete the DLA1 Child form for just the mobility sections and indicate "no change in care needs" on the care component sections.

Disability Advice Service Lambeth (DASL) can provide you assistance with the completion of DLA forms.

There are two components to DLA; these can be applied for at the same time or separately depending on a child's specific needs and/or age.

**Care component:** *This can be applied for any child under the age of 16 with 3 different rates in effect.*

Low (£29.20/week)	Middle (£73.90/week)	High (£110.40/week)
Help is required for some of the day	Frequent help or constant supervision during the day and supervision at night.	Help or supervision throughout both day and night.

**Mobility component:** *Can only be applied for a child aged 3 or older.*

Low (£29.20/week)	High (£77.05/week)
They can walk but need help and/or supervision when outdoors. Applicable from 5 years old.	They cannot walk, can only walk a short distance without severe discomfort, could become very ill if they try to walk or they're blind or severely sight impaired. Applicable from 3 years old.

- Decisions can take up to 20 weeks and notification is made via written letter; you can also specifically request a text update/notification.
- The length of a DLA award varies for every child; details of the length of the award will be provided on the decision letter you receive.
- If you are awarded a fixed term of DLA, you will need to renew your application in advance of the expiry date; typically a renewal form will be mailed to your home address for completion. The [DLA1 Child form](#) is used for renewal.
- If you do not agree with the decision made by DWP, you can request a mandatory reconsideration. This can be done either via a phone call (see contact details below) or a written mandatory reconsideration request form (CRMR1) which can be obtained [here](#).

Contact details/further information for DLA (child):

**Department for Works and Pension**

**Freepost:** DWP DLA Child    **Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Telephone:** 0800 121 4600    **Textphone:** 0800 121 4523

DASL (Assistance with completion of DLA forms)

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Telephone:** 020 3062 9030    **Email:** [adviceteam@disabilitylambeth.org.uk](mailto:adviceteam@disabilitylambeth.org.uk)

# Carers Allowance (CA)

You may be eligible for carers allowance if your child is receiving either of the middle or high care components of DLA and you are providing at least 35 hours/week of care. The weekly rate of CA is £83.30 (correct as of April 2025). Payment can be made weekly in advance, or every 4 weeks.

There are a number of specific restrictions on carers allowance to be aware of, including:

- *Only 1 person can claim carers allowance for a specific person*
- *Earnings limit of £196/week<sup>2</sup> (after tax, NI and expenses)*

Applications for CA are done online via the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk)

If you are unable to access the application online, a [paper form](#) (DS700) is available for completion and can be posted to the address within the contact details below.

Claims can be backdated up to 3 months.

Contact details/further information:

Carer's Allowance Unit  
Mail Handling Site A  
Wolverhampton  
WV98 2AB

Telephone number: 0800 731 0297

Textphone number: 0800 731 5312

[Further information here](#)





# Financial Grants

## Family Fund

Family Fund is the UK's largest grant-making charity for families raising a disabled or seriously ill child, on a low income. In England, Family Fund offers two grant programmes of financial assistance:

### 1. Support for families with disabled children (SFDC):

This grant can be applied for every 24 months and you can apply for a range of items that you feel will help meet your child's additional support needs and make family life a bit easier. This could include family breaks, clothing items, days out, furniture items, bicycles, kitchen appliances, sensory toys, activity clubs, and electronics (tablets, computer, consoles).

You can apply for this grant directly as a parent/carer if your child is aged between 0 and 17 years of age and requires high levels of support in at least 3 of the following areas (a specific diagnosis is not required as assessment is based on support needs);

- *Personal care, accessing social activities, education, communication, supervision, medical care, mobility*
- *You have lived in the UK for the past 6 months;*
- *You are on a low income or receiving benefits.*

### 2. Mobility support:

This programme is for families with a disabled or seriously ill child under 3 years old with significant mobility needs. Family Fund can provide a car-leasing package to make transport for your child easier and more practical.

Applications for grants can be made by parents/carers via the Family Fund website (see contact details below) either by a direct online application, downloadable printable version, or paper application pack which you can request be mailed to you.

Contact details/further information:

[Family Fund Website](https://www.familyfund.org.uk)

Email: [info@familyfund.org.uk](mailto:info@familyfund.org.uk)

Phone: 01904 550055

[Gov.uk information on carer's allowance](https://www.gov.uk/information-on-carer-s-allowance)





## Additional resources detailing charity and organisations who may provide financial grants to families with SEND children

There is a variety of charities and not-for-profit organisations who seek to help SEND children, and their families, with financial grants to help with the costs of living with a disability. Each such charity/organisation will have their own application process and eligibility criteria which will be detailed on their individual websites.

Here are some websites and organisations that provide a list of national organisations who provide grants for specialist equipment, days out, activities, household items, specialist toys, electronic equipment, therapies and respite.

Click for more information

**disability  
grants**

**WellChild**   
the national charity for sick children

# Support for Education

## Educational, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

An EHCP is a legally binding document between the local authority and an education setting. It describes a child's special educational needs, health and social care needs and sets out the extra help needed to meet those needs. Any child/young person between the ages of 0 and 25 years with additional needs is eligible for an EHCP.

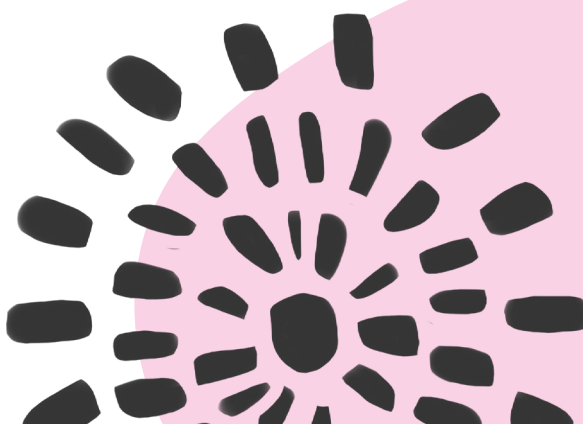
Children in a mainstream nursery, school or college requiring a high level of support to make progress similar to that of their peers will need an EHCP. An EHCP is required for children to attend a specialist nursery, school or college education setting.

EHCPs are required to be reviewed annually to reflect the changing needs and development of your child. You will be invited to this annual review meeting through your child's education setting.



**Lambeth**

[Click for more information](#)



The first step to getting an EHCP is an Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment which is requested from your local authority. Local authorities have a legal duty to carry out an EHC needs assessment for any child who has, or may have, SEND.

There are various phases/steps to the EHCP process; Appendix 1 sets out this process in a flow chart for reference.

### **Step 1: Formal request for an EHC needs assessment**

This request can be made by a parent/carer or by a professional in education, health or social care working with your child where you have provided consent to the request being made.

Within Lambeth, EHC needs assessment requests are made online via the council's EHC Hub, which is a digital platform for families, the local authority, professionals and education settings can work together on EHC assessments, plans and annual reviews. Users will need to register in order to access and be able to use the EHC Hub (details provided on next page).

