

Families Matter

News and information to support your work with families

Holiday Childcare Scheme Further Ofsted Success!



The October Holiday Childcare Scheme took place at St Matthias Primary School in Bethnal Green. During the scheme an Ofsted inspection took place and the scheme received the highest grade under the new Ofsted framework. See pages 24-27 for more information on the Holiday Childcare Scheme.

INSIDE

2-4 Parental Engagement Team
5-10 Early Years and School News
11-15 Parent Support and Health
16-17 Children & Culture Directorate

18-20 Local Offer and SEND News
21-22 Community News
23-27 Childcare News
28 Professional Development and Training

Welcome to the spring edition of Families Matter

Our first edition of the year is packed with information to support your work with families. It includes news, training, best practice examples from practitioners and schools, updates from voluntary sector organisations and information about the Tower Hamlets Education Safeguarding Service, now located within the newly formed Corporate School for Vulnerable Children.

As we head into 2020 another busy year is already taking shape with key events and activities that put parents and carers at the centre of service delivery and design.

You can share your views and meet other parents and carers by joining the Parent and Carer Council (PCC), the borough forum with more than 300 registered members. It meets three times a year and a crèche is provided so that all parents and carers have an opportunity to attend.

You can also attend one of the drop-in sessions at the Parents Advice Centre for support and information about transition, SEND and much more. See the spring programme on page 19.

Make it your New Year's resolution to get involved, call into the Parents Advice Centre and join the PCC! For more information, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parentcouncil

The Parent and Family Support Service looks forward to working with you in 2020.

Best wishes,

Jill McGinley

Head of Parent and Family Support Service

References to 'parents' describes any caregiver responsible for the care, protection and upbringing of a child or young person, including foster parents or connected persons, grandparents, sibling or other family members.

References to 'SEND' as used in some articles is the abbreviation of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

This newsletter is produced by the Parental Engagement Team within the Parent and Family Support Service, Children and Culture Directorate. To share news in future editions of Families Matter contact:

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Parental Engagement Team 2019-20 Snapshot Survey

The annual Parental Engagement Team Satisfaction Snapshot Survey is an opportunity for parents, carers and professional partners to share their views as service users about the impact of programmes and the support they receive. This information is used to review, shape and improve how we work with families in the borough.

Taking place over one week in the autumn term, parents who access workshops and support as well as schools and partners who work with the Parental Engagement Team are asked to complete an anonymous survey and give feedback.

Programmes covered by this survey included:

- Parenting courses
- Online safety workshops
- Curriculum and creative workshops (from early years to secondary school)
- Transition support
- Passport to Learning courses to support parents into employment
- Healthy Families programmes
- Emotional First Aid courses for parents
- Targeted individual parent and family support work.

Survey results

97% parents agreed that accessing the service/course helped them to understand their child's development and improve their relationship.



96% parents agreed that the service/course had increased their confidence and awareness, supporting their learning and development.



96% parents agreed that accessing the service/course increased their knowledge and understanding, enabling them to learn something new.



78% parents agreed that coming into the school/setting regularly had improved their relationships with the school/setting staff.



97% parents agreed that the service/course had provided them with information and/or support which helped them in their role as a parent.



97% parents agreed that the staff delivering the service/course were knowledgeable and professional.



98% parents said that they would recommend the service/course to another parent.



Parental engagement in schools

Evidence shows that when parents and carers have a good relationship with their child's school and setting and are involved in their learning, life chances and outcomes for children and young people are improved.

The Tower Hamlets Parental Engagement Team work flexibly to offer schools and settings expert advice and support to effectively involve and engage their parent community.

Our programmes include:

- School-ready and curriculum workshops
- Keeping children safe sessions
- Parenting programmes
- Emotional health and wellbeing sessions
- One-to-one support for vulnerable families
- Volunteering opportunities and employment support.

For more information, visit www.ths4s.co.uk, call **020 7364 1952**, or email parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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I can't say enough good things about how lucky we feel.

The family support practitioner from the Parental Engagement Team has been an invaluable member of the Halley Primary School inclusion team by ensuring both pupils, staff and parents have the most current and relevant support and providing a safety net for all when in times of need or crisis.

Her breadth of knowledge, skills and experience has ensured greater access to services and support. She is a positive, supportive member of the school team and a great asset, which we feel very fortunate to have and be able to offer.

Shoshannah Thompson, Headteacher, Halley Primary School

Read about Halley's Parental Engagement Team support on page 4.

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How does your school listen to and collect parents' views?

How do you build effective relationships with families?

A day in the life of a family support practitioner

What does a family support and engagement practitioner from the Parental Engagement Team do? That is a good question. Every day is different but the underlying work we do is to empower parents and carers to enhance their skills and confidence to support their child's learning and outcomes. To do this we build positive relationships with families and schools.

Halley Primary School needed to add capacity to their safeguarding team as well as someone to oversee attendance. As I had been a designated safeguarding lead in my previous role, it was thought I would be a good fit.

Part of my role is to also provide support to families whose children have a medical need. This includes setting up meetings with the school nurse team prior to the Health Care Plan expiring and providing training to parents on administering auto injectors. These sessions have been held during coffee mornings where parents feel more relaxed.

A huge amount of work is also being done around school attendance. For many families there are underlying issues at home that have an impact on their children's attendance. My role is to support families to find solutions and includes planning workshops inviting parents to informal meetings when their child's attendance drops below 95%. I, along with school staff, look at ways to support the family so that attendance does not drop further.

This level of support was further validated when a colleague from the Behaviour and Attendance Support Service wrote a report for the headteacher stating that procedures to tackle any attendance issues were efficient and robust.



The headteacher has a clear plan for her school with parental engagement being at the forefront. Every week there is something going on that parents can access such as assemblies, workshops or drop-in sessions. Some of these I deliver but I also work with other agencies and services that come into the school. The entire school team works really hard to ensure that parents are actively involved with their child's education.

Staff look to me for support and advice on ways they can best support parents, which is crucial. This is why I have been able to support such a high number of parents since September, whether it be a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on or signposting on to additional support.

There is a real family spirit at Halley and I have been accepted with open arms. The partnership is working really well and I look forward to seeing where the headteacher's vision takes the school in the future.

Denise Foster
Parental Engagement Team

To find out how a family support practitioner from the Parental Engagement Team can support your school, email parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Storytelling matters

Parents from **Children's House Nursery School** have been learning about the importance of storytelling and unleashing their inner storyteller in the process. Over a three week course delivered by the Parental Engagement Team, parents explored techniques such as improvisation in order to discover their storytelling voice. The workshop culminated with a joint parent and child session with the parents having a chance to show off their newly developed storytelling skills to their children.

Why stories are important

- Stories introduce children to new words, many more than they will hear in their day to day life. Researchers have found that children who hear stories regularly have wider vocabularies and better language skills.
- Telling stories to children can enhance their imaginations. Stories show them faraway places, extraordinary people and eye-opening situations to expand and enrich their worlds.
- Stories help children to understand people. Children who hear stories regularly show more empathy and have better developed 'theory of mind' (the ability to understand that other people have different thoughts and feelings to you).

Outdoor learning at Children's House

Parents from **Children's House Nursery School** have been discovering the benefits of outdoor learning in a specialist workshop delivered by the Parental Engagement Team. The workshop, which took place in the autumn term, exploited the rich outdoor environment that the changing season provided. Natural materials like twigs, conkers and leaves provided the stimulus for a variety of open ended activities and led to the realisation that you don't need expensive toys or resources to help your child learn.

The course gave parents the opportunity to share their experiences and concerns that children today have fewer opportunities to play and learn outside. Busier family lives, combined with an increased sense of fear in society, means that families are spending more time inside. In an effort to inspire the parents, trips were an integral feature of the course with the families enjoying visits to the local park and Mudchute Farm.



Emotional Literacy

The Parental Engagement Team continues to evolve their learning programme with the addition of a new course called Emotional Literacy. The three part workshop, which was created by practitioner Nazia Ahmed, builds on the very latest research into the 'Growth Mindset' and aims to equip parents with the tools to raise emotionally resilient children. The programme, which has been delivered in **Old Palace Primary School**, will be rolled out in a number of primary schools this academic year.

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The course explores the importance of expressing emotions in a healthy way and the crucial role parents play in moulding their child's attitude to learning.



Nazia Ahmed, Family Support and Engagement Practitioner

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Let's talk about maths

Parents attending a Maths in the Early Years workshop at **Old Church Nursery School** have been discovering how language plays a key role in early mathematical learning. The workshop, delivered by the Parental Engagement Team, also explores the value of using everyday materials and practical experiences so that their children can touch and do in order to learn. As the three week workshop progressed, parents began to feel more confident using mathematical vocabulary and providing their children with open-ended learning experiences where they could sort, compare, count, calculate and describe.



Reading together boosts learning

Parents attending a Reading Together workshop at **Marnar Primary School** have been reading alongside their children not only as a bonding experience, but also in an effort to boost learning. They have been learning that the process of reading together facilitates enriched language exposure and fosters the development of listening skills, spelling, reading comprehension and vocabulary.

In addition, reading aloud to children benefits their cognitive development and activates brain areas related to narrative comprehension and mental imagery.

The workshop, delivered by the Parental Engagement Team, also emphasises the key role parents play in influencing children's attitudes toward reading, as well as building their confidence and competence as readers.





Harry Gosling shines bright

Parents and children from **Harry Gosling Primary School** have been illuminating Aldgate and bringing communities together in the process. They were involved in a vibrant, seasonal project, the Aldgate Lantern Parade and Winter Fete, which aims to celebrate the cultural wealth of the Aldgate area.

For the first part of the project, children and parents worked together making lanterns out of willow and tissue paper, creating their own design for each one. The lanterns evolved from a few spindly pieces of willow into unique light sculptures.

The completed lanterns took pride of place in a very special parade on 6 December 2019. The communities around Aldgate came together to light up the streets and celebrate.

Parent volunteers at St John's



Parents from **St John's CE Primary School** have been learning how to support children's learning in a specialist course delivered by the Parental Engagement Team. **The Volunteering in Your Child's School** course equips parents with the skills necessary for their role as volunteer. On completing the course, the proud parents received huge applause from children and staff as they were presented with their certificates at the whole school awards assembly.

The parent volunteers have already been playing a key role in school life. They have helped organise an international evening and Christmas Fair to raise funds for extra-curricular activities.

Keen to support families at the school, the volunteers have even taken over responsibility for the maintenance of the parents' notice board. Using this, they hope to keep parents informed and encourage them to become more involved in school life.

Two of the parents have also gone on to gain employment in schools.



Busy year for Cubitt Town

Parent Celebration

2019 was a busy year for Cubitt Town Infants' and Junior Schools. In July 2019, the schools celebrated the achievements of parents at a special assembly held in the Infant School hall. The event, attended by headteachers, parents, children and business partners, recognised parents' commitment to their studies in a diverse range of disciplines – everything from tennis to British Sign Language.

Food academy

The school has also been building new partnerships, including one with top chef Ben Purton and Carlos from the Food Academy. Through this unique collaboration, it is hoped that parents will eventually gain employment in the catering industry.



Playing netball

Netball

Another partnership with the Tower Hamlets Sports Department and Netball England has allowed parents to get fit



Trip to the London Zoo funded by Apples & Pears Charity

while developing their netball skills. There has also been mums and kids netball sessions at the Selmo Centre provided by England Netball and working in partnership with Communities Driving Change and One Housing.

London Zoo

There was also lots to do during the summer holidays at the Cubitt Town Community House. Two groups of parents, grandparents and children visited London Zoo at the start of the holidays which was funded by Apples & Pears Charity.

West End shows

All Cubitt Town families were given the opportunity to see top West End shows for £5 per person as part of the school's partnership with the Mousetrap Theatre Family First Nights. Families that took up the offer went to see shows such as

Wicked, Beatrice Potter, Zog, The Hungry Caterpillar and The Worst Witch.

Sailing

Three Cubitt Town mums, who earlier accessed the free Royal Yachting sailing course at the Docklands Sailing and Water Sports Centre, applied for free spaces for their children to take part in their summer water sports activities. The mums also volunteered at the centre to help with the 'Push the Boat Out' event.



Royal Yachting Sailing course

The schools are looking forward to building on their holiday activities in the future. Follow the community work of the Cubitt Town schools on Twitter @CubittComHouse

Mayor's poverty fund in action

Shapla Primary School is the base for a great initiative supporting families with funding from the Tower Hamlets Mayor – a



clothes bank. It provides help and support for three primary schools in a family learning cluster (Harry Gosling, Shapla and St Paul's Whitechapel). The clothes bank is open on Tuesday afternoons between 2–3pm.

The clothes bank helps the schools' families in the following ways:

- They have a selection of nearly new second hand coats and clothing that have all been washed and steam pressed. Families in need who have children from the targeted schools can come along and take a coat from the rails.
- Donations are collected by a clothes bank volunteer in each school. In addition, any uncollected school uniforms in lost property are collected, washed and steam ironed and returned to the schools. These can be used in school for any emergency.
- Families in need can also be referred by their school with the clothes bank offering a set of uniform, PE Kit underwear and toiletries.
- The clothes bank also offers an emergency new born bag that contains nappies, sleep suits and a blanket for targeted families expecting a new arrival.

