



Lewisham NCT Branch
Annual Members Meeting
24 November 2010

NCT Vision

- To offer information and support in pregnancy, childbirth and early parenthood
- To campaign to improve maternity care and ensure better services and facilities for new parents
- To aim to give every parent the chance to make informed choices
- To make sure that everyone has access to NCT services and activities

What does our branch do?

- Promotes the work and the values of the NCT, promotes membership and retains members
- Represents parents on relevant local bodies and campaigns locally in support of the charity's aims
- Creates a network of local parents to gain practical and emotional support and make friends
- Raises funds to support the charity's activities
- Builds good relations with other relevant charities and other community organisations as appropriate

Our First Year - What did we achieve?

- Steady membership of around 680 member households
- Revamped website with many new pages
- Facebook Page and Yahoo E-Group
- Branch launch party in March, with around 100 families attending
- Continuing to produce a high-quality newsletter, mailed to every member, funded through advertising revenue

Finance and Fundraising

Our branch continues to self-fund, and contributed almost £5,000 to NCT head office this year.

- 2 Nearly New Sales raising between £1.5 - £2k each
- Cheeky Monkey Tea Parties held in January and July, with around 70 families at each, raising between them nearly £500
- South East London Dads group successfully applied to the Co-operative Community fund for a grant of £1,900 to run courses for dads on nutrition, cooking, first aid and parenting skills
- £283 from NCT British 10k London Run by volunteer Daniela Wood

Volunteers and Specialist Workers

All the core branch roles are filled and many new volunteers have come on board since the branch split, enabling us to improve our services

- Fantastic team of 30+ volunteers
- A record attendance of 6 members at the NCT Annual Conference
- The branch has one breastfeeding counsellor and one antenatal teacher. However new specialist workers are being trained.
- The branch supports two breastfeeding counsellor students, two antenatal teacher students, and one postnatal leader student

Influencing Maternity Services and Campaigns

The branch has greatly improved its links with Lewisham Hospital and will continue to lobby for improvements to maternity services.

- 3 branch reps on Lewisham Maternity Services Liaison Committee,
- Branch survey completed with over 100 responses, findings will be presented to local hospitals
- Encouraged local MPs to sign up the Breastfeeding Manifesto Coalition

Parent Support

Parent support is the core of the branch activity. We continue to offer a good network of support and activities for parents, and where there are gaps in support, we aim to fill them.

- New antenatal classes in New Cross and Forest Hill, joining Catford
- Overall increase in antenatal class bookings
- Single parent support launched
- New breast pump hire service available
- Area Reps and New Parent Supporters in most areas, with hundreds of events run across the whole branch, including First Aid courses, Bumps Nights Out, New Parent Tea Groups, picnics, open houses, book groups, book sales, massage and more!
- Successful dad's group with over 40 members
- Twin parent support introduced

None of these achievements would have been possible without all our volunteers, members and supporters!
Thank you!

What next? Aims for 2010-2011

- Raise the profile of the branch within Lewisham
- Campaign for improved local services
- Liaise with local health and children's services
- Increase fundraising

In the pipeline

- Postnatal Early Days courses. We are investigating grants to enable us to offer these to a wide range of parents
- 'Bumps & Babies' groups in community settings – New Cross and Forest Hill are to be set up first, with other areas hopefully to follow
- Branch Reps on Maternity Services Liaison Committees in Kings and St Thomas Hospitals
- Home birth support group and other support networks

What else should the branch be doing? Can you help us to do it? What are your ideas? We want to hear them!