The council must inform you within 6 weeks of receiving your request whether they will carry out an assessment; you have the right to appeal if you do not agree with this decision.

### **Step 2: Assessment**


When the local authority agrees to undertake an assessment, they will gather relevant information from various sources including yourself, your child, your child's education setting, and relevant health/care professionals. You may request the local authority to undertake specific assessments by professionals such as speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, and educational psychologists.

### **Step 3: EHCP Decision**

The local authority must inform you in writing regarding their decision to issue an EHCP and the reasons for their decision. If they have decided to not issue an EHCP they must inform you in writing within 16 weeks of their decision to assess. You have the right to appeal the decision and the local authority must provide you with information about the appeal process.

### **Step 4: Issuing of draft EHCP**

The local authority will issue you a draft EHCP and you will have up to 15 days to provide your comments



# Educational, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

Contact details and further information about EHCPs and the process of applying can be found on the Lambeth website [here](#).

## Top tips!

- Gather as much information as you can from professionals working with your child to support your request for a needs assessment.
- Consider the impact of your child's additional support needs on you and your wider family unit.
- A formal diagnosis is not required to request an EHC needs assessment.
- Your child does not have to be in a nursery/ school setting before you request an EHC needs assessment.
- Be prepared for an initial rejection to the EHC needs assessment request; there are appeal processes in place. There are many organisations that specialise in supporting and helping families secure the right SEND support via EHCPs for their child; these are detailed within the next section.
- An EHCP should accurately describe your child's educational needs and be clear regarding the amount and nature of the extra help your child needs.
- The whole EHCP process should take 20 weeks, however it can be very common for this timeframe to be delayed.



# Additional advice sources for SEND in education

There are a number of organisations that offer free advice, information and support in helping you to secure the right educational support for your child with SEND. You may find it helpful to contact them before you start an EHC needs assessment request.



## SOS!SEN (SOS! Special Educational Needs)

SOS!SEN is a registered UK charity with a purpose of supporting families to help them secure the right special educational provision for children and young people with SEND.

Families are supported through a variety of ways to help navigate the SEND system with respect to education and include:

- **Advice:** Services include a free helpline, walk-in advice centres, 1:1 appointments, training workshops and webinars to help answer questions about your child's specific situation
- **Document support:** Review of draft EHCPs, support for the EHCP annual review process, preparation of documents related to Appeals, Tribunals and other related provision enforcement.
- **Resources:** A wide variety of booklets, information sheets, FAQs and webinars provide legally based advice and guidance. Many of these resources are free, some do incur a small cost to purchase.

[Website](https://www.sossen.org.uk)

Helpline: 020 4592 3254

Email helpline: [hello@sossen.org.uk](mailto:hello@sossen.org.uk)



**IPSEA**  
Independent Provider of Special  
Education Advice

## IPSEA (Independent Provider of Special Education Advice)

IPSEA is a registered UK charity specializing in the field of SEND law with a purpose of helping families navigate the SEND system and secure the education your child is legally entitled to. They provide free and independent legal advice through a range of services including:

- *Online legal guides, resources and template letters on SEN support, EHCPs, exclusions and appeals*
- *Email information service for general queries*
- *Telephone helplines*
- *Tribunal support service: tailored assistance for families needing to make an appeal or claim.*

[IPSEA Website](https://www.ipsea.org.uk/)

Helpline: 0300 222 5899

## SPECIAL NEEDS JUNGLE

[Special Needs Jungle Website](https://www.specialneedsjungle.org/)

### Special Needs Jungle (Information Service only)

Special Needs Jungle is a not-for-profit organisation started and run by parents with children with SEND. It aims to inform, educate and empower families to self-advocate confidently, so their children get the help they need to live the best life they can.

It does this through the creation of easy to understand resources, articles and information for parents and carers of children with SEND and health conditions to better enable them to navigate the SEND system.





# Lambeth Information, Advice and Support Services (LIASS)

LIASS provides free, impartial and confidential information about education, health and social care for children, young people, and their parents/carers relating to special educational needs and disabilities. LIASS is funded by Lambeth Council but operates at arms length from other Lambeth council services.

Information and advice can be provided on a variety of SEN topics including EHCPs, EHCP annual reviews, SEN support within education settings (including nurseries), the Lambeth Local Offer, SEN transport issues, mediations, and disability discrimination within education. They can also offer support and advice in preparing for relevant SEN meetings and letter writing.

Confidential advice drop-in sessions for Lambeth residents are offered at the Mary Sheridan Centre on specific dates and times.

Contact information/further details

[Website \(LIASS\)](#)

[Downloadable Timetable](#)

Email: [lambethiass@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:lambethiass@lambeth.gov.uk)

Phone: 020 7926 1831 / 020 7926 9805



## Witherslack Group

The Witherslack Group is a UK based education provider for children and young people with SEND. In addition to their education settings, they provide free support, advice, and resources for all parents and carers of children and young people with SEND. These include webinars, practical resources on a wide range of topics relevant to SEND.

[Witherslack Group Website](#)

Email: [admin@witherslackgroup.co.uk](mailto:admin@witherslackgroup.co.uk)

Phone: 0800 304 7244

# Transport Assistance for school aged children with SEND

Children and young people of compulsory school age (e.g. 5 years old) with SEND may be entitled to help travelling between home and school. Transport assistance may include help with travel costs (such as oyster/travel cards, petrol allowance) or the arranging of travel by school minibus, vehicle or taxi.

If your child's school is within walking distance (less than 2 miles if under the age of 8 years), transport assistance may still be granted as your child's SEND may make this distance not possible to walk. Lambeth assesses each such case on an individual basis.

Applications can be made online via the Lambeth local offer website (see contact details below). Applications can be emailed or posted on request as well.

## Top tips!

Where possible, submit your application for school transport assistance as early as you can once a school placement is confirmed, as the transport team can become busy with applications during the last months of a school year.

While Lambeth council does not have a duty to provide transport assistance for children under compulsory school age, it may consider compelling and exceptional reasons on a case by case basis. You can contact the school transport team directly to discuss your child's transport needs.

Contact details/further information

**Email:** [transport@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:transport@lambeth.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 020 7926 6839

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

# Specialist schools in Lambeth

## Primary schools

### [The Livity School](#)

The Livity School is a primary school for children with severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), autism and complex medical needs.

### [Turney School](#)

Turney School is a special school providing primary and secondary education for students with learning difficulties, speech and language difficulties and autism spectrum disorder. The school is one site catering for 5 key stages. *Turney also has a secondary school.*

## Secondary schools

### [Heron Academy](#)

Heron Academy provides secondary education for students with severe learning difficulties or PMLD.

### [Elm Court](#)

Elm Court is a special school for students with learning difficulties with associated social and communication needs; many students are autistic.

### [Vanguard School](#)

Vanguard is a school for students aged 11-19 years of age with a diagnosis of autism.

