

Parent and carer counselling service

A free confidential counselling service for all
parents and carers of children in Camden schools
and children's centres



Parent and carer counselling service

Being a parent or carer is a uniquely demanding and important task. Most parents and carers have times when they are troubled by personal or family problems. Counselling sessions are a private space to talk and think about worries and move towards finding solutions.

The parent and carer counselling service offers 12 counselling sessions which take place in a confidential room in your child's school or children's centre. A counsellor from the service comes into the school to meet with you there. The service is free.

What is counselling?

Life is complicated and it can sometimes feel like an uphill struggle. We may turn to friends and family to support us, but sometimes we need more than this. That's when it may help to talk to a counsellor.

Your counsellor will listen to you and help you untangle your feelings and thoughts. Some people say counselling helps because they can talk about anything they want in a safe and non-judgemental environment. When people talk with their counsellor over time about the things that feel overwhelming they often find things feel more manageable.

Each counselling session lasts 50 minutes and sessions take place once a week during the school term in a private room in your child's school, usually during school hours. Regular attendance is important to get the most out of counselling.

Who uses the parent and carer counselling service?

Mothers, fathers, foster carers and other carers of children in Camden schools and children's centres use the service.

Who will I see?

Counsellors are carefully selected for their experience and counselling qualifications and they are professionally managed and supervised. All of our counsellors work within the code of ethics and practice set out by the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy. Counsellors are trained to listen without judging. They can help you sort out your thoughts and feelings about what is worrying you.

Who will be told about what I say in the sessions?

Our counsellors are not part of the school and are separate from the school's counselling service. What is discussed during counselling sessions isn't shared with school staff or other agencies. However, if your counsellor thinks that you or someone else may be at risk or in danger there may be a need to get help from others to keep you safe. If this happens your counsellor will talk with you about this.

The school receptionist and headteacher or link person in the school will know that you're seeing a counsellor but we won't tell them any other details.

What happens next?

Within two weeks of receiving your application form for counselling we will send you a letter with the name of your counsellor. Your counsellor will contact you by telephone to find out when you can meet for counselling sessions.

Application form for counselling




Name of parent or carer:

Date form completed:

Telephone numbers:

Home address:

Where you heard about the counselling service (e.g. I picked up a leaflet in school):




Child's school or children's centre:

Link contact in school or children's centre:

Days and times you are available for counselling sessions:



Please use this space to tell us about the main issues you'd like to discuss with your counsellor:



The service has male and female counsellors. You will be allocated to a male or female counsellor with a current vacancy. Please state only if you have a particularly strong preference for a male or female counsellor:

PLEASE TURN OVER

Application form for counselling continued...

Please tick your ethnic group below (this information is requested to ensure we are working within our equal opportunities policy):

White:

- White British
- White Irish
- Any other white background (please specify):

Mixed:

- White and black Caribbean
- White and black African
- White and Asian
- Any other mixed background (please specify):

Asian or Asian British:

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Any other Asian background (please specify):

Black or black British:

- Caribbean
- Somali
- Any other black African background (please specify):
- Any other black background (please specify):

Chinese or other ethnic group:

- Chinese
- Any other group (please specify):

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- Yes
- No

If you would like to have this leaflet or application form in another language, large print or Braille, please call **020 7974 6649**.

**Post to: PCCS co-ordinator
SEN and psychology services
Children, schools and families
Postal address only:
Camden Town Hall
Judd Street
London WC1H 9JE**

**Or email:
pccs@camden.gov.uk
Website: Fill in
this form online at
camden.gov.uk/eps**

The kind of things you might talk about

You can use your counselling sessions to talk about whatever is on your mind: problems, decisions, worries or changes in any area of your life. Talking about your worries and problems can be the start of sorting them out.



How do I arrange to start seeing a counsellor?

By completing the application form at the end of this leaflet (either on your own or with a member of staff) and sending it to:

PCCS co-ordinator
SEN and psychology services
Children, schools and families
(Postal address only:)
Camden Town Hall
Judd Street
London WC1H 9JE

You can also fill this form in online at camden.gov.uk/eps or contact us by telephone on **020 7974 6500** or email pccs@camden.gov.uk