

Partnership' is a parents organisation which supports parents with children in mainstream schools and particularly helps them contribute to the assessment procedure. Both organisations recognise the need for choice for parents and work together to secure improvements in all provision. They both receive grants from ILEA and have active groups in Lambeth. They contribute to consultation processes via a Parents Forum both locally and ILEA wide. It is important that all procedures adopted by the Council for meeting the special educational needs are accessible to all sections of the community.

Lambeth Social Services: Services for Children with Special Needs

Social Services Provision

Children in Care

4.36 Lambeth Social Services has three homes for children with special needs:-

(a) Warham Road (12 beds) offers respite care to families with children with severe learning difficulties. The children can have up to six weeks care per year and currently about 80 families use this service. It is planned in the near future to increase this number to 100 families by reducing the emergency beds. Many of the children attend Shelley and Windmill SLD schools and are transported from the unit to school when they are there.

(b) Chestnut (12 beds) offers long term care and shared care. In the future, it is planned that they will develop more long term care with a unit for semi-independence.

(c) Monkton Street (12 beds) also offers long term care and shared care. In the future, it is planned to concentrate more on shared care and have emergency beds.

4.37 South Vale: The Department's Assessment Centre, South Vale plays a key role in the assessment and placement of children in care. The Section 56 Teachers in the Education Unit make a major contribution to this assessment, and the provision of an appropriate education is a major aspect of the care plan. There are 24 places in the Centre and about 60 children are assessed each year, the vast majority of whom have special educational needs.

4.38 The Educational Psychologist at South Vale will start or reactivate a Full Assessment Procedure if the assessment considers special education provision necessary. Frequently, securing an appropriate residential placement with education is a major task of the centre and delays can mean a long wait in South Vale.

Other Children's Homes

4.39 The other 11 children's homes also have children with a wide range of special educational needs. Frequently the admission to care combines a range of family and emotional problems but invariably poor school attendance or performance is a contributory factor. Some children attend special education facilities. However, between 25-50% of children in Children's Homes are without any regular school provision, receive either home tuition, off-site education or nothing.

4.40 Part of the care plan will involve attempts to obtain adequate educational

assessment and provision. However, staff in homes report serious concern about the education service offered to children in children's homes, particularly problems of establishing adequate provision quickly, dealing with exclusion and expulsion and general liaison between school and children's homes.

4.41 Boarding Schools: A small number of children in care attend special boarding schools. Currently there are 17 such children with eight placed in ILEA boarding schools and nine in independent boarding schools (usually with ILEA paying fees).

4.42 Social Services also makes use of other residential facilities with education - notably Community Homes with Education (currently 12 children) and private and voluntary homes for disabled children (six).

#### Summary

4.43 There are 751 children in Lambeth care at the moment and it is likely that a large proportion have special educational needs whether the subject of a statement or not.

#### Intermediate Treatment

4.44 As discussed in 4.9 ILEA makes a major contribution to the Department's Intermediate Treatment service. Three of the five statutory projects have teachers and three of the five voluntary projects, in all 71 day care places. The criteria for entry is where a young person's school attendance has irretrievably broken down with no likelihood of return, plus offending behaviour and family circumstances which exile a young person from their family, community and culture. Non-attendance of itself is therefore not grounds for acceptance.

4.45 The education is a major feature of the programme offered by the projects and it is expected that 20 hours education is provided of which 10 hours are core subjects and 10 hours life and social skills, work experience, etc. It is also an expectation that the I.T. projects provide accommodation for the teachers. There is also an element of co-working with Education Services in facilitating school attendance, notably the project at Stockwell Park School.

#### School Health Social Work

4.46 The Department makes a major contribution to education social work in the form of providing a social work input to 8 of Lambeth's special day schools. These staff are based in Mary Seacole House and managed by two team leaders under the Principal Manager (Special Services). This is in the Rehabilitation, Support and Care Division. The posts are funded 75% by ILEA and there have been various proposals recently about the future of this funding. This is discussed further in the paper on Education Social Work.

#### Day Care for School Leavers with Special Needs

4.47 The Social Services Department manages a range of day centres for adults with special needs, and a number of young people leaving special education between 16 and 19 start at these centres. The assessment and appropriate placement is orchestrated through the Panels to which teachers, social workers and health professionals make contributions. School leavers in particular go to the Intensive Support Units, but may go to other Social Education or Day Centres.