

beneficiaries of **leat** services april 2005 to march 2006

64 people diagnosed with the virus -
50% of these from the BME Community

36 young families – 80% of these from
the BME Community

40 children – 90% of these from the
BME Community and 80% living with
HIV

34 Single parents – (50% from the BME
Community)

10 parents with relationship difficulties –
50% from the BME Community

further information

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the **sargeant** project

leat 

supporting those affected by hiv

RAISING AWARENESS TO COUNTER PREJUDICE

the sargeant project

the sargeant project is a service for hiv positive mothers and children living in southwark and lambeth.

This project aims to provide specialist support once a week for these mothers by:

- Encouraging peer support through mothers meeting each other, socialising and sharing similar concerns as parents on HIV related and similar issues. Including mothers who may be caring for a child who is also HIV positive.
- Providing access to one-to-one counselling where required.
- Providing advice and information through guest speakers at the request of the mothers on issues specifically relating to parenting and living with HIV.
- Giving an opportunity for mothers (some of whom are isolated because of cultural attitudes towards HIV) to share experiences with others from similar cultural backgrounds.
- Sharing and preparing a healthy hot meal with the cook for themselves and their children.

- Providing transport for mothers and children to and from their home to the venue
- Providing a crèche for the children.

this project will be a safe space for these already identified, acutely ill and isolated mothers (and some ill children) to meet, share and grow as parents in their skills through this specialist support service and through developing support for each other.

how has the need for this project been identified?

southwark statistics show that patients diagnosed with hiv had doubled in five years, a similar increase in children and prevalence amongst women. (www.southwarkpct.nhs.uk)

LEAT has learnt through nine years working with clients that it is common for mothers not to leave the house without someone escorting them, and to not access any other service for them or their children, proving that they are isolated parents and children with very special needs to be met.

From recent internal questionnaires, completed and returned by these users, they all stated that they would like a regular session to meet other mothers with HIV.

Our own extensive research, over the past two years, has identified a need to address the commonly held perception, amongst our existing Home Support client group, that many feel isolated in the home. They feel that the opportunities for either socialising or discussing problems facing mothers, living in Southwark, with HIV/ are severely limited.

The national statistics show that the London Borough of Southwark and the London Borough of Lambeth have the two highest numbers of people who are living with HIV.