The clothes bank is led by Debbie Lovett, Learning Mentor at Shapla and Janice Hill, Family Learning Coordinator. Some great volunteers also help out.

For more information email janice@shapla.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Making money add up

Research shows that attitudes to money and careers are formed at a very young age, and that families have a big impact on their



formation. This idea is central to the Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership's (THEBP) financial literacy programme called Abacus. The programme aims to engage children and their parents in the practical and emotional aspects of money. Through fun, interactive workshops at school, parents and children learn separately about the same topics.

Partnership work is a key feature of this project with THEBP collaborating with Quaker Social Action, funders Lloyd's, the world's specialist insurance market, as well as parent workers at Smithy Street, Old Palace, Clara Grant and Marion Richardson primary schools. Like all THEBP programmes, Abacus has young people's employability and aspirations as a core principle and sees parents as key influencers in shaping young people's aspirations.

For more information, visit www.thebp.org.uk

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Abacus is a great way to introduce discussions about money with our families. Money is not a topic that is traditionally discussed and Abacus allows us to talk about it in a culturally sensitive way.

Khaleda Begum, Parent Worker,
Smithy Street School

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William Davis Parents Forum

Raising our children to be respectful and peaceful citizens



Last term, **William Davis Primary School** organised a parents forum and invited parents, carers

and staff from our local East 1 Partnership Schools and neighbouring Bethnal Green schools.

The school organised the meeting because they were concerned about the impact of inappropriate language and behaviour that young children observe through exposure to media and older siblings. The school challenged the attendees to reflect on how we can help our children to navigate and filter what they see and hear; and to know right from wrong.

The school invited six panel members:

- Denise De-Goze, Tower Hamlets Schools and Families Team Manager, Parental Engagement Team
- Imam Sheikh Mohammed Mahmoud, East London Mosque
- John Fortune, Tower Hamlets Neighbourhood Manager
- Liam McQuade, Tower Hamlets Support for Learning Service
- Revd Erin Clark, St Matthew's Bethnal Green
- Sarah Kahn, SNT Police Sergeant (Stepney, Bethnal Green and St Peters).

Parents and staff shared their worries and concerns including:

- Social media is changing all the time and it is hard for parents and carers to supervise their children
- There is a lower threshold for "bad language" on television, in music and on social media
- It is easy for children to have unsupervised access to social media from a young age on iPads, tablets and iPhones
- Children are vulnerable to older peers who may expose them to gang culture
- Children can become addicted to gaming and, as a result, more aggressive over time.

The panel, parents and staff all contributed to shared their thoughts about how our community can work together to keep children safe. Key advice included:

- Set boundaries early on to avoid battles later
- Raise issues that concern you e.g. age appropriate films and games
- Make sure you know what sites children are using and their passwords
- Try to find trusted adults (e.g. an aunt or cousin) who can keep an eye on a young person
- Challenge secrets and unexplained gifts – get to know their friends
- Find organised activities for young people
- Ensure parents can access high quality support if needed.

Annika Eadie, Headteacher
William Davis Primary School

Creative writing competition



The Tower Hamlets Schools Library Service 2020 Creative Writing Competition has just launched and this year's theme is 'This Hidden Island'. The annual competition is open to all Tower Hamlets children (aged 6-16) with short story and poetry categories for four age groups: Years 1 and 2, Years 3 and 4, Years 5 and 6 and Years 7-11.

Prizes include book tokens and a creative writing workshop with the competition judge, author Chitra Soundar. To inspire children to enter, a team of authors and poets will be running creative writing workshops throughout the borough during spring term.

Workshops

- The Idea Store workshop, 17-21 February. Open to everyone.
- The Professional Development Centre workshops are scheduled in February for home educated children only.

Closing date:

Friday 3 April 2020.

Prize giving ceremony:
Monday 15 June 2020.

For more information, visit
www.towerhamlets-sls.org.uk

Parenting programmes timetable spring term 2020

Parenting programmes in Tower Hamlets are delivered in partnership – staff from the local authority and voluntary sector work together to ensure parents and carers receive the help and information they need.

Parenting programmes are an integral element of early intervention and prevention in order to ensure children and young people get the best possible start in life to achieve their full potential.

Programme	Age	Additional info	Day	Venue
SFSC*	Birth-18 years	Delivered in Bengali	Monday	Parents Advice Centre
Emotional First Aid	Birth-18 years	Delivered in English	Tuesday	Parents Advice Centre
Triple P Group Teen Programme	11-18 years	Delivered in English	Tuesday	City Gateway Women's and Families Project
SFSC	Birth-18 years	Delivered in English	Tuesday	Parents Advice Centre
SFSC	Birth-18 years	Delivered in English	Wednesday	Stebon Primary School
SFSC	Birth-18 years	Delivered in Bengali	Thursday	Wapping and Bigland Children's Centre
Triple P Group Programme	Birth-18 years	Delivered in English	Friday	Overland Children's Centre
ADHD Parenting Programme	5-16 years	For parents of a child with a diagnosis of ADHD	Friday	Parents Advice Centre
Triple P Group Programme	18 months-11 years	Delivered in English	Friday	Mile End Children's Centre
Triple P Discussion Group Series	18 months-18 years	Delivered in English	TBC (one-off sessions)	Various locations in Tower Hamlets

* *Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities*

Parent and Family Support Service EMAIL: parenting@towerhamlets.gov.uk TEL: 020 7364 6398

Parenting support drop-in surgery

A new opportunity for professionals working with families to gain information on the range of evidence based parenting programmes and support delivered in Tower Hamlets.

The sessions are open to any professional who is considering making a referral to the Parenting Team. A Parenting Team manager will be available to advise on the support most likely to suit the specific needs of families.

Wednesdays

12 February, 11 March, 8 April, 6 May and 3 June 2020

11.30am -12.30pm

Tower Hamlets Town Hall, Mulberry Place

No booking required but call **020 7364 6398** or email parenting@towerhamlets.gov.uk for further details.



Somali Parent and Carers Network at new venue

The Somali Parents and Carers Network are developing a hub on the Isle of Dogs in addition to its existing hub in Bow.

A meeting was held at George Green's Secondary School in December. 21 parents attended and the meeting involved lots of discussions on key topics including community cohesion and community safety.

The Somali Parents and Carers Network provides a regular space for families to meet and share their experiences of parenting and to find out about services for families in the borough. It also aims to help parents develop confidence to effectively communicate their views to professionals.

For more information and dates of future meetings, see page 19 or email parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk

The elimination of gender-based violence

On 25 November, the council's Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Team launched their 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, in partnership with Karma Nirvana, a national charity supporting victims of honour-based abuse and forced marriage.

The purpose was to challenge honour-based abuse and forced marriage by promoting community resilience.

