

Support, information, guidance & news about Autism in Lambeth

Autumn 2006

UNACCEPTABLE WAIT FOR DIAGNOSIS

LAG would like to thank parents and carers who filled in our questionnaire about the wait for diagnosis by the Social Communication Disorders and Autism Team (SCDAT) at the Mary Sheridan Centre for Child Health (MSC). As many of you already know, LAG members have been concerned by the MSC's lengthy waiting list for diagnosis, which currently is often as long as three years. In June, three LAG committee members met with the Director of Primary Care and Community Services and the Clinical Service Manager at Lambeth Primary Care Trust (PCT) to convey LAG's concern about the backlog and to find out about what the PCT proposed to do about it. At this meeting, LAG was told that the PCT intended to find resources other than those already in use to reduce the assessment backlog. The PCT has now informed LAG that the speech and language therapy (SALT) provision to mainstream schools and special schools will be reduced in order to address the problem, in some cases by 40%. The PCT said that its aim was to reduce the waiting list before March 2008.

Concerned that this proposed solution would only create another backlog (this time for much-needed SALT) and that it would not remedy the situation quickly enough, several LAG members have been in touch with local MPs and councillors. MP for Dulwich and West Norwood Tessa Jowell shares LAG's concerns and has written to Lambeth PCT's Chief Executive asking him to respond to the issues we have raised. LAG committee members are set to meet with Tessa Jowell soon. We'll keep you posted...

Autism-friendly screenings

for people with autistic spectrum disorders and their friends, family or carers. To accommodate people with sensory sensitivities, soundtracks are turned down and low lights are left on in the auditorium. Feel free to move around or go out for a break if you need to. Free refreshments after the film and the chance to chat to others!

CLAPHAM PICTUREHOUSE

76 Venn Street, SW4 0AT
OPEN SEASON (2006) (PG)
Wednesday 25 October, 1pm
Bookings 08707 550 061

RITZY

Brixton Oval, SW2 1JG
BARNYARD (2006) (PG)
Monday 23 October, 10.30am
Bookings 08707 550 062

*Tickets for all screenings are £2 per person (No concessions or free carers' tickets)
Similar screenings in other boroughs.*

**Please contact Alice Warren for more info & get on the mailing list: 020 7326 2611
email: alice.w@picturehouses.co.uk**

Every (disabled) child matters!

Please consider signing up to this campaign, which asserts that disabled children and their families should have the right to the services and support they need to lead ordinary lives www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp

JOIN OUR WEB GROUP!

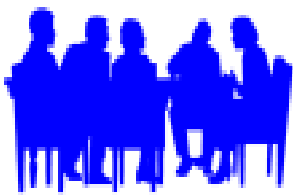
Post messages to other members and chat to other parents/carers!

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lambethautism>

SEN SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Three LAG committee members attended the SEN scrutiny commission meeting on 29 June at Lambeth Town Hall. The commission, headed up by former councillor Myerson, made recommendations including: the LEA should provide a 'better parent partnership service' and recruit more statement monitoring officers so that they would be able to attend the statement reviews of pupils at special schools, particularly around transition to secondary school. The commission were also 'shocked' to discover that certain mainstream schools were 'squeezing out' children with SEN, leading to 'over-representation' of SEN children in other schools. The commission recommended that this situation be 'addressed and reviewed' by the LEA. It suggested that parents 'put their complaints [on this subject] in writing' to the LEA. *More on this in a future issue.*

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS



The Lambeth Autism Group organises a range of events for parents and carers: guest speakers, parents'

meetings and family activities. We aim to cover interesting topics and important issues, as well as to provide opportunities for parents and carers to meet, and share experiences.

Forthcoming meetings include:

THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER (7-9PM):

Education and Employment Post-16

Information workshop to discuss post 16 education and employment for people on the autistic spectrum. Speakers include: Jenny Illic (1:1 job and interview coach), university students with Asperger's, students with autism who work with support workers, and a Connexions advisor. Any queries: please ring **Jacqui Thomson** on **0207 501 5039**.

Continence issues

Does your child suffer with enuresis? If your child is over 5, you may be eligible to receive NHS funded nappies. Have you had problems accessing the Continence Service? Are the nappies or products provided by the service suitable? Let us know what problems you have experienced and what might help.

email: lambethautismgroup@yahoo.co.uk

or call Tanya on 020 8761 6600.

NB: Venue change

LAMBETH COLLEGE

Board Room, Clapham Centre, Clapham Common Southside, London SW4 9BL

Sorry, we are unable to provide childcare.

Buses :

35, 37, 88, 137, 155, 255, 322, 345, 437

Underground:

Clapham Common (Northern)

LAG Coffee mornings

Please join us for a cup of coffee (or tea!) at Lark Hall Primary School. Meet other parents or children with ASDs, swap notes or just let us know what you want from the LAG! Feel free to bring along preschoolers...



Tuesday 7 November 10 - 11.30 am

Tuesday 5 December 10 - 11.30 am

Rainbow Room, Lark Hall Centre for pupils with Autism (NB: entrance in Gaskell Street), Lark Hall Primary School, Smedley Street, London SW4 6PH

Bus: 2, 88, 155, 196, 255, 322, 345, P5

Tube: Stockwell, Clapham North

NB: no free parking!