### [Lansdowne](#)

Lansdowne is a secondary school for young people aged 11-19 years whose primary need is autism with associated communication difficulties and speech and language delay or disorder.



# Resource Bases

A resource base is a specialist provision within a mainstream school for a specific area of SEND. Resource bases aim to support children with SEND who will benefit from additional specialist support in order to achieve full inclusion in mainstream classes and access the curriculum. As with special schools, admissions are through the SEND team and students will typically require an EHCP to attend.

There are a number of resource base provisions within Lambeth, a current listing can be found within Appendix 2. Lambeth council has a full directory which can be searched via following link and filtering for resource bases.

# Respite for parents/carers

## Carers Assessments

All parent carers have the right to request an assessment of their needs at any time. A specific diagnosis for your child is not necessary as assessments are based on care needs. Assessments can be requested by contacting Lambeth council directly (see contact details below), no referral by a professional is required.

Assessments are carried out by the social care services of your local council and it's an opportunity to discuss things that could make caring for your child a bit easier for you. A carer assessment should focus on your specific needs as a parent carer, your health and well-being and other important life aspects such as relationships, goals, education and/or employment. Assessments may be carried out in person or phone/video call depending on circumstances and preferences.

A support package/plan funded by the council could include support with day to day tasks, or a break from caring while your child attends an appropriate short break activity and/or is cared for by an approved carer.

Contact details/further information

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Telephone:** 0207 926 5555





## Social Care Packages through the Lambeth Children with Disabilities (CWD) service

CWD is a specialist service supporting children (aged 0-18 years of age) with profound, complex and long-term needs.

Parents/carers can self-refer to CWD to discuss assessments (see contact details below); professionals working with a child with SEND can also refer on behalf of a parent provided parent consent is obtained first.

Following a referral a CWD social worker will contact you to discuss your child and their specific needs. They will seek permission to obtain further reports and information from other professionals who know your child to gain a better understanding of potential difficulties and challenges. CWD will then decide whether the referral meets their assessment criteria; this decision will be discussed with you and how things will proceed.

In addition to sign posting to local SEND services, CWD may provide a care package of services including care arrangements, short breaks, respite, SEND activities, and/or personal budget.

CWD offers a regular virtual drop-in session for those seeking further information - you can register your interest for these sessions by emailing [cwdduty@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:cwdduty@lambeth.gov.uk)

Contact information/further details

[Lambeth SEND Local Offer](#)

Phone: 020 7926 5555

See also details on care packages for complex health needs in the section below which may provide respite for parent carers.

# Additional support for medical needs

## NHS Continuing Care Package

Some long-term complex medical conditions may be eligible for NHS funded care packages which help to provide some respite from caring for you, as a parent. Eligibility is based specific needs and not a specific diagnosis and is assessed by a team of healthcare professionals.

An initial assessment is completed by your healthcare professional (nurse, GP, hospital consultant) or social worker who may then refer for a full assessment to determine eligibility for a care package.

They must seek your consent before making a referral for your child.

You can speak to your specific healthcare professional for more information and/or to discuss eligibility.



Click on the logos for further information. Refer to your individual hospital websites for specific details of play therapy services.

## Specialist play therapy services for medical appointments/hospital admissions

Attending medical/hospital appointments can be a very anxious and stressful time for a SEND child and their family. Hospitals may offer specialist play therapy services to help reduce anxiety, support children and families with hospital visits, and provide distraction during medical procedures with an aim to improve the child and family experience of hospital/medical visits.

Specialist play therapy services can be provided in both outpatient clinics and on hospital wards. Referrals can be made through your health professional to the specialist play therapy team.

Hospitals with specific play therapy support teams include: Great Ormond Street, Kings College, Evelina London, Royal Free London, and Barts.



## Hospital @ Home

The purpose of Hospital @ Home is to help families manage symptoms of an acute illness at home and seeking to prevent the need for a hospital admission, enabling recovery at home.

The Hospital @ Home is a team of paediatric nurses who can provide assessment, support and advice within your home environment during a child's illness. During a home visit, a nurse will do a full assessment, check vital signs and discuss with you a plan to manage symptoms at home and how to act if symptoms do not improve or worsen. The team works the hours of 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week.

This service is for children registered with a GP within Southwark or Lambeth and who have been treated by a doctor at Evelina London Children's or King's College Hospitals. A referral by your GP or hospital consultant/health professional is required to determine if this service is appropriate for your child.

Contact details/further information:

*Speak to your child's GP or hospital health professional for more information or to request a referral.*

[Hospital @ Home Website](#)

## NHS Continence Service

SEND children may find toilet training more challenging for a variety of reasons and may be in nappies for a longer period of time. You may be able to receive nappies, pads and bedding protection for your child through the NHS continence nursing team. You may also be entitled to additional support and advice for toilet training through this service.

A referral from a healthcare professional (such as GP, school nurse, health visitor) is required to access this service. Children will typically need to be 5 years of age to be eligible, but depending on needs referrals may be accepted for younger children.

Contact details/further information:

*Speak to your GP or other health professional regarding a possible referral.*

[Continence service](#)

# Learning disability register



If your child has a learning disability, you can have them added to your registered GP's learning disability register. Individuals on this register are entitled to at least an annual health check (and Health Action Plan) from the age of 14 years; registration however can be done at any age.

This is beneficial as it makes the GP practice aware of the learning disability and that adaptations may be needed for future appointments. Adaptations might include:

- Longer appointment times
- Information/communication in an appropriate, accessible manner
- Attendance with a carer/advocate

This registration also enables you to be noted as the carer on record and entitles you to a NHS carer's health check. You can contact your registered GP directly to discuss their learning disability register.

[Click here for more information](#)

## “Easy Eye Care”

This is a specialist eye service for people with a learning disability and/or autism who are registered with a Southeast London (Lambeth, Southwark, Lewisham, Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich) GP. The eye service is not just about glasses, but also eye conditions and general eye health. The service is NHS funded and you may be eligible for help towards the cost of glasses.

Participating opticians and optometrists will have had extra SEND training and be able to offer longer (and/or multiple if needed) appointment times.

Contact details/further information

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Telephone:** 020 3859 2385

# Additional support for getting around/out and about

## Lambeth Liberty Card

The Lambeth Liberty Card is voluntary and is a helpful way to let others know what assistance may be needed when disabilities are not always obvious; it also offers the card holder discounts locally and around the UK.

## Access Card

Designed to streamline the process of communicating your access needs, the Access Card translates your child's disability or impairment into easy-to-understand symbols. It can serve as a recognised proof of your child's requirements, eliminating the need for repeated explanations at different venues.

Application is done online via the [Access Card website](#). There is a fee of £15 and passes are valid for 3 years, at which time a renewal can be made.

There is a wide range of venues and attractions that recognize the Access Card which include amusement parks, cinemas, zoos, and transport.

Contact details/further information

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** [cards@accesscard.online](mailto:cards@accesscard.online)

**Telephone:** 0330 808 5108

## Carers Admissions/tickets

Many venues will offer a discounted or free carer admission for you as a parent of a child with SEND. Details of any available discounts can be found on individual venue websites or contacting them directly.

