

## London Network of Parent and Toddler Groups - Terms of Reference



**'Run by toddler groups for toddler groups'**

### **Aim**

***The London Network of Parent and Toddler Groups\* is committed to serving parent and toddler groups (hereafter referred to as toddler groups) and those who belong to them by encouraging and equipping them for the important task of supporting families. 'And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds': Hebrews 10:24 (NIVUK)***

### Background and vision

The Brent Parent and Toddler Network has been very involved in the development of this new Network. In November 2006, some toddler group leaders in Brent started to meet once a term to share the joys and challenges of their toddler groups and pray for one another. This has grown, and they have developed a support network which includes sharing expertise, training, running conferences, picnics, producing new-born baby cards to put in the Registrar's office and a website.

The vision is to see similar support networks run by toddler groups for toddler groups in each London borough.

In addition, from 2015-2017 the Brent Parent and Toddler Group Network organised a London Prayer Marathon for toddler groups. From June 1st-July 2nd, one London borough has been prayed for each day, starting with Barking and Dagenham and ending with Westminster. It was initially a Twitter campaign and then the message spread and included a prayer walk from Westminster to City Hall. More individuals and toddler groups with a Christian ethos in the 32 London boroughs have become involved. The vision is that the Prayer Marathon will happen every year.

As the interest in a toddler groups' Network across London boroughs has grown, the time has come to widen, formalise and organise the Network so that more toddler groups can be encouraged by prayer support and regular meet-ups.

## Terms of reference for The London Network of Parent and Toddler Groups

The Network will:

1. Be a beacon for parent and toddler groups with a Christian ethos in London, both within each borough and London-wide – bringing them together to share information and best practice, pray together, provide inspiring examples and speakers and to discuss issues and formulate solutions.

On a local borough level, it will:

2. Encourage one or more toddler groups in each borough to facilitate local Network meetings. These meetings will take place two or three times a year to bring together local toddler group leaders and teams for mutual encouragement, exchange of ideas and prayer;
3. Seek to maximise opportunities to enhance sustainability, including funding and volunteering for both emerging and established toddler groups
4. Provide a space to develop formal and informal collaborative arrangements e.g. mentoring arrangements, sharing premises, writing a joint funding bid/proposal

On a London-wide level, it will:

5. Encourage the setting up and development of a support network in each of the 32 London boroughs as well as a London-wide Network
6. Be a collective voice, bringing issues faced by toddler groups to the attention of churches and other relevant bodies.
7. Develop and respond to policy and strategy development on issues relating to toddler groups in London
8. Advocate for statutory policies and practices that support the interests of the voluntary and community sector.

### **Membership**

In line with our Christian ethos, membership is open to all parent and toddler groups in the 32 London boroughs (and interested partners/organisations)

### **Network involvement**

This Network aims to be run by toddler groups for toddler groups. It will meet regularly in various venues across London. We would encourage members to get involved by:

- Attending London-wide and borough-based meetings as regularly as possible
- Keeping in contact between meetings
- Shaping the future of the Network.

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## **Management of the Network**

A steering group will be formed, the function of which will be to manage the Network and approve the spending of the Network's funds and will include other functions such as arranging events

## **Support from Daniel's Den – registered charity number 1147172**

Daniel's Den, is a charity which aims to encourage and enrich family life in order to build stronger communities – it does this primarily through running parent and toddler groups. It is an independent charity and the lead organisation for the Brent Parent and Toddler Network. It will aim to provide the following overall collective support:

- Administrative support to organise the initial Network meetings on a borough level (and link with borough coordinators)
- Organise agenda items and speakers
- Facilitate meetings
- Provide follow-up information after each London-wide meeting
- Provide a termly newsletter for the Network
- Facilitate 1:1 support as required, especially through the local borough networks
- Have a page on their website [www.danielsden.org.uk](http://www.danielsden.org.uk) for advertising the events etc

Daniel's Den will support the Network administratively and a Memorandum of Agreement will be drawn up to agree the extent and cost of the support.

## **Funding**

Daniel's Den has clear transparent accounting procedures and all monies involved in the Network will be tracked in a separate account within Daniel's Den's finance systems. We aim to apply for funds to develop the Network

\*Parent and Toddler Group – definition the name 'parent and toddler' is not a totally inclusive title so state clearly in all the literature that everyone is welcome - mums, dads, grandparents and other carers.

However, if you are running an 'exclusive' group – a group for single mums under 18, for example- clearly state this. All adult carers are in a parental role when they are at the group. Mention in the literature that the group is also for babies and is appropriate for children up to school age (although usually children leave at three years to go to playgroup or nursery school).

## **Contact details:**

[London@danielsden.org.uk](mailto:London@danielsden.org.uk)

020 89086986

<http://www.danielsden.org.uk/london-parent-and-toddler-network/>