The launch event was attended by over 60 people who heard moving accounts from survivors of honour-based abuse and forced marriage. A key theme arising from the event was that everyone should see safeguarding as their responsibility.

Tower Hamlets Council and partners used 16 days of activism to raise awareness of gender-based violence and the support available for victims and perpetrators.



If you are a victim of domestic abuse or work with a victim, you can access support locally through Victim Support on **020 7364 2448**. If you are worried about how you are treating your partner or family member, you can access support through the Respect helpline **0808 802 4040**.

Further information on events held this year can be found at: www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/domesticabuse

Relationships and sex education

In response to the statutory changes to Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) which will come into effect from

September 2020, the Healthy Lives Team will be offering schools support with their RSE provision.

The team have been working with schools, parents and governors and are aware of some misconceptions surrounding the new curriculum. They would like to meet with existing parent groups to ensure that parents have accurate information about the changes to the curriculum and to address misinformation.

The team is committed to working with governors, school staff, pupils and parents to alleviate any fears or concerns over RSE, whilst ensuring that all children and young people are being protected.

They will also be offering support to schools in the delivery of their RSE parent meetings, governor meetings and staff training. They can offer best practice advice and guidance to deliver RSE in an age appropriate and culturally sensitive manner.

One of the main aims of RSE is to ensure that children and young people are kept as safe and protected as possible. RSE fulfils a crucial role in schools carrying out their safeguarding duties.

For more information or to book a member of the Healthy Lives Team for your meeting, contact:

Kate Smith

EMAIL: kate.smith@towerhamlets.gov.uk

TEL: 020 7364 6433



Speakeasy at CFGS

Last term parents at **Central Foundation Girls School** completed the four week Speakeasy course delivered by the Parental Engagement Team. The course provides an opportunity for parents to gain the confidence and skills needed to talk to their children about growing up. It covers puberty, emotional wellbeing, safeguarding, bullying plus a lot more.

Parents also discussed the influences of social media and learnt how to initiate conversations with their children to build resilience and wellbeing. During the final session, Aysha Begum, Parental Engagement and Outreach Worker, discussed the school RSE curriculum and also offered follow up sessions to the parents.

Post course questionnaires revealed that parents had gained confidence and felt better equipped to talk to their children about growing up, sex and relationships, as well as feeling more informed about sexting, social media and safeguarding. They also felt better informed about the PHSE curriculum and what their children learn at school.

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I really enjoyed the course. It was an eye opener as there were new terminologies, ones we have heard of but didn't really know what they were. It was good to talk to other parents about things that we are embarrassed to talk about but do concern our children and communities.

I hope you can run the sessions again so others may benefit.

S Hoque, parent at CFGS

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The Parental Engagement Team will be delivering a universal Speakeasy course for parents in the summer term.

For more information, email

parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Safer Internet Day is on **11 Feb 2020**.

Visit <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/schools/safer-internet-resources/>

Tower Hamlets Education Safeguarding Service

Tower Hamlets Education Safeguarding Service (THESS) sits within the newly formed Corporate School for Vulnerable Children and works in partnership with schools, parents and other agencies and services in the borough. THESS provides safeguarding advice, guidance and



support to educational settings through its offer of training courses. These include bespoke safeguarding training, safer recruitment and e-safety. In addition, support is provided to school safeguarding leads through termly forums that provide the opportunity for participants to learn about the latest safeguarding issues from a range of speakers.

To ensure compliance with statutory education safeguarding requirements, schools are required to complete a safeguarding self-evaluation. THESS reviews submitted evaluations and provides timely feedback to the schools as part of the quality assurance of safeguarding in schools. Visits to schools are also carried out to complete safeguarding overviews.

Specialist advisors follow up on notifications of children being home educated by parents and work to form partnerships with those families to ensure they are best supported. The team also has oversight of children in employment and the entertainment industry to ensure they are sufficiently safeguarded. The Specialist Advisor for Children Missing Education and the Children Missing Education Officer work to identify and follow up on children missing education as well as missing children. They also maintain the statutory Missing Children Register (MCR).

Another important area for THESS is identifying and following up unregistered 'schools' and education settings within the borough. The service also follows up referrals from Ofsted that raise concerns about safeguarding in schools.

For further information contact thess@towerhamlets.gov.uk

The cost of love: the importance of secure attachment parenting

Adolescents who are less securely attached to their parents cost society more at age 13 according to a new study published in the *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*. It reveals that adolescents who don't enjoy an open, trusting relationship with their parents cost more money through their use of public services.

The study, conducted by King's College London, looked at 174 adolescents aged 9 to 17. Those who were insecurely attached to their mothers cost £10,200 versus £6,700 for those who were securely attached. The cost difference for fathers was even greater, £1,300 versus £14,000.

Each young person was given an in-depth interview called the Child Attachment Interview. The results revealed whether the child had a secure or insecure attachment to their parent(s).

Those who were insecurely attached cost society more money because they use more services.

To read the report:
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/jcpp.13103>



Support and friendship for families from Home-Start



Home-Start represents a lifeline for families with at least one child under the age of five, who are experiencing challenges or finding it difficult

to cope. Home-Start volunteers support families in their own home offering both emotional and practical support for three hours each week. Home-Start works with families to build on their strengths, providing support that is non-judgemental, compassionate and confidential.

Volunteers come from all walks of life and undergo comprehensive training. They help parents to build confidence, enabling them to access local services and encouraging them to become part of the community.

If you would like to make a difference to local families by volunteering with Home-Start, or if you feel that you or a family you work with would benefit from one-to-one support, give us a call or visit our website for further information.

TEL: 020 8371 0674

EMAIL: admin@homestarttowerhamlets.org

WEB: www.homestartbarnet.org

f @HSBarnet

t @HomeStartBarnet

Please note that as Home-Start Tower Hamlets is a new service, Home-Start Barnet are currently running the administration. Home-Start Tower Hamlets branding will follow very soon.

Support for young carers

Being a young person is challenging enough, but for young carers who are often hidden from statutory

provisions it is even more difficult. Recent legislation and national campaigns have raised the profile of these vulnerable young people, but what exactly is a young carer and how can we support them?



A young carer is a person aged 18 or under who provides unpaid care for a friend or family member. This could include supporting someone with a long-term illness, a physical or learning disability, a substance misuse problem or a mental health condition. The support they give can vary, but typically young carers provide a combination of personal, practical and emotional care.

With so many adult responsibilities, young carers often miss out on opportunities that other children have to play and learn. Many struggle educationally and are sometimes bullied for being 'different'. They can become isolated, with no relief from the pressures at home, and no chance to enjoy a normal childhood.