Many venues, supermarkets and attractions are now offering a quieter experience on specific dates and times to help visitors who may find it otherwise too overwhelming from a sensory perspective. Details can be found on individual venue websites or by contacting them directly.

## Relaxed sessions/quiet hours

Many venues such as museums, supermarkets, cinemas, theatres now provide quiet hours and/or relaxed sessions on specific dates/times. These sessions offer a more relaxed experience through any, or all, of the following:

- dimmed lighting
- reduced noise
- fewer people
- helpful/trained staff
- quiet areas/breakout/sensory spaces
- social/visual stories made available on venue websites

Details of these can be found on individual venue websites; many offerings are free or at a reduced cost but do require advance booking.



## Hidden Disabilities Sunflower scheme

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower is a simple way to voluntarily share that you/your child have a disability or condition that may not be immediately apparent. As a result, you/your child may need a helping hand, understanding, patience or more time when in shops, attractions, transport, airports or other such public spaces. The scheme is recognized within the UK, as well as internationally in many countries.

[Hidden Disabilities Website](#)

Hidden disability sunflower lanyards can be obtained free of charge from various sources including supermarkets such as Tesco, Sainburys, ASDA, Morrisons (via their customer service desks) and NHS hospitals (via their main receptions).

The sunflower lanyard in itself is sufficient to indicate additional help may be needed, but you can also choose to have a personalised sunflower identity card created to wear on the lanyard detailing more specifics of a hidden disability. There is a small fee for this.

## Special assistance for travel

Special assistance is available for those with reduced mobility and/or hidden disabilities on a range of transport modes and can help to make travel a little smoother. Assistance may include helping to guide you through queues and security at stations/airports, boarding and helping to locate your allocated seat.

Details of the type of assistance available can be found on individual company websites. It must generally be prebooked which also allows you to detail what assistance would be most helpful to your child/family.





## NHS Wheelchair Services

For children with mobility issues (including hidden disabilities), the NHS Wheelchair Service can provide suitable wheelchairs and/or specialist buggies to aid in getting around. If you have a specific chair or specialist buggy in mind, they can supply you with a voucher to serve as a contribution towards this.

A referral from a healthcare professional (such as GP, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, health visitor) is required to access this service. Once you are known to this service, you can self-refer in the event you require help for your existing wheelchair or specialist buggy.

Contact details/further information

*You can speak to your GP or other health professional directly regarding a possible referral.*

Website: [Click to open website](#)



## RADAR key

The National Key Scheme (NKS) offers individuals with SEND independent access to locked public toilets around the country.

Toilets fitted with National Key Scheme (NKS) locks can now be found in shopping centres, pubs, cafés, department stores, bus and train stations and many other locations in most parts of the country.

You can obtain a RADAR key via the [disability rights UK website](#) for a fee of £5.





## Blue Badge

You will be eligible for a blue badge for your child if they are:

- in receipt of the high rate of the mobility component
- registered blind.

From 2019, the blue badge scheme has included hidden disabilities as an eligible criteria and your child may therefore be eligible if sufficient evidence can be provided detailing how the hidden disability affects your child on a daily basis.

Applications are made online, see below for contact details. If your application is successful, an administration fee of £10 will be required. Once issued, a blue badge is typically valid for 3 years, with a renewal application required before expiration.

Assessments may take up to 12 weeks to receive a decision on your application.

### Top tips!

- Blue badge holders are eligible for an exemption from the London congestion zone charges. To apply for this exemption, you must create a London Road User Charging account and can then register your blue badge details. There is a £10 admin fee to register. The exemption will need to be renewed in line with your blue badge expiry date; renewals done within 90 days of expiry can be done with no additional fee. See contact details/further information below.

- Blue badge holders may be eligible for free parking at NHS hospitals for scheduled appointments. Registration of your vehicle and

details of your blue badge will be required which is typically done within the hospital's Knowledge Information Centre. At St Thomas/Evelina Children's this registration is valid for one year, after which you can just re-register your details.

- Blue Badge holders can apply for a Low Traffic Neighbourhood dispensation to access a traffic filter location within an LTN. This can be applied for online via the Lambeth council website. See contact details/further information below.

- London boroughs may have variations on where blue badge holders may park so be sure to check these out on the specific council websites before you travel.

Contact details/further information

- [Badges and parking \(Lambeth Specific\)](#)

- [London congestion charge exemption](#)

- [LTN exemption](#)

# Registered Charities of Interest for Families/Children with SEND

There are lots of charitable and not for profit organisations providing support, information and resources for families with children with SEND. This is not an exhaustive list but a good starting point for families to explore.

## ARCS

### ARCS Lambeth

A small UK registered charity based in Lambeth founded by parents with a mission to engage, equip and enlighten parents, carers, children and young people affected by ADHD and other neurological conditions. It provides a number of services including:

- Lambeth Parent and Carer support group (online via Zoom)
- Information and resources specific to ADHD
- Webinars on a variety of ADHD related topics

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** [info@arcslambeth.co.uk](mailto:info@arcslambeth.co.uk)



### Autism Voice

Autism Voice is a UK registered charity working to enhance the health and wellbeing of autistic people and their families from mainly Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities. They provide a number of services including:

- Community outreach to educate communities
- Information, advice, and support to autistic individuals and their families
- Training and workshops focused on different aspects of autism and neurodiversity
- Regular support group meetings and mentorships

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** [autismvoice1@gmail.com](mailto:autismvoice1@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 0845 860 5547 or 07460 399 290



## Autism Central

Autism Central is a peer education programme, commissioned by NHS England. It aims to build knowledge and understanding of autism and empower families and carers to advocate for autistic people they support. Local support helps families to get the right understanding and adjustments in place across the services they use.

Everything the programme does is informed by, or co-produced with autistic people, families and carers. Autism Central hubs deliver the programme in seven regions across England through group and one-to-one sessions, giving information on local services. Each session is delivered by parents and carers of autistic people who are happy to share their knowledge and experience with others.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)



## Kooth

Kooth Digital Health offers free, safe and anonymous therapeutic mental health and wellbeing support to young people in Lambeth and South East London aged between 10-25 years of age. It is funded and endorsed by the NHS, with its services offering wellbeing support from the comfort of home, via any web-enabled device.

Kooth offers free access to online text-based practitioner chats, self-help tools and activities, journal spaces and advice from our non-judgemental, safe and moderated peer:peer communities. Services are accessed following a registration process.

With no threshold, waiting list or referral process, young people can access support for ANY issues they may be experiencing. These may include; body image, self-esteem, loneliness, bereavement, academic pressures, stress, anxiety, friendships, sexuality, life changes etc.

KOOTH has created a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and information section specifically for parents and carers which can be accessed [here](#).

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)



## Caudwell Children – Autism Sensory Packs

A registered UK charity with a vision to change the world so that disabled and autistic children have the choice, opportunity, dignity and understanding they deserve. It seeks to make life fair for disabled and autistic children.

