



Proposal for Parents Together in Lambeth

Following an offer by the Walcot Foundation to fund Family Lives to provide support to families in Lambeth the following proposal explains the project and what Family Lives will offer families, schools and children's centres.

Family Lives will work with identified parents and carers of children in the children's centre and the school, across all year groups, where families are experiencing deprivation and meet the criteria for free school meals or equivalent. Our project aims to support the personal, educational, and positive social development of children and young people with a focus on engaging marginalised and vulnerable families thus reducing their risk of experiencing negative outcomes. Our project provides a unique 'ages and stages' range of parenting skills groups, individual support and workshops for vulnerable parents and offers an exploratory, open and flexible approach from early years to year 6. Within a proven framework we really respond to the needs of vulnerable families and bring emotional and practical help to the heart of the community. For early years the GroBrain programme encourages attachment, bonding between parent and baby/young child and increases self-esteem and confidence in parenting and in baby development. On-going stages will include our Parents Together Programmes, including 'Helping Children Learn', 'Bringing up Confident Children, and Let's Play. We will ensure collaborative working with the school to complement the range of support and activities available within the school and to establish further our relationships with key local agencies

The project will support parents to develop their role in preparing their children for learning and to encourage their children to master literacy and numeracy skills, promoting engagement with learning. Family Lives aims to provide an accessible flexible menu of responsive support and learning to equip parents with information and skills through our programme of tried and tested groups and individual support.

We propose that a Family Lives Support worker (FSW) develops a close partnership with key staff in the school and children's centre to provide a short span of intensive marketing to generate parental interest for the Parents Together programme. Including wide distribution of our cards and leaflets, information stands etc. This partnership will focus on encouraging parents to engage with the support on offer and to continue take an active role in their child's education and school life.

Parent groups and Individual Support and Peer to Peer Support

We are able to deliver up to 6 groups per annum with each programme lasting 5-6 weeks within the school or children's centre according to demand. The groups will support parent's knowledge and skills of their Child's development, improve their attachment and bonding with their child and to parent more effectively to support their children's educational attainment.

8 parents will be offered 6 individual support sessions, supporting them to understand their own and their children's needs through the challenges they face.

Parents will be encouraged to continue to meet up in a community setting, offering mutual peer to peer support following attendance at a groups or individual support This will be monitored by signing in data provided by the setting where each group takes place.

The School's Part of the Partnership:

Walcot Foundation would like a written statement from the Children's Centre and School hosting the Parents Together in Lambeth programme confirming that they have agreed to provide feedback on whether parents are engaging better with services. This statement will need to be provided before the grant can be released. For group work the school or children's centre would need to provide the following:

- **An appropriate room, ensuring that it is open and ready for use at the beginning of each session.**
- **a flip chart stand and chairs for up to 10 parents, a kettle and tea and coffee and refreshments.**
- **Identify parents, who may benefit from Family Lives workshops, groups and individual support, and make direct referrals or support self-referral through the provision of information including publicity material about Family Lives and its services in partnership with the Family Lives family support worker.**
- **Where appropriate, enable school staff to participate in meetings, training or other opportunities related to the planning and delivery of Family Lives services.**
- **Identify one or more school staff to contribute to the operational and strategic management of the workshops / sessions, including attendance at relevant meetings.**
- **Ensure that site service staff are aware of the workshops and groups and individual support sessions when they are scheduled to take place out of school hours. They or other appropriate staff will need to be available to ensure access to the rooms where the workshops are being held.**
- **Provide access to a first aid box and for emergency purposes.**
- **Hold a current valid Fire Inspection Certificate and provide health & safety, fire and emergency procedures & provide access to all appropriate whole-school policies.**
- **Refer all compliments and complaints about Family Lives services in the first instance to the Service Provider's Programme Manager.**

It would also be hugely advantageous to the programme if the school would provide some desk/office space for one or two days per week so that the family support worker can set up a base to work from. Spending time working from the premises would mean better engagement with the school and parents and improve outcomes for both the school and families. Using a 'hot desking' basis would be suitable.