

About Hackney Star Bright

Hackney Star Bright is a specialist support group for mothers who have a history of significant drug misuse, especially where their child is subject to a Child Protection or Child in Need plan.

Priority is given to those families with a child aged 6 months or under.

Sessions take place weekly at the Comet Children's Centre with a differing theme for each week. The rolling programme includes; child health and well being, learning through play and women's group work. The women's group work sessions are facilitated by Hackney drug services and a crèche is provided in an adjoining room.

Mothers are referred to the programme for a period of 6 months and allocated Social Workers are encouraged to advise the Star Bright Team of any planned reviews in this time to enable us to report on attendance and progress.

Drug testing is offered at each session therefore the allocated Social Worker is required to complete the relevant part of the referral form if they would like these results sent to them via email.

Peer support forms a large part of Star Bright and we have several senior members; 'Star Buddies' who have been trained in supporting their peers in a group setting. Many mothers opt to become Star Bright Buddies following completion of their 6 months. On completion Mothers are supported to form a Future Family Plan which can include things such as:

- Plans to engage in further parenting groups
- Plans to engage with other relevant services such as their local Children's Centre
- Plans for developing relationships with wider family or community
- Plans to remain with Hackney Star Bright and take part in Buddy training

Clients are advised that if they fail to attend two consecutive sessions without advising the Team in advance they will be discharged from the service. They will need to be re-referred by their Social Worker if they wish to re-engage and may have to wait up to 4 weeks before restarting. The allocated Social Worker will be advised in this event.

Protecting Children

Parents who are obviously under the effects of drugs and or alcohol will not be permitted entry to the group.

The safety and well being of the child is paramount and parents are advised that consent for information sharing is not required if there are immediate concerns for the safety of a child.

Who is eligible for referral?

- Mothers with a history of significant drug misuse who are able to engage in drug treatment or abstinence support programmes. It is recommended that Children and Young peoples services seek the advice of drug services if they are unclear about this
- Mothers with parental responsibility for their child(ren)
- Mothers who would benefit from parenting support and monitoring of their progress
- Mothers who have expressed that they are motivated to attend a support group
- Mothers whose child(ren) is/are subject to a Child in Need or a Child Protection Plan
- Families who are resident within the Borough of Hackney
- Priority is given to families with children aged 0-6 months at the time of referral
- Priority is given to referrals from Children's Social Care.
- Antenatal referrals will be considered. The allocated Social Worker will be required to arrange a *written letter of recommendation from the mothers' drug treatment provider if engaged in treatment to confirm the appropriateness of the referral.

If you are unsure regarding the suitability of a client for the programme please contact the Star Bright Team to discuss.

* *Antenatal clients will need to be 'stable' in their drug use / treatment as Star Bright has a duty of care to those mothers and children already engaged with the group and will not compromise their safety or progress by introducing any one who could potentially destabilize the group*

How to refer to Hackney Star Bright

Complete the referral form overleaf and forward by fax. The Hackney Star Bright Team will respond to you within 2 weeks of receiving the referral to advise if it has been accepted and of the proposed start date. If for any reason referral is declined we will explain this to you and offer signposting to alternative services.

Please forward a copy of the CP or CIN plan if available.



Information for Referrers Specialist Parenting Support Group



daat  Hackney Drug & Alcohol Action Team



the learning trust
the future for education in Hackney



Mother's Name: Date of Birth:

Address: Postcode:

Telephone:

Child(ren)'s Name(s): 1 Date of Birth: M F

2 Date of Birth: M F

3 Date of Birth: M F

Allocated Social Worker details: Name: Team:

Telephone: Email:

DRUG SCREENING: Results required via email: Yes: No:

The above details are required if you wish to receive drug screen results by email.
You are advised to update Star Bright if there are any changes such as change of allocated social worker.

Safe guarding information (Please include a copy of any relevant plans) :

Child protection plan in place: Yes: No: Category:

Child in Need plan in place: Yes: No: Date of next review:

Brief details of concerns / risks:

Health Visitor: Name: Based at:

Telephone: Email:

Drug use (past or present) : Which Drugs indicated:

Current drug treatment provider: Keyworker: Service:

Telephone: Email:

Client aware of referral: Yes: No: If NO please give reasons:

Travel costs: Plans for Children's Social Care to assist while attending Star Bright (please give details): (e.g. issue travel card etc)

Signed: Date:

Name (in capitals): Tel: