

Happy August!

We hope this newsletter finds you well. This week we have an important questionnaire from Southwark on the September return to school and news on a new opportunity to work with Southwark social care as part of their new initiative to improve the relationship between families and professional.

URGENT! WE NEED YOUR VIEWS!

We at SIV know that COVID-19 has been a very difficult period for families. Both Southwark and ourselves think it is really important that we hear your views on what the access to education for your child has been like during lockdown and the return to school. We also want to hear what fears and concerns you have, if any. In order for Southwark SEND to truly understand the impact this has had we have worked with SIAS to produce a questionnaire. It is extremely important that you get to share your experience so we are asking that you please take five minutes out and fill it in.

We need your views in order to help make changes and improve the services within Southwark!

[Click the link below to access the questionnaire now.](#)

The closing date is the 20th of August 2020

CLICK HERE!



SOUTHWARKS PARENT TO PARENT PEER ADVOCACY

Southwark have a brand new approach for parents with experience of children's services to use their knowledge to help support other parents and carers. To find out more about how to apply for a parent advocate or how to become one please click below to go through to Southwark's page.

CLICK HERE!

Southwarks Family Council

Southwark have a brand new Family Council! They are aiming to bring together parents, carers and other family members to give their views on children's services in Southwark.

The Family Council will meet monthly to discuss how they can improve the way they work with families in the best interests of children. This includes:

- how to make sure that families and professionals can work together
- the support that families need and how it could be given
- how to make services easier for families to access.

The Family Council will also be asked to give their views on any proposed changes in the way Southwark works and how this is likely to affect families. They will then take this into consideration when putting in place new policies.

To find out more click [HERE!](#)



QUARTER OF COUNCILS 'AUTISM POLICIES' UNLAWFUL

More than a quarter of English councils are acting unlawfully by discriminating against children with autism, according to a report by disability law experts.

Forty-one out of 149 local authorities have policies that denied families social care assessments, the Disability Law Service said.

Acting Lib Dem leader Sir Ed Davey, a patron of the service, said some cases were "discriminatory and unacceptable".

CLICK BELOW TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE BY BBC NEWS

[Keep Reading](#)

UNIVERSAL CREDIT FOR YOUNG DISABLED PEOPLE- HOW DOES IT AFFECT YOU?

This factsheet from Contact on claiming Universal Credit for a young disabled person explains when a young person can claim Universal Credit in their own right and the impact this might have on any payments that their parents receive for them.



Click the link below to be taken to the webpage for more information.

Click here