Caudwell offers eligible families access to an autism sensory pack at a reduced cost. To be eligible, applications must be on behalf of a young diagnosed individual living in the UK aged 19 years old or less, with a household income of £60,000 (excluding benefits) or less.

Applications can be made directly by families via the link provided below.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

[Link to sensory packs](#)

**Email:** [applications@caudwellchildren.com](mailto:applications@caudwellchildren.com)

**Phone:** 0345 300 1348

# Kids

## KIDS

KIDS is a UK registered charity with an aim of creating a world where children and young people with SEND have all kinds of opportunities. They provide a range of services for children with SEND and their families including:

- Adventure playgrounds throughout London
- Mediation services (specific for Lambeth residents)
- Family advice & support through information guides, online workshops, and 1:1 support
- Portage home based learning for preschool aged children with SEND (specific for Southwark)

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Phone (London Office):** 0207 359 3635



Contact is a registered UK charity dedicated to supporting families with children with SEND through a variety of services including:

- Information, advice and support including a free helpline, listening ear service (1:1 emotional support and reassurance with a family support adviser), and downloadable guides on a range of SEN/disability topics
- Parent workshops, currently run online, on a variety of topics supporting your child and the wider family unit
- [Grant finder tool](#) - while Contact themselves do not offer grants or financial help, they provide a tool to help families in need of financial assistance for specific costs related to their child's disability (e.g. specialist equipment, therapies and housing adaptations).

The charity offers drop-in sessions at Mary Sheridan Centre to provide support and advice to parents with SEND children on navigating the SEND systems within Lambeth. Currently the sessions from 10am to 12:30pm on select Mondays and Fridays - further details can be found on the website below.

Contact details/further information

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Helpline:** 0808 808 3555

**Email:** [info@contact.org.uk](mailto:info@contact.org.uk)

For specific information about the Contact drop-in sessions at Mary Sheridan:

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** [lambeth@contact.org.uk](mailto:lambeth@contact.org.uk)

**Phone:** 020 3751 3279





## Mencap

Mencap is a UK registered charity for individuals with a learning disability and their families.

Their vision being for people with a learning disability to be listened to and included in all aspects of life.

They provide a number of services to support individuals, and their families, including:

- Advice, resources, guidance on a variety of topics
- Helpline for free support and advice
- Campaigning for equal rights and opportunities for individuals with a learning disability

Contact details/further information

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Helpline:** 0808 808 1111

**Email:** [helpline@mencap.org.uk](mailto:helpline@mencap.org.uk)



## National Autistic Society (NAS)

NAS is the UK's leading registered charity for autistic people and their families. Their vision is to transform lives and change attitudes to help create a society that works for autistic people.

They provide a number of services for autistic people and their families including:

- Advice and guidance on a wide variety of topics
- Help and support via online communities and helplines
- In-branch activities including messy/sensory play
- Training
- Services directory to help you find organisations and services adapted to meet the needs of autistic people and their families
- Peer support groups/coffee mornings
- Campaigning to champion the rights and interests of autistic people

Contact details/further information

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Website (Lambeth Branch Specific Info)**

**Website (Lambeth events & activities)**

**Lambeth Email:** [lambeth.branch@nas.org](mailto:lambeth.branch@nas.org)

## Newlife Charity - Play Therapy Pods

Newlife Charity is a UK registered charity providing the free loan of specialist toys to families with children with SEND. Play pods can be loaned for a period of 12 weeks, and the charity arranges for the delivery and collection of the play pods. You can self-refer to this service via an online or downloadable application.

Each play therapy pod is designed to meet a child's developmental age, physical and learning abilities, with 4 types of pods available:

### **Sensory Pod**

*Suitable from birth*

### **Adventure Pod**

*Suitable from 18 months in different themes to suit interests*

### **Discover Pod**

*Suitable from the age of 3 years*

### **Explorer Pod**

*Suitable from the age of 5 years*

Contact details/further information

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**SCOPE** = Equality for disabled people

## Scope

Scope is a UK registered charity which exists to support disabled individuals and their families with an aim of creating a fair and equal society for disabled individuals.

- They provide a variety of services to support disabled individuals, and their families, including:
- Information, resources and advice on a range of disability topics
- Helpline for free advice and support
- Online community to connect with others and share experiences

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** [helpline@scope.org.uk](mailto:helpline@scope.org.uk)

**Helpline:** 0808 800 3333

Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm; Saturday 10am to 6pm



## Sense

Sense is the UK's leading disability charity supporting and campaigning for disabled individuals and their families.

They provide a variety of services including:

- Online information and resources on disabilities
- Resources for specialised play activities
- Virtual buddying programme to help build connections
- Online information and advice support service

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** [info@sense.org.uk](mailto:info@sense.org.uk)



# Sibs

For brothers and sisters  
of disabled children and adults

## Sibs

Sibs is a UK registered charity providing support for children and young people aged 7 to 17 years of age who have a SEND sibling. Support services provided include:

- Online information about disabilities and conditions aimed at young people, including tips for enjoying life and dealing with feelings
- Online information for parents and professionals on supporting siblings

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Phone:** 01535 645453

**Email:** [info@sibs.org.uk](mailto:info@sibs.org.uk)

# Well-being for Parents/Carers

Many of these charities provide helplines, 1:1 support services and peer support groups to aimed to promote the well-being of parents/carers of children with SEND, which can provide a valuable source of support for you.



## MIND charity

MIND charity is a UK registered charity providing advice and support for mental health issues; their vision is for everyone experiencing a mental health problem to get the right support and be respected in the process. They campaign to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding.

They provide a variety of services to support mental health, including:

- Online information and resources on a variety of topics
- Online peer support
- Helpline to talk about your mental health
- Infoline to get further information on general mental health issues

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Support line:** 0300 102 1234 (Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm)

**Info line:** 0300 123 3393 (Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm)

**Email:** [info@mind.org.uk](mailto:info@mind.org.uk)



## Carers UK

Carers UK is a UK registered charity with a mission to make life better for unpaid carers. They provide information and advice on caring, help carers connect with each other, and campaign for lasting change.

Services include information and guidance on benefits, practical and workplace support and well-being; phone and email helplines; and online carer forums to make connections.

Membership is free and entitles you to exclusive members' benefits and discounts.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email Helpline:** [advice@carersuk.org](mailto:advice@carersuk.org)

**Phone Helpline:** 0808 808 7777  
(Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm)

## Lambeth SEND Parent Forum

The Lambeth Parent Forum is a voluntary group of parents and carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND. Its objective is to provide opportunities for

parents and carers to influence the decisions that affect their families, and to contribute to developing services that meet the needs of their families

Membership is free and you can join online via the website below.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** [info@lambethparentforum.com](mailto:info@lambethparentforum.com)

**Phone:** 07903 248 077



## Lambeth Carers Hub

A registered UK charity whose mission is to improve carers' lives in Lambeth through quality services and community engagement. Some of the services they provide include:

- information/signposting to relevant carer resources
- 1:1 support
- peer support groups and regular coffee mornings to allow you to connect with other carers

You can register online for a Lambeth carer card which entitles you to discounts at some local participating businesses.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** [connect@carershub.org.uk](mailto:connect@carershub.org.uk)

**Phone:** 020 7501 8970



## Lambeth Larder

Lambeth Larder is a social enterprise based in Brixton. They help connect local people in financial need to emergency food providers and other support services such as advice, debt and mental health support.