This is where the Young Carers Project (YCP) comes in. YCP is run by the Tower Hamlets Youth Service and is for young carers aged 8-18 in Tower Hamlets. The project gives young carers the opportunity to take a break from the daily responsibilities of caring by interacting with others facing similar challenges during weekly respite sessions on Tuesday evenings. In these sessions the group will take part in activities such as art, drama, music, climbing and bowling, all decided by the young people who attend. Alongside these sessions, young carers can also access additional school holiday activities, residential breaks, days out and one-to-one support.

For more information, email young.carers@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Message from Councillor Danny Hassell



It's been another busy few months following the positive outcome of the Ofsted inspection of children's social care in the summer and we have continued to develop our plans and our offer for children and families in the borough. One of our social workers, Djamila Aggabi, won Practice Educator of the Year at the Social Work Awards event at the end of November. It's great to see our practice here in Tower Hamlets being recognised nationally.

There have been further improvements to how many 2 year old children are accessing childcare and early years education. We continue our work to further increase uptake, with capital investment for more places and better promotion of our offer alongside our expansion of holiday childcare for working parents.

During the autumn we officially launched the new 'Every Chance for Every Child' strategy with around 100 parents and children in Bethnal Green. This plan means working across teams in the council, the voluntary sector, health services, police and schools to ensure that we give every child a happy, healthy, safe childhood where they are set up for future success.

In December I was pleased to welcome a group of government officials from Egypt to Children's House Nursery School where they were looking at our work on early years and parental engagement. Manorfield Primary School has also recently hosted a group of head teachers from Shanghai. The international recognition for the educational practice and leadership in the borough should be very much celebrated by us all. Additionally, Mayflower Primary School has achieved the top SATs results, coming out on top of all 15,000 state and independent primary schools in England. This is a fantastic achievement and shows what we can accomplish when we work in partnership to give every chance for every child.

Our newly launched Local Offer seems to be a hit with parents, with almost double the number of people visiting the website. The Local Offer provides information on a range of services, support and events for children and families in the borough. Check it out online at www.localoffertowerhamlets.co.uk.

The council's budget continues to come under great pressure from the year on year reductions in government funding and increased pressures caused by rising demand. Without any more money from government we will have to find over £30m of savings in the next three years which means we continue to have to make difficult decisions. However we remain committed to meeting the needs of families with a strong offer but with a focus on those children who need more support.

Cllr Danny Hassell
Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Young People

Children and Culture newsbites

The Children and Culture Strategy Policy and Partnerships (SPP) team has successfully launched two strategies in the last few months – 'Every Chance for Every Child', the Children and Families Strategy 2019-2024, and the 14-25 Learning and Achievement Strategy – which was accompanied by a conference at Tramshed in Bethnal Green. SPP would like to thank everyone who was involved.

Consultation has also begun on the new Physical Activity and Sport Strategy (PASS) and SPP received some great suggestions from the public. These ideas will help to formulate the delivery of the strategy.

A Play Charter is also being developed. SPP are working closely with the V&A Museum of Childhood on the charter, and will be looking for parents to become Play Ambassadors. Further details will follow in the next issue.

Preparation for the upcoming SEND inspection continues, which the Children and Education scrutiny sub-committee reviewed in October, and will continue to scrutinise.

Work is also underway to support the Primary Place Review. For more information, visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/primaryreviewparent

For more details, email scrutiny2@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Every Chance for Every Child

New strategy for children and families launched

**EVERY
CHANCE
for EVERY
CHILD**

A new strategy for how the council and partners will deliver services for children and young people in Tower Hamlets for the next five years was launched in October 2019 at a family fun day at Meath Gardens Children's Centre. Around 100 children and parents attended.

The three priority areas of the strategy are:

Aspiration to Action

where children and young people can access relevant support to prepare for the future, take advantage of the opportunities available to them and be empowered by support from parents to pursue their aspirations.

Healthy Families

where children, young people and families access the wide range of care play and support options and demonstrate healthy behaviours.

Safe and Secure

where children, young people and families support one another in challenging unsafe behaviours, they understand how to keep themselves safe, and children, young people and families feel safe in their local area.



The strategy sets out both the aspirations for children young people and families and the measures that will be used to judge on their delivery.

It will be regularly monitored and delivered by the Children and Families Partnership Board, working across the council with other strategic decision

makers such as the NHS, the Metropolitan Police and the Tower Hamlets Community for Voluntary Service (THCVS).

For more information and to read the strategy visit www.childrenandfamiliestrust.co.uk/the-children-and-families-partnership

Local Offer Update

Tower Hamlets is currently one of the highest ranked boroughs in terms of Local Offer usage – thank you to all users for consistently using this resource.

2019 was a busy and successful year. Working with the SEND Parent Ambassadors, the Local Offer has been promoted at 35 outreach events at various settings across the borough since March.

Ambassadors have spoken to schools, foster carers, professionals, parents and young people in order to raise awareness about SEND services, the Local Offer and the SEND Parent Ambassador Programme.

If you are interested in the Local Offer and SEND Parent Ambassadors coming to your school or setting to speak with parents, email local.offer@towerhamlets.gov.uk

If you are interested in becoming a SEND Parent Ambassador and would like more information, email sendparentambassadors@gmail.com

One of the Local Offer stalls was visited by Mayor John Biggs and Cabinet Members from the council, who talked about the work being done to reach out to the community to raise awareness around SEND.

During the first half of 2020, the Young Peoples Zone will be developed on the Local Offer. This new site will incorporate lots of ideas from the young people we work with.



Local Offer stall with Mayor John Biggs and Cabinet Members

We have also developed a working group with some of the young people that use the Young People's Advice Centre. They have lots of creative ideas as to how they want the site to look and work. The Local Offer Team wants to work with as many young people, parents and professionals as possible on this exciting new project so if you would like to be involved, email local.offer@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Tower Hamlets Independent SEND Parents Forum

The Tower Hamlets Independent SEND Parents Forum is pan-disability. Members work with families and professionals from the council and health services to ensure the views of parents, carers and young people contribute to the design and delivery of services.



Make sure your voice counts! Have your say!

Education
Health and
Care Plans
(EHCP)

Transport

Health and
social care

Short
breaks

Education

Transition

Post 16

and much more.

Join other parents and carers of children and young people with SEND (0-25 years) for coffee and talk about the issues that are important to you. For more information, email thesendforum@gmail.com, call 07498 573872 or find us on Twitter @ThsendF.

