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Welcome to our first joint newsletter since beginning the new contract to support Parent Carer and Children and Young People's Participation as lead partner of a consortium with Kids, CDC and the NNPCF. The last few months have been hectic as we negotiated details of our contract with the Department for Education (DfE). If you've read the letter sent out to all forums, you'll know that there are some new elements to our support offer during the next two years.

- Advising Communities membership for all DfE funded parent carer forums (for details of how to subscribe, ask your regional adviser).
- Research on seldom heard engagement and a toolkit to help forums to engage with all sectors of their communities.
- Regional resilience and wellbeing training.
- Forum leadership training.
- An overhaul and revamp of our online resources.

We're going to be sending out more regular, shorter and snappier newsletters so that we can keep you up to date with developments, events, training, consultations etc.

If any members of your forum would like to receive our newsletter, they can [sign up on our website](#).

Grants

The latest grants round is in full swing, and the deadline for applications is 11th June. Visit our grants page to [find links to the grant forms and guidance](#). Let us know if you think your forum's application will be late so that we can support you. To view our recent grants webinar, see [our resources page](#).

Contact and GDPR

Contact has updated our [privacy notice](#). Please see the notice here on our website.



Good Practice

Have you seen the blog that Karen from Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum has written about [how the forum influenced short breaks provision in their area](#)? If you have an example that you'd like to share with us and other forums, please contact Anapal Rehal (anapal.rehal@contact.org.uk) for further details.

Did you know that we have a Strategic Participation Health Lead?

Our Strategic Health Lead has her eyes and ears open for health related events,

Campaigning

Some forums have experienced challenges from campaign groups recently. Contact and the NNPCF have been working on a resource to help to explain the different ways in which forums and campaign/lobby groups work and how they can complement each other without being in competition. This will be available on our website soon.

News from the NNPCF Steering Group



NNPCF Steering Group and Contact's Gail Walshe met Minister Nadhim Zahawi to represent Parent Carer Forums experiences of the SEND reforms May 2018.

Sharing your experiences

The NNPCF have had a great start to the year with some key meetings taking place:

- Meeting the Minister of State for Health, Caroline Dinenage - we discussed concerns raised by forums about their communities experiences in health. You can [read the briefing issued on 27th April](#).
- NNPCF Co-Chairs met with Disabilities Minister, Sarah Newton. The meeting focused on the need for improved pathways into employment as well as recognising the challenges families face around disability benefits. You can [read our full update](#).
- NNPCF Co-Chairs and Steering Group met with Minister for Children and Families, Nadhim Zahawi. Across several opportunities to meet with the Minister we have shared some of the key issues raised by forums. You can read more about [what we shared at our meeting with DfE officials in April](#), and [our meetings with the Minister](#).

You said, We did...



Your regional steering group members have been listening to our member forums, seeking their views, and sharing them with our national partners on your behalf. This has all contributed towards our '[State of the Nation](#)' report which we will review and update annually.

Consultations

The NNPCF are currently collating national responses to the following

- *Reviewing the outcomes & support of Children in Need*

Other consultations that parent carer forums may be interested in responding to or sharing with their parent carer communities can be

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](#)

found on [our consultations page](#).

Did you know...

As well as steering group members, we have over 20 National Representatives who attend meetings & events on behalf of the NNPCF. This means that we can have parent carer forums voices represented across the many different opportunities we have to share your experiences.

They are spread out across the country and are selected for activities based on their skills and expertise across health, education, social care, & participation.

To find out more about our national reps, please [see their dedicated pages](#).

Independent Advice and Support Programme

The new contract that will see the bringing together of the Independent Support Contract and the IAS Service Contract in all Local Authority Areas has been awarded to the CDC and Contact consortium as a part of the wider support contract that also includes the Contact helpline.

There is understandably some confusion around how the contract is being rolled out and lots of questions are being raised by forums.

We have heard your concerns and are raising these with the consortium and delivery partners through the IASP delivery board which NNPCF Co-Chair Maureen Morris attends on behalf of our member parent carer forums.

We will continue to update the information we have produced so far [on our website](#).



To celebrate 10 years of funded participation the NNPCF want to showcase some of our member forums highlights and successes. Tell us about the one thing you have accomplished as a forum that makes you extremely proud, your 'WOW' moment.

We are particularly keen to hear about your examples of good partnership working, joint commissioning, and exemplary practice that you feel deserves recognition. We are also interested to hear about anything that is working really well in your area that parent carers are sharing with you.

Please [email your regional steering group member with your contributions](#).


GDPR & the NNPCF

The NNPCF uses information available to us via multiple channels for legitimate interests only. Please take a look at our [Data Protection Policy](#) for more information.

Children & Young People's Participation

CDC and KIDS have been identifying opportunities for strategic participation specifically for children and young people with SEND. The PCP grant monitoring form now has a section about children and young people's participation. This information will help Kids and CDC to map local children and young people's participation groups and forums and to know who is leading them. It will also highlight where there is no engagement with children and young people.

There may be excellent participation practice going on that Kids and CDC are not aware of. If you are aware of a strategic participation group in your areas, Kids and CDC would be very grateful if you could complete their survey: <http://bit.ly/2rVBQvq>

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