

Learning Matters

News and information for staff in educational settings

Autumn term – September 28 2007

General news and information

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Audit Commission Survey of Schools

The results of this year's Audit Commission Survey of Schools have recently arrived and I am pleased to say that there have been great improvements.

62% of the borough's schools took part in the survey this year: a significant increase from the 32% response rate we achieved in 2006. Thanks to all schools that took part - it's really important we know what you think of the services we deliver to challenge us and help us improve.

The results show that 61 of the survey areas had improved but three had declined. We're already looking into these areas and planning how we can improve the services you rated lower this year than last.

It was particularly pleasing that schools rated in the top quartile in England the quality of advice, support and training from the council for teachers with a designated responsibility for children looked after (CLA). This is a very important area and, with the restructuring of the CLA team, we are pleased that schools appreciate the quality of the service. We will seek to build on this and enhance our support as the Care Matters White Paper moves to implementation.

Once again, schools have rated in the top quartile the training, advice and support on child protection matters and the effectiveness of how our services work together to safeguard children. This is a great endorsement of the work done across the department, the Southwark Safeguarding Children Board and Young Southwark with schools and other partners.

Terry Parkin

Deputy director of children's services - education

Statutory data collection

This term sees the introduction of the termly school census for primary, nursery and special schools. The enumeration date is October 4, and the deadline is October 8 2007. Secondary schools with sixth forms have new data items for courses and qualifications this term, which should be entered into Management Information Systems now in preparation for the census.

Staffing data is now available on the [data transfer website](#)

Full details and instructions for these and other collections are at the [MIA website](#).

There is also a calendar for the whole year on the site to assist with planning and preparation.

Colleagues are also reminded that Common Transfer Files (CTFs) should be produced for pupils who are off-rolled at your school. Schools not using Wauton Samuel software should use the Southwark [pupil tracking website](#) to update us with pupil movements and vacancies.

Unfortunately, some schools have already been late with returning vacancy data to us. We would be grateful if this could be submitted regularly on Mondays, based on vacancies at Fridays and pupil movements for the previous week.

Contact Daniel Northover, school census on 020 7525 2914

Peter Overnell, staffing data on 020 7525 529

Daniel Finnie, staffing, school census, website or pupil tracking on 020 7525 2678

Email managementinformation@southwark.gov.uk

Heygate re-housing project

You may be aware that as part of the Elephant & Castle regeneration project, residents of the Heygate estate are in the process of being re-housed. Over 500 children and young people living on the estate attend 53 Southwark primary and secondary schools. We expect this to have a noticeable impact on the roll numbers of local schools as well as having an impact on schools across the borough, as residents are re-housed. We understand the impact such a large scale regeneration project will have on all aspects of the lives of children, young people and families and the crucial role the borough's schools will play in supporting these families. We have formed a child impact task group whose role is to anticipate and minimise the impact on children, schools and families by providing support and intervention as appropriate from multi-disciplinary teams. We are working closely with other parts of the council and will provide regular updates on progress.

Contact James Brown on 020 7525 5090

Email james.brown@southwark.gov.uk

Free PSHE drama projects for Southwark schools

Big Fish Theatre Company and Southwark Council's agencies supporting schools team are bringing free theatre performances and workshops to Southwark schools to explore PSHE issues.

Kiss and tell: exploring sex and the law using drama

Starting November 2007, the drama project will consist of:

- a 75 minute interactive theatre performance and workshop for years 9, 10 and 11 that looks at sexual rights and the law, power imbalances in teenage relationships and peer on peer abuse
- support materials: a DVD to explore sexual rights within the classroom
- teacher training: a voluntary session for teachers and youth workers which will demonstrate a range of lesson plans and drama skills to explore the issues raised in the play. This session will also be relevant to teaching a range of PSHE issues.

Safe and sound: smoking and drugs drama project for Southwark primary schools

This autumn Big Fish theatre company will bring free theatre workshops to primary schools to debate and explore the effects of the new smoking legislation as well as:

- friendship and family relationships
- personal safety
- alcohol and drug use.

The project is aimed at year 6 pupils and free inset and teacher support training is also available.

To sign up for the project please [complete the booking form](#) stating your first, second and third choices of your preferred date(s) and time(s).