Important dates and events for parents

Date/time	Event
Every Thursday during term time 10am-12pm	SEND Parents Support Group facilitated by Information Advice and Support Service (IASS) staff. For parents/carers to provide emotional support to each other and build resilience with monthly talks from professionals on key topics identified by the group. For more information call 020 7364 6481 .
First Tuesday of every month 10am-12pm	Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Parent Support Group facilitated by IASS staff. For parents/carers of girls with ASD to share experiences and ideas, hear from guest speakers, professionals and establish networks of support. For more information call 020 7364 6489 .
First Thursday of every month 6 Feb, 5 March, 2 April 12-1.30pm	SEND Parent Ambassadors. For parents/carers of children with SEND. Following training ambassadors provide outreach and attend various events to promote parent participation, raise awareness of the Local Offer, encourage inclusion in the community and inform decision making at a strategic level. For more information call 020 7364 6481 .
Mondays, 10 Feb, 9 March, 27 April, 18 May, 15 June, 13 July Tuesdays 4 Feb, 24 March 9.30-10.30am	Somali Parents and Carers Network. The network meets monthly and provides opportunities for Somali parents/carers to discuss key issues around education, health and wellbeing, obtain information and hear from guest speakers. Held on Mondays at Malmsbury Primary School and on Tuesday at George Green's Secondary School. For more information email parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Saturday 7 March 10am-1.30pm	Parent and Carer Council meeting. The borough's main family forum and key consultation vehicle to support borough-wide consultation with parents and carers.
Tuesday 17 March 9.30am-2pm	The Life of a SEND Family. A Conference on Transitioning for Life. Organised by the Tower Hamlets Independent SEND Parents Forum. Discuss the different stages of transition for children with SEND, looking at school, home and health. For parents and professional partners. For more information email thsendforum@gmail.com
Wednesday 18 March 2020 9.15am-2pm	Annual Parent and Carer Conference – Every Chance for Every Child. Save the date. Further information on how to book places for parents will be available shortly.

Important Young People's Advice Centre (YPAC) events

Date/time	Event
Wednesdays 26 Feb, 25 March 4.30-6pm	SEND Young People Ambassadors. For young people with SEND. Following training ambassadors attend various events to inform and empower young people, raise awareness and inform development of the Local Offer, increase young people's participation and influence decision makers.
First Wednesday of every month 5 Feb, 4 March, 1 April, 6 May 4.30-6pm	Our Time Youth Forum. An all ability youth forum run for and by young people 16-25 with SEND. Supporting young people to have their voices/views heard, gain new skills, make new friends, build their confidence and to understand their rights in regards to SEND.

Trip to Big Ben to make a noise about SEND

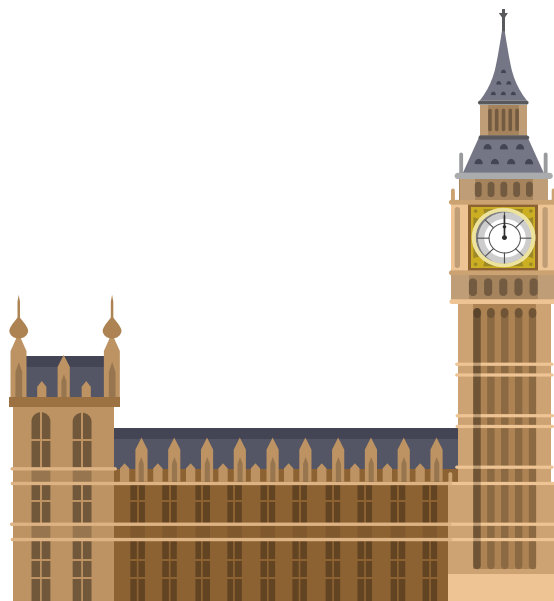
Our Time Youth Forum is planning a trip to the Houses of Parliament to raise awareness of issues facing young people with SEND.

The forum was founded in 2015 by young people from Tower Hamlets, 16-25 with SEND. It has since made a series of films raising awareness of young people's rights, helped out with local consultations and organised trips bowling and to the V&A.

Last year the forum decided that they would like to organise a trip to the Houses of Parliaments so they wrote a letter to a local MP, Rushanara Ali. They received a response from her office and are now planning to visit later this year.

The forum also does lots of creative projects at the Young People's Advice Centre (YPAC) and in local schools and colleges. Over the summer they completed an ASDAN leadership programme with the Tower Hamlets Youth Service.

The forum meets on the first Wednesday of the month, 4.30pm-6pm, and is always keen to welcome new members. For more YPAC events see page 19.



Upcoming events

Youth Forum meeting and film screening with refreshments.

Wednesday 4 March 2020
4.30-6.30pm

For more information, contact:

Charlotte Latimer

EMAIL: charlotte.latimer@towerhamlets.gov.uk

TEL: **020 7364 4982** or **07939 984795**

Young People's Advice Centre, 30 Greatorex Street, London, E1 5NP

One Stop Shop closures

One Stop Shops at Crisp Street and Bow will be closing on 17 January 2020. After this date, residents will need to access council services online or get support at nearby Idea Stores. Staff are on hand to help residents in the borough's digital hubs.

The counter service at the Bethnal Green One Stop Shop (Rushmead) will also stop on this date, however, the service provided by Tower Hamlets Homes will continue. Tower Hamlets Homes has also taken over the running of the building, but assistance with council transactions will still be available here for those who need it, by appointment.

Please keep this in mind and make sure that you are no longer referring residents to One Stop Shops in any of your work or conversations.

For more information visit
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/savetimegoonline



Help Toynbee Hall tackle big issues

Londoners in 2019 face a great deal of challenges – from unaffordable housing to insecure or low paid work. Toynbee Hall, a charity based in the East End since 1884, tackles the causes and impact of poverty. They offer high quality, timely services, informed and shaped by the people who have experienced these issues first hand. The charity is looking for passionate individuals to get involved in some of their current projects and help tackle some of society's big issues.



Get involved!

Improving private renting in East London

A group of young people from East London are researching how renting can be made better. If you are working with someone aged 18-30 who has faced difficulties renting privately and would be happy to be interviewed about their experiences, contact Philip:

TEL: **07872 109731**

EMAIL: philip.mullen@toynbeehall.org.uk

Basic bank accounts

Toynbee Hall are interested in hearing from parents who hold a basic bank account (the bank account with a debit card but no credit card, overdraft and interest charges). They are trying to gather views on what's good or not so good about these accounts and how they could be improved. For more details, contact Jen:

TEL: **07534 266569**

EMAIL: research@toynbeehall.org.uk



Action on Transport

Toynbee Hall's Better Transport for All campaign aims to improve the accessibility of transport for older and disabled people. They are campaigning to improve passenger behaviour and are currently co-designing bus driver training.

If you are a parent who struggles to use public transport and wants to take action, contact Beth:

TEL: **07983 462374**

EMAIL: bethan.mobey@toynbeehall.org.uk



Community Cohesion work recognised

A local school parent support co-ordinator has been honoured with the prestigious London Faith and Community Award for her ground-breaking work in supporting families and contributing to community cohesion.