They have produced a comprehensive directory of local services and organisations that offer advice, support and information on various needs such as money issues, emergency and/or low-cost food, family support, mental health, employment support, digital support, refugee and migrant support,

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Lambeth Larder Directory** [Click here](#)

**Email:** [info@lambethlarder.org](mailto:info@lambethlarder.org)



## National Autistic Society Coffee Mornings

### Lambeth Branch

A drop-in coffee morning is hosted on the 1st Friday of every month (excluding bank holidays) at Carnegie Library. It is a free relaxed morning with regular speakers and gives you a chance to meet other parents & carers of autistic people over a coffee and biscuits.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Location:** Carnegie Library, 192 Herne Hill Road, SE24 0AG

**When:** Monthly on the 1st Friday, 9:30 to 11:00am



# Carefree

## Carefree

Carefree is a UK registered charity that provides short breaks for unpaid carers by working with the hotel industry to transform hotel vacancies into vital breaks for full-time unpaid carers. There is a wide variety of locations and dates to choose from allowing for flexibility.

Carers over the age of 18 years and who provide more than 30 hours of care/week are eligible. You will need to provide evidence for yourself as a carer either through proof of Carer's Allowance/Support Payment or nominating a referee to confirm you are a full time unpaid carer.

While hotel rooms are provided free of charge, there is an admin fee of £33 per break charged by the charity. Travel expenses are also not covered by the charity.

You can self-register for Carefree breaks via their website.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)



## Family Line

Family Line is a UK registered charity with a vision of a society that understands the importance and power of family as a foundation for individual futures and connected, resilient communities. They protect children, support young people and adults and offer direct, practical help to families and communities. Services include free emotional support, information and guidance on family relationships, conflict, parenting, caring, financial worries and SEND.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email Helpline:** familyline@family-action.org.uk

**Phone Helpline:** 0808.802 6666

(Monday to Friday, 9am to 9pm)



# Community Support for Speech and Language

There is support available for communication skills provided by the Evelina NHS speech and language therapists designed for parents who maybe are:

- waiting for a referral to speech and language therapy services
- on a waiting list for speech and language therapy services
- concerned about their child's communication skills

These support services are available for free and open to all children under the age of 5 living in Lambeth or Southwark. Services include the following which you can access yourself within the community:

## Chattertime and Chattertime Plus Speech & Language Play Sessions

Sessions are free and open to all children, living in Lambeth and Southwark, under the age of 5 who may require some additional support with their communication. In both Chattertime and Chattertime Plus sessions, an NHS speech and language therapist is present to discuss communication strategies and with parents.

### **Chattertime:**

*Stay and play sessions with a focus on communication; speech and language therapists can discuss general communication strategies*

### **Chattertime Plus:**

*Stay and play sessions tailored to support children with complex communication needs who may need help in areas such as attention, social interactions, behaviour, understanding language and speaking.*

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

You can contact the individual centres to book a place at the Chattertime play sessions.



# Speech and Language Drop-in sessions

## Virtual sessions

These sessions are for parents/carers only to discuss any communication concerns with an NHS speech and language therapist. You can request a virtual session by emailing **gst-tr.ContactSLT@nhs.net**; you will need to provide your child's name, date of birth and GP surgery when making your request.

## In person sessions

NHS speech and language therapists attend play sessions on specific dates/times each month within Southwark and Lambeth to make themselves available to discuss any communication concerns parents may have.

Details of locations and days/times can be on the Evelina NHS Community Services page found below.



[Click to view drop in sessions](#)

## Community support for Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapists (OTs) offer advice around functional skills such as handwriting, self-care tasks such as dressing, bathing, or feeding, and sensory needs around sight, sound, smell, taste and touch.

### Advice Clinic

The NHS OT team runs an advice clinic for Lambeth families to discuss any concerns they may have for their child around functional skills or sensory needs. Clinics may be run at the Mary Sheridan Centre or virtually; bookings can be requested via the contact details below.

Contact details/further information

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Phone:** 020 3989 1954 (for booking a time slot in the advice clinic)

### Resource Packs

The OT team has also created resource packs for parents/carers and professionals to provide advice and activities around the most common difficulties SEND children may experience. There resource packs are available via the website below.





# Lambeth Local Offer

Councils are required to have a local offer which is a collection of information about support services for children and young people with SEND and their families; the local offer details the services available and how to access them.

You may also want to check out the local offer of neighbouring boroughs to see what SEND activities may be appropriate for your child and family.



## Lambeth

The Lambeth local offer can be accessed via [their website](#).

## Lambeth Better Start Children's Centres

Lambeth's Family Hub network of children's centres offer a wide variety of activities, help and support for young children (0-4 years of age) and their families. Centres offer stay and play sessions for children, speech and language support, and some additional support for children with SEND.

Timetables of current services and sessions provided across the Better Start Children's Centres can be located on their website.



[Click to view timetable](#)



# Activities with a SEND focus



## SEND Sailors at the National Maritime Museum Greenwich (0-13 years)

The National Maritime Museum offers free sessions once a month on a Saturday morning for children with SEND and their families. Sessions are led by disabled creatives offering a flexible approach for families to engage with the museum collections and creative activities.

Bookings can be made via the [Royal Greenwich Museum website](#).



## Wheels for Wellbeing

Wheels for wellbeing is a UK registered charity with a vision to enhance the lives of disabled children, young people and adults by ensuring anyone can access the physical, emotional, practical and social benefits of cycling.

They run inclusive cycling sessions for Disabled people of all ages and impairments throughout South London. These are currently being offered at Croydon Sports Arena, Herne Hill Velodrome and Ladywell Day Centre. Sessions can be booked via the contact information below.

## AUT<sup>GRAPH</sup>

## SEND Art Workshops by Autograph

Autograph is a UK registered charity with one of its projects being the provision of free monthly artist-led creative workshops designed for children with SEND and their families to engage the whole family in creative play and activities. Sessions take inspiration from ideas of child-led creative play, material exploration and sensory experiences allowing children to follow their own interests.

Sessions are free but do require pre-booking which can be done via the contact details below.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** [info@autograph-abp.co.uk](mailto:info@autograph-abp.co.uk)

**Location:** Rivington Place, London EC2A 3BA

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Phone:** 020 7346 8482

**Email:** [info@wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk](mailto:info@wheelsforwellbeing.org.uk)



## SEN Music Therapy Sessions by In-Deep Charity (3-10 years of age)

In-deep is a UK registered charity that offers a free music therapy service for children and young people with SEND and their parents/carers. Music therapy sessions are offered both in person and online and are led by a qualified and experienced music therapists, supported by students from the Royal College of Music.