Contact Susie Miller on 020 8269 1123
Email Susie@bigfishtheatre.co.uk

A WEBucation in education

Recently we've been working on new content for the education and learning pages on the [Southwark Council website](#). In our [management and school support section](#) you can find:

- the [health and safety pages](#) for the most common guidelines, forms and risk assessments
- information on the [continuing professional development programme](#) and the wide range of learning and development training provided
- our [managing people](#) pages, with human resources information for schools, including model letters, job descriptions and guidance on pay and conditions
- information about [school visits, workshops and programmes](#) which can enable the curriculum to be taught in imaginative ways
- the [education projects](#) section has information on the [healthy schools project](#), how schools can register to become part of Eco Schools, and more about environmental education for schools. Plus lots more.

Remember if your school has a vacancy you can add it to our schools vacancy bulletin, which is published weekly in school term-time.

Don't delay, have a look around our new improved education pages and get webucated today!

For further information contact Sacha Law on 020 7525 3171
Email sacha.law@southwark.gov.uk

Refresh your data – is your school up to date?

Make sure all your school information is up-to-date on [EduBase](#). This is a register of all educational establishments in England, maintained by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. It is the official source for school data, and is used by both the public, the government and the council. As well as ensuring all contact details are correct, please add or update your school profile and website address. This database will be replacing the current school finder database soon so **it's time to refresh your data!**

For further information contact Sacha Law on 020 7525 3171
Email sacha.law@southwark.gov.uk

Southwark proof of age card

Southwark Council's trading standards team has produced a nationally recognised proof of age card and are asking schools to sign up to the scheme.

The card is available free to all Southwark students in years 11 to 13. We want to make sure young people can't illegally purchase goods such as cigarettes, alcohol and knives. Proof of age cards are a vital tool in this and we are telling retailers to always ask for such proof. However such a scheme can only be successful if these cards are available to and carried by all of young people. This scheme is the first of its kind in London and it needs the support of schools.

The card is produced by Euclid Ltd, which has a proven track record producing such cards, providing a similar service to Essex and Suffolk. They also produce ID cards for Northern Ireland so their security measures comply with the very strictest of government guidelines and data protection.

The card has a bar code on the back that will automatically entitle all pupils to membership of Southwark's libraries. It can also have a magnetic strip or chip applied for individual schools, if they wish, at a small cost.

As an additional benefit, Euclid will, upon request, provide the images to you free of charge for use on your own system.

We are keen to keep disruption to schools to a minimum and Euclid are very well aware of this, so they will endeavour to meet your needs. They have prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) sheet about the service the company provides.

A representative from Euclid will contact you shortly to arrange a convenient time for photography so that all cards can be issued this term. The photo sessions are very quick – they recently carried out 230 photos in one single lesson – and cause little disruption.

Please contact me for any information on the matter.

Contact Dave Read on 020 7525 5751

Email dave.read@southwark.gov.uk

News and information

Southwark homeless intervention project

Southwark Council has commissioned St Christopher's Hospice Fellowship to run a homeless project to educate people aged 14 to 18 years olds on the realities of homelessness and independent living.

The project involves sessions run by trained, young people who have experienced homelessness. The sessions are free and can be delivered during school's citizenship classes. The project aims to develop strong relationships with schools, teachers and youth groups in Southwark to reduce homelessness in the borough.

Visit www.stchris.org.uk for more information.

Contact Shevonne Norman on 020 8858 2780

Email Southwark-hip@stchris.org.uk

New stroke DVD resource for families

Having a Stroke, Being a Parent is a new book and DVD resource created especially for parents living in Southwark and Lambeth who have had a stroke. In the DVD, parents and children share how having a stroke has affected their lives. The guide draws on the experiences of parents who have had a stroke and their families and is full of practical ideas and tips for dealing with the many challenges that affect them.

Connect is a national charity based in Southwark that supports people affected by stroke and aphasia, a communication disability.

Having a Stroke Being a Parent is available to purchase from Connect for £7.50 plus £1.50 postage and packing. To order a copy please contact Luke Chamberlain on 020 7367 0866 or email lukechamberlain@ukconnect.org

People living in Southwark are eligible for a free copy if they order before December 14 2007.

Contact Tom Beaty on 020 7188 7362

Email tom.beaty@gstt.nhs.uk

Launch of ethnic minority achievement guidance and consultation

Southwark Council is launching Raising Standards for All: Information and Guidance for Southwark schools on December 4 2007 at 4pm to 6.30pm (venue to be confirmed).

The guidance aims to support schools to promote the wellbeing, progress and attainment of children and young people from black and minority ethnic groups.