Alison Jones, who has worked tirelessly over the years to engage parents in their children's learning at Marion Richardson Primary School, was also recognised within the wider community. Alison has been at the forefront of

many exciting community projects including encouraging Muslim parents to volunteer at a Christian night shelter, forging links with a Jewish day centre, organising carol singing for a local elderly people's home and so much more.

Keen to empower others, Alison's latest project has involved the training of 15 parents to become community organisers. Congratulations to Alison from the Parental Engagement Team!

Home educators information event and Rising Stars Awards 2019

The 2019 home educators information event took place at the V&A Museum of Childhood in December. The event included a mathematics inspiration workshop delivered by the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership plus an opportunity for parents to network, share ideas and engage with the borough's specialist advisors for elective home education.

There was also a workshop on SEND issues and concerns delivered by the Family Information Advice and Support Team (part of the Parent and Family Support Service) with an awareness raising session on the Local Offer.

The School Health Team shared information on alternative pathways to access their support if your child is not educated in a school setting.

In the museum galleries, creative activities for children aged 4-16 were delivered by the Parent and Family Support Service to allow parents to attend the meeting.

The event also celebrated the wide ranging achievements of children through the much anticipated Rising Stars awards, now in its second year. These were presented by Cllr Danny Hassell.

The next event is scheduled for the autumn term and will be delivered in partnership between the Education Safeguarding Service and the Parent and Family Support Service.

Some of the parents who joined the Parent and Carer Council (PCC) after attending the 2018 event said that the information they had received over the year had been helpful. For more information on the Parent and Carer Council visit www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/parentcouncil

Thank you to the V&A Museum of Childhood for hosting the event and sharing their programme of activities with the families.

“

It's been really useful for finding out what is going on and to access support. Emails have kept us informed about events that we would otherwise not have known about.

Parent who joined the PCC after attending the 2018 information event.

”

Rising Stars

Ten children received Rising Stars awards for their efforts and learning achievements including:

- **Josiah Burden** (aged 13). He entered a photo in a competition and came second in the junior category. The theme of his photo was 'Community on the Isle of Dogs'; it has been enlarged and is now on display at Café Forever community centre.
- **Halima Omari-Hakim** (aged 8). Her drawing for Black History Month was shown in Canning Town Library last October. She was also one of the five finalists in the under 12's category for the Canary Wharf Wildlife Photography Competition 2019 for her photo of a butterfly.



All the children had displays which showcased their fantastic achievements. **Well done to all the children involved!**

Parent Champions commended at Buckingham Palace Garden Party



Two Parent Champions who raise awareness of children and young people's mental health were commended for their volunteering efforts and invited to attend the Queen's 2019 summer garden party. Lisa Cassidy and Marie McLeod, alongside Parental Engagement Advisor Fiona Stokes represented the award winning Tower Hamlets Parent Champions scheme.

Marie and Lisa were winners of the 2018 National Parent Champion Volunteer of the Year Award. The Tower Hamlets scheme was nominated for a royal invitation by Coram Family and Childcare who support the Parent Champions programme at a national level and attend the Buckingham Palace garden party each year. The Tower Hamlets Parent Champions scheme would like to thank Coram Family and Childcare for extending the invitation.

To book a Parent Champion mental health workshop email parentcouncil@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Meet your local Family Information Officer

Sharon Eames is a Family Information Officer and shares information on her role supporting local families to access information on services, particularly on childcare.



“ Having been a Family Information Officer for over 20 years, there is not much I don't know about what's going on in the borough for children, young people and their families.

There have been a lot of changes – from posting out hard copy information to going hi-tech and 'Paperlite' with electronic communication and a new website directory called the Local Offer. When I first started, we only had one laptop that was connected to the internet between five of us. How things have come on since then.

Callers come to us for all sorts of information and my expertise is in childcare. I have a great working relationship with all the childcare providers in the borough – childminders, day nurseries and pre-schools, along with Ofsted, who supply me with the most up to date childcare information on a daily basis. Anyone can contact me for information about childcare in Tower Hamlets, including professionals.

Also, the Tower Hamlets Local Offer is a big part of my daily

The Family Information Service (FIS) provides the first point of contact for children's services enquiries and advice and assistance to parents, carers, service providers and practitioners, signposting to services for birth-19 year olds and up to 25 years old for young people with disabilities.

The team provide:

- Telephone helpline from Monday to Friday 9-5pm as well as a community outreach service
- Impartial information, advice and guidance on childcare and a childcare brokerage service.

Parents and carers can also drop-in for advice at the Parents Advice Centre, 30 Greatorex Street, E1 5NP.

For more information email fis@towerhamlets.gov.uk or call **020 7364 6495**.

routine. It's a great place to find out about all the services available for families. I am (what some people might call) one of the 'caretakers' of the Local Offer, keeping the information up-to-date and making sure information about new services is included.

I can honestly say after all these years I still really like what I am doing – providing information for families and the professionals who work with them is very rewarding.



Holiday Childcare Scheme

Wraparound Childcare Pilot

The Holiday Childcare Team is supporting primary schools in the borough to enhance or develop new wraparound childcare provision via breakfast and afterschool clubs. If your school is interested in receiving support from the Holiday Childcare Team please contact HCS.

Lance Lathino, Holiday Childcare Team Manager

lance.lathino@towerhamlets.gov.uk

February Scheme

Bookings for the February scheme open from Monday 13 January 2020. The Holiday Childcare Team has been busy planning the scheme and organising lots of fun filled activities. The theme for the early years area is 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and the theme for the main scheme is 'Superheroes'. Further details on bookings, costs, activities and polices are available at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/hcs

Holiday Childcare Schemes 2020

We are pleased to release the dates of the schemes taking place in 2020.

Scheme	Dates
February	Monday 17 – Friday 21 February (5 days)
Easter	Monday 6 – Friday 17 April (8 days) Note: Friday 10 and Monday 13 April are bank holidays
May	Tuesday 26 – Friday 29 May (4 days) Note: Monday 25 May is a bank holiday
Summer	Monday 21 of July – Friday 21 of August (25 days)
October	Monday 26 – Friday 30 October (5 days)

Referrals

The Holiday Childcare Team provides a number of places for children with SEND and vulnerable referrals from Children's Social Care, schools and other partner agencies at each scheme. For information and support about vulnerable referrals, contact the Holiday Childcare Team.

