



National Network of Parent Carer Forums  
'Our Strength is our Shared Experience'  
[www.nnpfc.org.uk](http://www.nnpfc.org.uk)

# contact

For families  
with disabled children

## Welcome back to all forum members after the summer holiday.

We hope that you managed to take a break for forum work and that the holiday was not too stressful. Over the summer we have been busy getting through the grant monitoring returns and processing grant applications. Some of you may have messages waiting for you if we've had any queries - if you need any support around the grants, please ask a member of the grants or adviser team and they'll be happy to help.

## Paying Parents Resource

Over the summer we uploaded a new resource which was kindly provided by the Low Income Tax Reform Group (LITRG) specifically for parent carer forums on [paying parents](#). We'd urge all forums to review this resource and to consider it when looking to pay parents either for strategic work or admin or coordination undertaken on behalf of the forum.

Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) have also updated their '[At a Glance 50 PDF](#)' resource on paying people who receive benefits. You'll need to register with SCIE to access the document.



## Co-production and Campaigning

Recently some forums have been receiving criticism from campaign groups or have been pressured to join campaigns. Contact and the NNPCF have produced some guidance on our [setting up and running a forum page](#) to provide some [clarity on campaigning and explain how forums and campaign groups might co-exist](#) or complement each other.

## Contact Participation Team News

We'd like to introduce the newest member of our advisor team, Cindy Baylis - Cindy will be covering the East Midlands and some of the West Midlands. Cindy is here to support forums now, and will be introducing herself to both regions. Cindy can be contacted by phone on 07920 655079, or by emailing [cindy.baylis@contact.org.uk](mailto:cindy.baylis@contact.org.uk). Sadly, we said goodbye to Catherine Wood at the end of August - we'd like to wish Catherine all the best in her new role. Catherine's areas in Yorkshire and the Humber and the North West will be covered by Karen Askham whilst we recruit. Karen's number is 07982 966936, email [karen.askham@contact.org.uk](mailto:karen.askham@contact.org.uk). Look out for details of the Advisor vacancy on [our jobs page](#).

## Annual Conference and NNPCF AGM



You should have received booking details for the annual event and NNPCF AGM before the summer holidays. The two-day event is taking place on 21st & 22nd November and will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Coventry. It will be a great

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opportunity for updates and networking with other forums from around the country.

**Wednesday 21 November**

1pm-5pm tbc

AGM & workshops for forums

**Thursday 22 November**

10am-3pm tbc

Conference & guest speakers

Full booking information is on the [events page of our website](#). Book early to secure places and avoid disappointment.



**Question Time**

Panel Q&A

With representatives from DfE, NHS England, DoH, & Contact, our Q&A session is a great opportunity to ask them your questions.

Email them to [communications@nnpcf.org.uk](mailto:communications@nnpcf.org.uk)

A selection of questions will be put to the panel on the day. There will be an opportunity to ask further questions throughout the event should you wish to but these may not be included within the Q&A session unless time allows.

Panel session  
Conference Day 2  
Afternoon

The poster features a green background with a white box containing the title 'Question Time' and 'Panel Q&A'. To the right of the text is a large, stylized graphic of question marks in various shades of green and white. Below the main text, there is a smaller graphic of question marks and the text 'Panel session Conference Day 2 Afternoon'.

At this year's conference, we will once again be hosting our Q&A panel of national partners. This will be hosted on the main conference day (22nd November) with a selection of officials from DfE, NHS England, with more to be confirmed nearer to the event.

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Please submit questions from your parent carer forum, as above. Please include your forum name and location too so that we can try to get an answer to your question if it is not used on the day and respond accordingly. We cannot guarantee that all questions will be posed on the day, but we will endeavour to have them answered and responses issued at a later date where possible.

Please email your questions to [communications@nnpf.org.uk](mailto:communications@nnpf.org.uk)

### Upcoming Webinars

Watch out for our upcoming webinars on:

- Engaging with Health - 27th September, 12.00pm. [Register now.](#)
- Transport - November
- Fundraising - December

All other dates and times TBC soon.

Have you seen our recent webinar on [Understanding Legal Structures](#)? See our resources page for further details.

### NEW! Health Updates and resources

Contact's Strategic Health Lead, Lynn Hoppenbrouwers, is collecting and sharing any health related information, consultations and publications that may be relevant to parent carers and forums on a new '[News & Updates](#)' page. The [Improving Health Services](#) pages have also been updated with an added [resources](#) page.

Updates this month include the [NHS 10 year plan development](#) and how you can have your say, a report on the [effects of austerity on disabled children](#) and publication of [NHS England Quick Guides](#) aimed at commissioners and providers of health services.