Currently in person group music therapy sessions within Lambeth are held at Ashmole Primary School are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 6:30-7:30pm. Sessions are free, but prebooking is required which can be done via the contact details below.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email (to book/register):** emma.chapman@in-deep.org.uk

**Email (general enquiries on music therapy):** childrenandfamilies@in-deep.org.uk



## SENsory Sundays – National Autistic Society

SENsory Sundays are hosted by the Lambeth branch of the National Autistic Society with family YOGA and sensory arts/crafts and messy play.

Sessions are free and held on the 3rd Sunday of every month from 1:15-4pm at the West Norwood Library (Community Room). Bookings can be made via the National Autistic Society website with details below.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)



## SENsational Stay and Play Sessions (0-8 years old)

These are free group play sessions for children with SEND aged 0-8 years old and their parents/carers held within Southwark. They are held at various children & family centres and/or schools available mid-week and Saturdays.

Sessions are either attended on a drop-in basis or pre-booked, and will be dependent on the specific venue – further details can be found below.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** childrenscentre@ivydale.southwark.co.uk



## KEEN London (0 to 11 years of age)

KEEN London is a UK registered charity with a mission to improve physical activity, social interaction and quality of life for children with SEND and their families. They provide free 1:1 supported services to children with SEND with two offerings:

### **Rising Stars (under 5's)**

Rising Stars is a weekly free play session for SEND children under five and their families. Sessions are held at Jubilee Children's Centre in Tulse Hill on Thursday mornings from 10-11:30am. In addition to a fun sensory play session for children, sessions provide an opportunity for parents to discuss their child's needs and development with KEEN staff and volunteers. Sessions are free but booking is recommended.

### **KEEN Club (children aged 5-11 years of age)**

KEEN club is a weekly 90 minute weekend offering involving a mixture of playground games, creative activities and outside nature play. Within Lambeth, morning and afternoon sessions are held every Saturday during school term times; these are currently held at Heron Academy.

You can register your interest/apply for Rising Star sessions and KEEN Club via the KEEN London website with the contact details below.

**Rising Stars** [Click here](#)

**KEEN Club** [Click here](#)

**Email:** [info@keenlondon.org](mailto:info@keenlondon.org)

## **Wriggle and Rhyme for children with special needs**

### SEN Wriggle & Rhyme Sessions at West Norwood Library (under 5's)

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

West Norwood Library 1-5 Norwood High Street,  
London SE27 9JX

Wriggle & Rhyme sessions are for SEND children under the age of 5 and their parents/carers featuring songs, stories and rhymes.

These sessions are currently held at West Norwood Library on Wednesday afternoons 2-2:45pm.



# The Neurodiversity Family Hub London

The Neurodiversity Family Hub is a non-profit organization based in Southeast London. They provide a safe space for young Neurodiverse individuals, and support their parents/carers in their caregiving responsibilities, understanding and promotion of neurodiversity.

While located in Southwark and currently operating from the Mint Street Adventure Playground, families from neighbouring boroughs are welcome at the Family Hub. Registration is required via the website, and there is a small fee involved for membership. Services and support is provided for both parents/carers and children/youth;

## Parents Hub

**Parent Connect** – Services include an in person monthly coffee connect morning, an online monthly lunch time themed talk, a monthly walk and talk session and a monthly family play session.

**My Advocacy Partner** – Families can access a 1:1 session with an expert about statutory compliance and access to school and any other support you may need. Fees may apply for accessing this service.

**Parents' Circle** – A 12-week programme for parents or carers of a neurodiverse child. Those workshops provide an opportunity to reflect on your own situation, have a group discussion and practise some exercises that will spark new thinking, solutions and action plan. We will learn together, exchange ideas, and build community. You will leave with your own tool kit and a resource group of parents. Created and facilitated by a fully certified life coach trained on neurodiversity. A course fee does apply.

## Youth Hub

**Nexus Tribe** – a vibrant inclusive social group for young people aged 16-25 years old.

**My Junior Tribe** – an afterschool club for children aged 6 to 11 years old. Activities are run by trained and professional adults who have a thorough knowledge and understanding of how best to support those with neurodiversity for best outcomes.

**My Teen Tribe** – An afterschool club for youth aged 11 to 18 years old. Activities are run by trained and professional adults who have a thorough knowledge and understanding of how best to support those with neurodiversity for best outcomes.

**My Tiny Tribe** – An inclusive stay and play group for parents and carers with children 0-5 years old.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#) **Email:** [info@theneurodiversityfamilyhub.org](mailto:info@theneurodiversityfamilyhub.org)

**Phone/Whatsapp:** +44 (0)20 8051 6668 / +44 (0)7943 261934

# Early years SEND support

## Early Years SEN Service 0-5 years

The Early Years Special Educational Needs (SEN) Service offers advice and support to families who have children under five with complex needs or autism (or awaiting diagnosis). The service is made up of a service manager, 2 complex needs home support officers and 2 early years autism outreach officers.

Referrals to the Early Years SEN Service typically come from the Mary Sheridan Centre once a child has been seen by a paediatrician.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** [earlyyearszen@lambeth.co.uk](mailto:earlyyearszen@lambeth.co.uk)

## Contact Lambeth *Drop In Sessions*

Contact Lambeth runs a bi-weekly drop-in session where parents/carers can provide information, advice and support to help navigate the SEND systems within Lambeth. They can provide information about SEND workshops, transition to adult services, early years SEN support, parent/carer coffee mornings, grant programmes, and school holiday activities.

Drop-in sessions are held at the Mary Sheridan Centre in Lambeth; dates and times of sessions can be accessed via the website details below.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** [lambeth@contact.org.uk](mailto:lambeth@contact.org.uk)

**Phone:** 020 3751 3279



# EarlyBird/EarlyBird Plus Programmes

These are 12 week courses, developed by the National Autistic Society, for parents/carers of children aged under 5 years (EarlyBird) and from 4 to 9 years (EarlyBird Plus) with a diagnosis of autism.

The programmes run regularly via group sessions and are delivered by the Lambeth Early Years Autism Officers and aims to help families

- Understand their child's autism;
- Structure interactions to develop communication; and
- Develop strategies to help manage challenging behaviours.

Parent/carer information sessions are held prior to the course starting where you are able to complete an application form to attend the programme. Details of upcoming information sessions are shared via Children's Centres, early year providers, and the Early Years SEN team. You can also register yourself with the Lambeth Parenting Support Service (ASD) to receive information on upcoming information sessions.

The NHS also runs an online workshop for parents and carers who are awaiting an autism assessment for their child. Sessions are run on an age basis, with separate sessions run for parents/carers of children under 5 years, primary age and secondary age. You can get more information on these sessions from the Autism and Related Disorders Service at Mary Sheridan (020 3049 5964) or Sunshine House (020 3989 0370) or email [gst-tr.contacts@nhs.net](mailto:gst-tr.contacts@nhs.net).