The key audiences for the publication and event are senior leadership teams, teachers, other school practitioners and school governors. Raising standards for all is a series of booklets:

- Guidance for senior leadership teams
- Teaching and learning
- Partnership with parents, carers and the community
- Using data to promote achievement
- Pupil voice: building a culture of pupil participation

Practitioners will be able to use the booklets flexibly. They will be particularly useful for:

- self-evaluation and reviewing practice in schools
- raising awareness of and learning from good practice in Southwark schools
- learning about other sources of useful information and guidance.

To book a place at the launch event contact Paulette Houslin, details below.

Contact Paulette Houslin on 020 7525 5088

Email paulette.houslin@southwark.gov.uk

Sport Relief Awards funding workshops

London Community Sports Network (LCSN) is working with UnLtd Sport Relief Awards to increase applications for the new Sport Relief Awards from children and young people living in the Greater London area.

The network would like to invite interested individuals who want to find out about the application process of UnLtd Sport Relief Awards. Only young people between the ages of 11 and 21 can apply for the award but if you or another adult in your organisation is planning to support a young person through the application process then please feel free to book your place as well.

The network is holding two separate workshops at two different locations across London to ensure easy access for everyone. The workshops will be run by UnLtd Awards officers and will cover the following:

- criteria for UnLtd Sport Relief Awards
- application process
- types of sport and physical activity projects funded.

Please check the [attached funding criteria](#) before requesting a place on the workshop as this whether you are eligible and what UnLtd Sport Relief funding can be used for.

The workshop dates

Thursday 18 October 2007 at 6pm to 8pm

Fulham FC, Craven Cottage, Stevenage Road, Fulham, London SW6 6HH

Tuesday 13 November 2007 at 6pm to 8pm

London Leisure Academy at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Ledrington Road, London SE19 2BB

There are only 30 spaces (two places per organisation) so please confirm your attendance by completing the booking form and returning it one week before your chosen workshop.

Contact Melanie Bindel on 020 8988 3175

Visit www.locsp.org

Do you provide parenting activities in Southwark?

We are gathering information on parenting activities within Southwark to produce easy to use information on services available.

Let us know what parent activity you or your service delivers.

Contact Funmilola Owolabi on 020 7525 1507

Email funmilola.owolabi@southwark.gov.uk

Southwark leisure centre investment programme

A letter has been sent to all headteachers of primary and secondary schools in Southwark that use Dulwich and Camberwell Leisure centres and Surrey Docks Watersports Centre, to let you know of the £12.3 million investment to transform the facilities at these centres.

The first phase is the complete refurbishment of the Dulwich Leisure Centre and the Surrey Docks Watersports Centre.

We are keeping all headteachers informed of the building progress and proposed alternative arrangements to use other centres in the area while Dulwich Leisure Centre is under refurbishment starting in spring 2008. Southwark Council is committed to providing top class swimming and leisure facilities to all of the schools in the borough, and we aim to reduce any impact this refurbishment programme will have on students' swimming and other watersports timetables.

This is the start of a scheme to provide everyone in Southwark with leisure centres of which they can be proud and which they want to come back to time and again. Later on, in addition to the refurbishment programme of existing buildings, two brand new centres will be provided at Elephant and Castle and Canada Water (as part of major regeneration schemes in those areas).

The first phase of the project also includes the enhancement of the Camberwell Leisure Centre. The centre has been allocated £1.5 million to revitalise and retain the facilities while a longer-term solution is developed.

More information on the Investing in Leisure programme can be found at:

<http://www.southwark.gov.uk/YourServices/SportsandLeisure/leisureinvestment/>

Conferences

School administration conference

When: Thursday November 29 2007

Where: Millwall FC Conference Centre, Zampa Road, SE16 3LN

Time: 9am to 4pm

This twice yearly conference for school administrators will explore issues around safeguarding children, healthy schools, data collection and reporting, work force reform, financial management, extended schools and many more.

To book see the [autumn 2007 and spring 2008 education courses brochure](#) or contact Colette Beecher, details below.

Contact Colette Beecher on 020 7525 5082

Email colette.beecher@southwark.gov.uk

Copy deadline

Learning Matters is distributed fortnightly on a Friday.

Please ensure copy is received by the deadline to ensure inclusion.

Copy deadline	Distribution
October 9	October 12
October 23	October 26

We would like to hear from you. If you have changes to any details, want to share good practice, have news and information or want to celebrate achievement, please use let us know.

Email us at childrens.services@southwark.gov.uk

Your feedback, suggestions and any comments are always welcome.