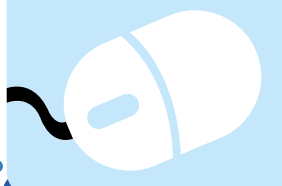
020 7364 0523

[holiday.childcare@](mailto:holiday.childcare@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

towerhamlets.gov.uk

891

sessions
booked



21%

increase
compared to
October 2018



59

schools
represented



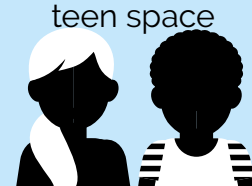
13

local trips
took place



3

transition visits
to Limehouse
Youth Hub for our
teen space





Early Years

Children in our early years area were welcomed with Gruffalo themed activities throughout the week. The children enjoyed a plethora of arts and crafts and daily cooking activities took place. Our cooking and baking activities are so popular that the children asked for more of this at our next scheme. We also welcomed lots of new children who were introduced to their key workers and animal group.



Main Scheme

The rainy autumn weather did not stop our children from taking part in any activities and going outside. Our arts and crafts room was busy with clay modelling, leaf art and many more activities. Dodgeball, bench football and rounders kept our children physically active throughout the scheme. Children who have recently transitioned into the main scheme from our early years area particularly enjoyed Lego building and imaginative play. Outside the children's favourite activity was hide and seek!



Teen Space

At the scheme children relaxed in a dedicated teen space room, our beanbags were popular and there were numerous games of pool played. Children in the teen space went on a joint trip with the main scheme to Queen Elizabeth Park so they could have a day in the park together. Many of our children had not visited the Ragged School Museum before, children took part in a number of science activities which were enjoyed. We expanded the transition pilot project this scheme so more visits took place to Limehouse Youth Hub.



Celebrations

- **Brodi aged 8 years:** award presented for her exceptional behaviour during the scheme trip.
- **Zac aged 10 years:** award presented for great football skills and team work.
- **Esther aged 9 years:** award presented for being a great competitor in the team football game.



Visitors

As part of the European Day of Memory and Welcome, the Holiday Childcare Scheme welcomed Alia a professional storyteller and workshop facilitator from the HEC Global Learning Centre who delivered story telling workshops to our children on migration and identity. This forms part of a wider commitment to enhance our inclusive practice at the holiday schemes even further.



Feedback

Parents/carers (28% gave feedback)

- 96% rated our activities as very good or good
- 100% rated our staff as very good or good
- 98% said they would use the scheme again

Children (45% gave feedback)

Children at the scheme were consulted and have asked for the following:

- More cooking activities
- More baking activities
- More sports activities such as badminton and basketball
- Dance activities
- Lots more trips – we love the farm!


The Holiday Childcare Team will be working hard to include these activities at our next scheme in February!



"Great work. A very good service put on by Tower Hamlets. Staff are great."
Parent/carer

"Child enjoys attending the trips that the scheme provides. The activities are great."
Parent/carer

"My child loved it. First time coming to the scheme. She loved the game room and art activities."
Parent/carer



Holiday Childcare Scheme Ofsted Inspection

On Wednesday 23 of October the Tower Hamlets Holiday Childcare Scheme received an Ofsted inspection at St Matthias Primary School.

Ofsted updated their inspection framework and grading criteria from September 2019 and we are the first holiday club in Tower Hamlets to be inspected through this framework.

Ofsted rated the Holiday Childcare Scheme as 'MET' following the inspection. This is the highest grade available!

"We would like to thank all of our parents and carers for your continued support and feedback which allows us to continuously improve and meet the needs of your children.

Our staff do an amazing job and without them we would not be able to provide such a high quality service. A huge well done and thanks to our staff who have supported us during this scheme."

Lance Lathino
Holiday Childcare Team Manager

Highlights of the report:

- The provider continually reflects on the club and identifies ways they can improve. They are open to suggestions of ways to improve the club and give opportunities to parents, children and staff to share their views and take them into consideration.
- Children enjoy their time at the club. They enthusiastically enter in the morning and settle into the day quickly. They are excited to see the staff and demonstrate they feel happy and safe.
- Staff have clear expectations of children's behaviour. Children help to decide on the rules of the club and reflect why the rules are in place. Staff are positive role models for children. They support children to reflect on their behaviour and help them to understand how they can correct their actions.
- Partnership working with local schools and services is well established.
- Children are provided with choices, they can choose what they would like for their snack and what activities they would like to take part in.
- Staff have good two-way communication with parents. Parents express that they are happy with the club and feel their children are safe and well cared for.
- Staff use meal and snack times to promote independence and encourage children to do things for themselves and to develop their personal care needs.
- Staff praise children for their individual achievements, which helps strengthen children's self-esteem.
- The manager provides ongoing support for staff to help them improve their knowledge and skills.

Our Ofsted report is available to view.

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/16/119619>



Early Help

Our vision for Early Help is that every family should get the right support at the right time to ensure that needs are addressed quickly thus preventing further escalation or crises and ensuring that resources are put to the best possible use. Training is available to all professionals across the children and families partnership including:

- Local Safeguarding Children's Board
- Schools
- Children's centres and day care providers
- GPs/health visitors and other health professionals
- Employment agencies
- Housing providers
- Police, probation and fire services
- Early Help Services
- Private and voluntary sector organisations
- Lead workers and staff involved in 'Team around the Family' meetings
- Other staff who come into contact with families.

The training programme includes the following topics:

- Early Help practice and assessment skills training
- Early Help assessment technical/systems training
- Effective multi-agency working – role of the lead professional
- Integrated working for Early Help managers
- Restorative practice training
- Reducing parental conflict training programme
- Trauma based training.

E-learning

E-learning and awareness modules being developed include:

- Early Help e-awareness
- Whole family working
- Role of the lead professional.

For more information, visit

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/earlyhelp

Tel: **020 7364 2154**

Email: kobita.begum@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Parent and Family Support Service

Date/time	Event
Wednesday 29 April 9-10.30am	Parental Engagement Professionals Network Provides an opportunity for all staff working with parents in schools to network, consider the challenges when working with parents and share best practice.
Wednesday 18 March 9.15am-2pm	Annual Parent and Carer Conference – Every Chance for Every Child Save the date. Further information on how to book places for parents will be available shortly.
Thursday 26 March 5.30-7.30pm	School Governor Training Session Meaningful Engagement with Parents, Carers and Families This session explores school relationships with parents and families; why parents matter to the work of the governing body; the challenges and barriers that may be experienced; and areas of good practice being developed within primary and secondary schools.
Wednesday 17 June 1.30-4pm	Parenting Practitioner Refresher Workshop: Update Your Skills and Practice A session for staff who want to improve their skills in delivering parenting programmes and an opportunity to network with other parenting practitioners to share best practice.

For more information, charges or to book a place, contact Husna Begum

Telephone: **020 7364 1952** Email: parentalengagement@towerhamlets.gov.uk

No course charge applies to schools/settings that have a Service Level Agreement with the Parent & Family Support Service for 2019-20.

All places will be confirmed one week before the course/session.

Late or no notice of cancellation may result in a charge to your school or setting.