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Registration for Parenting Support Service (ASD)**

**Email:** [earlybird@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:earlybird@lambeth.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 07710 026923



# Lambeth Autism Advisory Service

The Lambeth Autism Advisory Service (LAAS) gives advice, support and training to schools and families to help them meet the needs of autistic children and young people. LAAS works with any child already diagnosed with autism or on an assessment waiting list.

LAAS also holds half-termly drop-in parents' support groups and workshops with topics such as transitions, understanding anxiety and well-being.

**Website:** [Click to open website](#)

**Email:** LAAS@lambeth.gov.uk

**Phone:** 07845 665 435

## Being a Parent (Autism/ADHD) Programmes

These are 10-week group programme offered to parents/carers of children with Autism and/or ADHD aged from 5 to 12 years old. They are led by trained Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities (EPEC) parent group leaders with lived experience of parenting a child with additional needs.

The group aims to support children and families to get the best start in life by supporting you to manage your and your child's feelings, communicate and interact positively with your child, use positive behaviour management strategies, and manage parental stress. It is also an opportunity to meet other parents/carers who share similar experiences.

Details of future sessions can be found on the Lambeth Local Offer website and/or by registering with the Lambeth Parenting Support Service.

**Website (Autism):** [Click to open website](#)

**Website (ADHD):** [Click to open website](#)

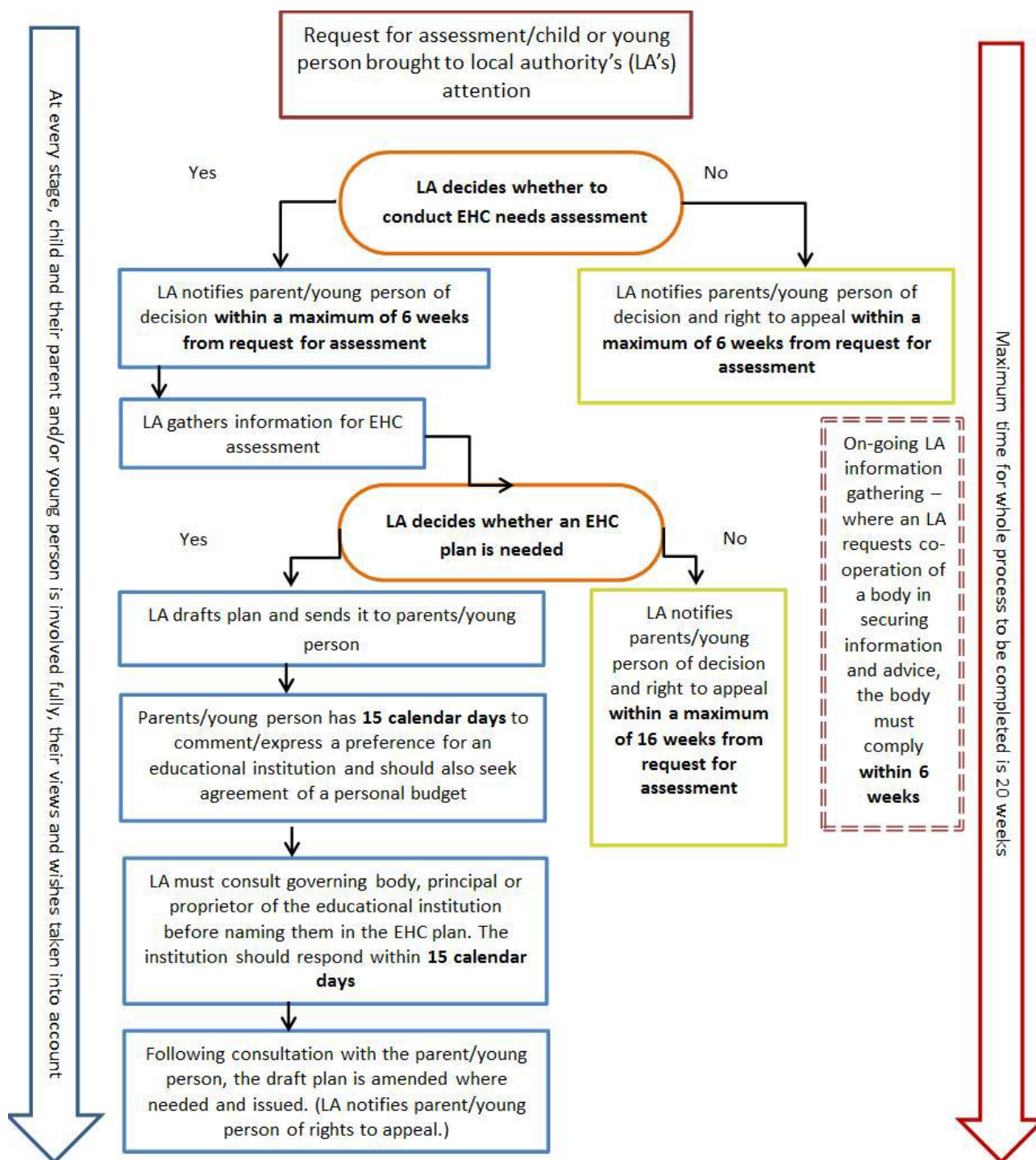
**Registration for Parenting Support Service (ASD):**

[Click to open website](#)

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1 – Flow chart for EHC needs assessment and EHCP process

### Statutory timescales for EHC needs assessment and EHC plan development



## APPENDIX 2 – Lambeth Resource Base Provisions

### [Allen Edwards Autism Resource Base](#)

Archbishop Sumner Speech and Language Resource Base is a specialist provision that is an integral part of the mainstream school.

### [Dunraven School Resource Base](#)

Dunraven School has additional provision for students with speech and language difficulties.

### [The London Nautical ASD Resource Base](#)

London Nautical has additional provision for autistic students.

### [Hill Mead Primary School Resource Base](#)

Hill Mead primary school has a resource base provision for children, ranging from reception to Year 6, with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

### [Jubilee Primary School Resource Base](#)

Jubilee Primary School has a resource provision for deaf pupils integrated within their mainstream school. It caters for pupils aged 3 to 11 years.

### [Wyvill ASD Resource Base](#)

Wyvil Autism Resource Base (ARB) is for primary aged children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition.

### [Wyvill Language Centre](#)

The Centre for Children with Speech and Language Difficulties provides children with a specialised curriculum tailored to meet their needs.

### [Crown Lane Primary School Resource Base](#)

At Crown Lane Autism Resource Base, we understand the range of different factors that can affect a child with Autism such as: physical and sensory needs, emotional difficulties or being self-direct.

### [The Elmgreen School Hearing Impairment Resource](#)

The Hearing Support Department is the Lambeth secondary provision for students with a hearing loss and accompanying communication and learning needs.

### [Lark Hall Centre for Autism Base](#)

Lark Hall Centre for Autism is a Resource Base which is an integral part of Lark Hall Primary School.