Both will be updated regularly so keep checking back and if there is any information you think might be useful to other parent carer, please send onto [lynn.hoppenbrouwers@contact.org.uk](mailto:lynn.hoppenbrouwers@contact.org.uk)

### Discretionary grants

If your forum's 2017-18 grant monitoring has been signed off and you've applied for the

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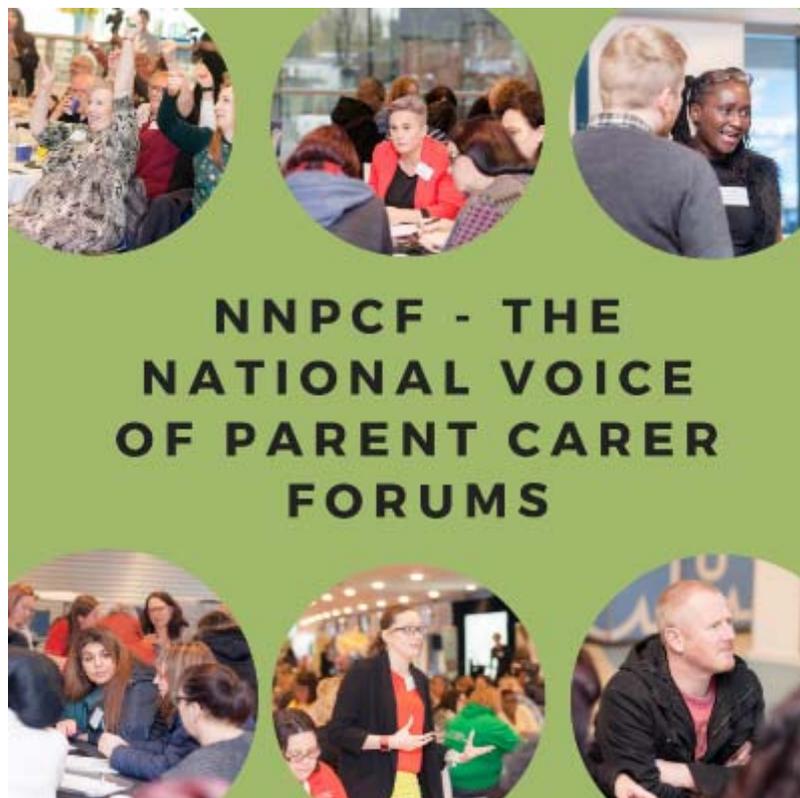
second tranche of the current grant, the forum is eligible to apply for a Discretionary Grant for additional funding, if required. The pot is limited and is awarded on a first come, first served basis. You can find further details on our [grant page](#).

#### Good practice from fellow parent carer forums

Family Voice Peterborough and Pinpoint Cambridgeshire shared a [blog](#) about their joint work with health on CAMHS transformation and the difference it has made in their areas.

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#### News from the NNPCF Steering Group



#### Sharing your experiences

We have recently updated our [SEN Support talking point document](#) which reflects the concerns our member parent carer forums have raised about the quality and consistency of SEN support across schools in England.

We have submit responses to the [Blue Badge Scheme Consultation](#) and the [Young People's Mental Health Green Paper](#), which are both available on our website alongside

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links to the responses issued by relevant government departments.

We value our member parent carer forums' contributions as they steer and shape the discussions we have nationally. If you have experiences within your local area you wish to share, please make sure your forum's regional parent carer forum network representative is able to share these with your [regional NNPCF steering group member](#).

### You said, We did...



Regional steering group members have been listening to our member forums, seeking their views, and sharing them with our national partners on your behalf. We have heard your concerns about accessing the SEND Local Area Joint Inspection process and have shared these with Ofsted, CQC, and the DfE. Please see below more information about this.

#### Consultations

The NNPCF are currently collating national responses to the following

- *Minimum Standards for Independent Advice and Support Programme (IASP) providers*

Other consultations that parent carer forums may be interested in responding to or sharing with their parent carer communities can be found on [our consultations page](#).

#### Useful Information

- [SEN 2 Data has been published and is available](#)
- [DfE Newsletters](#)
- [CDC Case Law](#)
- [SEND Single Route of Redress \(SEND Tribunal National Trial\) Guidance and toolkit](#)
- [NNPCF news updates](#)

### Did you know that...

Your local parent carer forum is part of our regional network? Each region operates in a

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slightly different way; this is based on the range of forums that make up the region as well as the way the region chooses to work alongside other regional partners (such as regional health partnerships and regional SEND co-ordinator programmes). Please take a look at our [about us](#) section on our website to find out more about this part of the NNPCF's work.

### **SEND Local Area Joint Inspections - Update**

Our member parent carer forums have been extremely vocal in the last year about the concerns they, and their communities, have about accessing the SEND Local Area Joint Inspections process; more specifically the webinars for parent carers.

Concerns were raised about the inconsistency of the process, which has led to challenges within some communities to engage reasonable proportions of the parent carer community. The NNPCF Steering Group Members have been listening to, and collating these concerns via regional network activities and one to one discussions with forum representatives, as well as our Co-Chairs, Communications Lead, and Participation Lead following discussions on social media and when meeting parent carers.

Our role is to take this information and monitor how this is impacting regionally and nationally, looking for trends and examples that we can use to share with government representatives to influence the change needed to make the process better for families and parent carer forums. We have done this via a series of conversations with Ofsted and CQC officials, as well as the departmental lead from the DfE, and have been pleased to see progress and change happen to address the concerns we have raised.

SEND Joint Inspections will now host a pre-recorded webinar which will become available at 12 noon on the day of notification to inspect an area, and will remain open for viewing and comments until 4pm on day 2 of the inspection week. This means that parent carers can access the webinar at any time that suits them best and leave comments for inclusion and consideration within the overall inspection. Please note that all other engagement opportunities for parent carers to meet inspectors face to face will still be offered, but at the discretion of the inspection team.

To read more about our input, please take a look at our [update](#) issued in early September.



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