

# Lambeth Together Strategic Board Public Forum Questions and Responses

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022





Question from Gavin @ Dyspraxia Lambeth regarding care for neuro-diverse residents.

- How is social care structured for neuro-diverse residents in Lambeth?
- What does neurodiversity care in the community look like?
- How does Lambeth care in the community identify with the possibilities of lactogenic harm and responsibilities thereof in medical-grade circumstances about vulnerable adults in their care?

*Jane Bowie, Director for Integrated Commissioning for Adults for Lambeth*, responded by explaining that Lambeth were committed to providing high quality care and support for all residents, including those who people who are neuro diverse. The approach is person centred, which means working closely with the individual and their families, to make sure that we properly understand their individual needs, their preferences and their aspirations following their referral, making sure that the response and support given, meets the criteria of the Care Act 2014.

Jane explained that Lambeth Council are currently engaging across the borough on an All-Age Autism Strategy, working alongside Childrens Commissioning. The aim is to understand and improve the services and for people with autism, regardless of their age. This will be launched after the engagement process is complete, and it will include several initiatives such as, improving diagnosis, and supporting people with autism as well as raising awareness in the general population about the condition. The exercise will inform prevention and support needs to be developed within the borough, identify what we do well and what can be done better.

The overarching framework for engagement is based on 6 key areas that are from the National Autism Strategy, across councils and they have added their own local initiative which is about looking at support for families and carers. This engagement piece concludes at the end of this month. There is an online survey on the main page of the All-Age Autism consultation via this link [here](#) where you can share your views as well. There are also open discussion forums too, if you are interested in attending, please contact: [asccommissioning@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:asccommissioning@lambeth.gov.uk) to register your interest.

## Questions from Odilon Couzin:

- 1. Has any assessment been done of the "warm spaces" that I believe are council funded? I love the initiative, but many seem to have very limited open times, so I worry about their impact.**
- 2. Why is this meeting not being held online as well, given that we are still in the middle of a pandemic. This effectively excludes clinically vulnerable people and their carers from the discussion.**
- 3. What (if anything) is being done to investigate and address indoor air quality in public spaces, especially transport and schools? What are the plans to address this?**

- 1. Ruth Hutt, Director of Public Health in Lambeth, explained that the Warm Spaces scheme falls under the Cost-of-Living Workstream and that a review of the initiative had recently been conducted, with a final meeting today regarding the evaluation before the findings can be shared. It was noted that feedback was still welcome and can be emailed to Ruth directly.*
- 2. Andrew Eyres, Strategic Director for Integrated Health and Care Lambeth, agreed that it was a fair challenge and that they are still looking at how best to deliver these board meetings, with a mixture of online and face to face meetings included. This meeting was the first face to face meeting without an online facility and suggested that people had voted with their feet, which they would consider. Andrew explained that it was not easy to run both a virtual and face to face meeting and that there were some issues at the last meeting, in terms of logistics and cost. The ideal space in the Town Hall was not available for this meeting so they would either try to book in advance or work on a hybrid option to ensure they have as many of these meetings accessible to many people as possible, in many different formats.*

3. *Ruth Hutt, Director of Public Health Lambeth*, explained that there is an [Air Quality Action Plan available on their website](#), with a lot of work involved in improving air quality across the borough. She explained that there was an initiative run by the [Department for Education so that schools could sign up to, to get access to air filters](#).

Ruth explained that they still used the covid case rate numbers to understand what is happening around infection levels. Generally, the current advice is to protect yourself if you are concerned about getting Covid or are at high risk by using a FFP2 grade mask, or if you are unwell. However, at a national level it is difficult to persuade the wider public to carry on using face masks when the perceived risk has fallen, and that advice for everyone to resume mask wearing may be reserved for where there is a significant increase in numbers and severity of infection.

