

Levi Roots' now has an iPhone app for his Reggae Reggae sauce

# News

## Service helps children who've lost a parent

**A NEW service to support the families and children left behind when a parent is deported has launched in Lambeth.**

New monthly surgeries run by the Diaspora Support Network offer community support on an informal drop-in basis on the last Friday of every month.

The drop-in service provides support and information for families of foreign nationals who have been in prison and are facing deportation on their release. Many of the deportees have spent most of their lives in this country and have few ties with their country of origin. The service helps them to develop a resettlement plan around housing, training, education, employment and business to manage the transition back home.

For the families left behind, this can have devastating consequences, particularly for the children. Families now have somewhere to go for help and advice, and children are taught how to use web-messaging software like Skype to keep in touch with family members living overseas.

Neasha Clarke, Director of Disapora Support Network, said: "The first thing we offer is someone to talk to. There is not a lot of support in the community for families facing deportation, so we listen and offer advice. We can also offer a telephone service for those who want to remain anonymous.

"The main thing we say to deportees is go home with a plan. We'll help make sure they have a roof over their heads and make sure they have access to employment and training opportunities."

If you have a family member who is facing deportation or if you would like more information

on how to keep your children in touch with a family member who is being deported you can drop in for information and support.

Surgeries take place on the last Friday of every month at Lysada, Dexters Adventure Playground, 2-30 Railton Road, Brixton, London SE24 0LM. The next surgery is on Friday 25 March from 12-3pm and no appointment is needed.

For further information visit [www.diaspora](http://www.diaspora)

[supportnetwork.com](http://supportnetwork.com).

The charity is also planning a fundraising event to take place on 4 June with its patron, Levi Roots on Windrush Square. Local people are encouraged to set up their own stalls at the event to support the ethos of the network – 'a hand-up, not a hand-out', helping people make it on their own.

To get involved phone 07904 163 797.

## Customer centre opening hours

CUSTOMER centres in Lambeth will operate a new timetable from the beginning of the month.

From 1 March 2011 the new operating hours are designed to provide effective customer services and deliver an affordable front line customer service.

**Brixton Customer Centre, 18 Brixton Hill, Brixton SW2** – Monday: 9am to 5pm; Tuesday: 9am to 5pm; Wednesday: 9am to 5pm; Thursday: 9am to 7pm; Friday: 9am to 5pm. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

**Gracefield Gardens Customer Centre, 2-8 Gracefield Gardens, Streatham SW16** – Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

**Lambeth Service Centre and call centre, phone 020 7926 1000** from Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

Customers can still call various out-of-hours emergency services outside of the core opening hours on 020 7926 1000, [www.lambeth.gov.uk/contactus](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/contactus)



**50% OFF**

**DRY CLEANING**

**FREE PICK UP & DELIVERY**

**Open Sundays 10am-3pm**

- Shoe Repairs • Repairs & Alterations • Laundry
- Leather • Ironing Service • Duvets & Blankets
- Bespoke Tailoring & Alterations

Phone **020 8244 0561**

Offer ends 15 March 2011

**NovaKlean Dry Cleaners Ltd** (est 1970)

1 Tulse Hill Brixton SW2 Mon-Sat 7.30am-7pm Sun 10am-3pm