

Greenwich Parenting Forum Newsletter

No 2 (May 2012)

The Greenwich Parenting Forum is held quarterly and is open to all workers in Greenwich who support families.

The aim of the forum is to hear about *parenting support* and *parenting classes* running in the borough from both voluntary and statutory agencies.



The 4th Greenwich Parenting Forum took place on Tuesday 1 May 2012. Here is an overview of the presentations that took place:

Families Information Service



i Families Information Service (FIS) is now also known as the Families Information Outreach Support Service (FIOSS).

FIS (also known as FIOSS)

Tel: 020 8921 6921
(information helpline)

e-mail: fis@greenwich.gov.uk

FIS Manager, Sarah Bourne.

Tel: 020 8921 6921.

email: sarah.bourne@greenwich.gov.uk

ISCF Practice Manager, Amanda

Ratcliff. Tel: 020 8921 2715

email: amanda.ratcliff@greenwich.gov.uk

Sarah & Amanda updated the forum about recent changes to Greenwich Council's Integrated Support, Children & Families (ISCF). The Early Intervention Family Support Service (EIFSS) has ceased and the Family Support Workers previously in EIFSS have been dispersed to the Families Information Service (FIS) and Sure Start Children's Centres (CC's) from Jan 2012.

The **Family Support Workers** (FSW's) within FIS can offer family support for families with children in the 5-11 age range. They work alongside **Family Information Outreach workers** (FIOW's) who may assist families with information, support or signposting to relevant agencies. Specialist FIOW posts include 'young parent support' and 'parental employment support'. The **Parent Partnership Worker** is also located in this team (support for parents/carers with concerns about their child's special educational needs). The rest of the FSW's have now become attached to Federated Children's Centres (CC's) working with the under 5's. All FSW's (whether in FIS or CC's) should still be delivering at least one **Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities** (SFSC) 13 week parenting course a year (timetable to be decided). Within the CC's there are also newly created posts called **Family Engagement Officers** aiming to target hard-to-reach families.

Sarah Bourne is the manager of FIS and Amanda Ratcliff is the Practice Manager for the Family Support Workers (FSW's). Amanda confirmed that referrals can still be sent to eifss@greenwich.gov.uk and they will be allocated to the most appropriate person within ISCF. As well as supervising FSW's, the Practice Manager can also offer consultation to workers within schools that are supporting families, such as Learning Mentors, Home School Liaison etc. and part of the role in the future would be looking at how these teaching staff can feel more supported.



Support and Friendship for families

www.home-start.org.uk

i Greenwich Homestart is one of over 320 Homestart projects in the UK

Kusum talked about **Greenwich Homestart** where a trained volunteer can visit a family in their own home to offer support, friendship and practical assistance. There must be at least one child under 5 and referrals can be made by professionals or families themselves. (Contact Homestart for a referral form). Homestart volunteers, who all have parenting experience, may help to boost parents confidence in parenting their children due all sorts of difficulties such as isolation, illness, bereavement, divorce etc. As the Home start website says "When parents feel supported and more confident, there is often more fun in family life". Homestart also organise family trips and arrange holidays in certain circumstances.

Tel: 0208 317 4298 email: admin@homestartgreenwich.org.uk



Tel: 020 8305 2245 ext 6

e-mails:

habibah@greenwichmencap.org.uk

natalie@greenwichmencap.org.uk

Habibah & Natalie from Greenwich MENCAP talked about the projects that they coordinate: Habibah coordinates **Greenlights** - a support service for families of a young person from birth to 18 who has a learning disability (including ASD) and where there are additional behavioural difficulties present. Ten sessions can be offered to help families with understanding challenging behaviour; developing coping strategies & behaviour management skills; helping to understand sibling rivalry & improving communication skills. (Please note there is currently a waiting list for this service). Habibah also runs a monthly **ADHD parent support group** for parents of children with ADHD in the borough of Greenwich. This runs at Brookhill Children's Centre from 10am-12 midday on the first Thursday of the month. Natalie talked about **Inclusion Support** where she works with leisure providers and mainstream facilities to make activities more inclusive to children with a learning disability and also **GymTastics** - a weekly sports, games and activities session for young people with a learning disability, aged 12-18.

i **NEWS:** The **parent support list** from the parenting forum has now been joined-up with the **Comprehensive Families Information Service Directory**. There are 11 sections packed with details of teams and organisations that support parents. To order a copy contact fis@greenwich.gov.uk

Diary Date! The next **Greenwich Parenting Forum** will take place on **Thursday 12 July May 2012** from 2-4pm at the Memorial Hospital, Shooters Hill, SE18 3RZ. Ample free car parking. Go to training room 4. Free refreshments. (Please note change of the usual day from tues to thur on this occasion). To book your place, email jackief@gcc.ac.uk. There will be **four** interesting presentations at the next forum and time will also be set aside for networking. (If you would like to present at a later date please email pete.brown@oxleas.nhs.uk).