



The first news of 2020

There was a seasonal break? It now seems so long ago. Welcome to the first joint Contact and NNPCF newsletter of 2020.

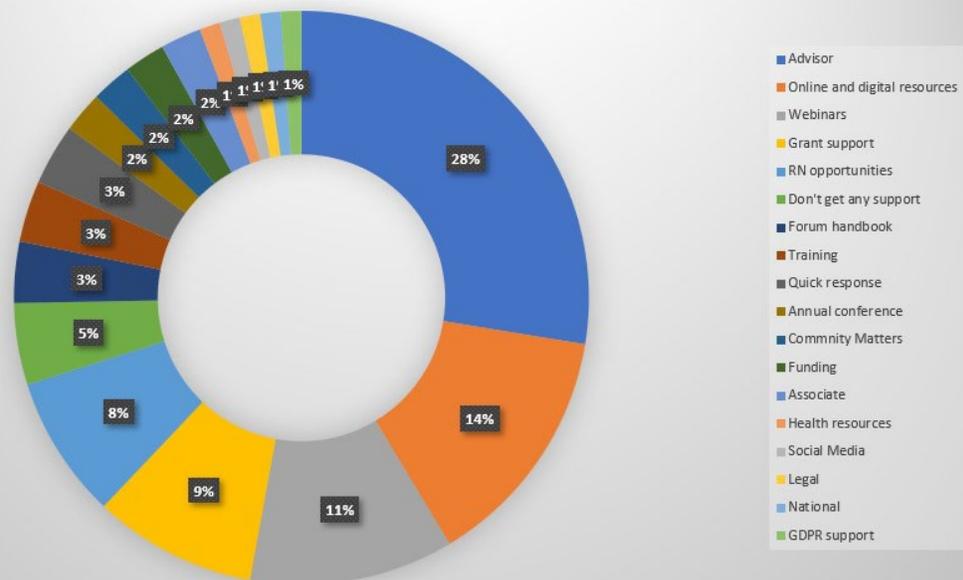
We're drawing to the end of our current contract with the Department for Education and we're delighted to be able to tell you that funding has been confirmed for Parent Carer Forums for 2020-21, and also for the strategic participation consortium which includes Contact, the NNPCF, KIDS and CDC to continue our work for another year. For Contact, that means supporting the development of PCFs and administering the DfE Parent Carer Participation grant. This contract would not have been renewed if the DfE did not recognise the amazing achievements and impact of PCFs in local areas. Thank you for all of your work, and for making a difference.

This means that forums can now make plans and think about your priorities for the coming year, what you'd like to achieve locally and what you would like to do with the £15,000 DfE grant. The new grant forms, grant guidance and all other supporting documents such as 'Managing your Grant' and the budget spreadsheet will be ready by the beginning of April, so you will be able to get your applications in early to avoid a break in funding.



THANK YOU!

What forums most value about Contact's current support



A BIG thank you to all forums that completed our recent survey on support for PCFs. We had a fantastic response - with 56 forums completing the survey. We'll use this information to tweak our core offer next year (funding permitting), and will arrange a virtual meeting soon for the 25 or so forums who expressed an interest in joining us

to discuss what a future contract to support PCFs might look like. We'll be in touch soon with some meeting dates/times.

Forums most value our Advisors' support, followed by our online and digital resources, templates, newsletter etc, our webinar programme and support around completing the grant forms. Resilience and Forum Leadership training topped the learning and development wish list, followed by a variety of operational topics for running a forum and managing relationships. We're sure it won't surprise you to learn that resilience - both on a personal, and forum level, came out really highly as a priority for support in the survey. With this in mind we are looking into putting in a package of support that will include support, supervision, telephone or face to face counselling and legal and financial helplines, plus a host of other helpful resources. Coupled with the support from Community Matters, this would provide a more rounded package of support for both PCFs and their members.

There were many suggestions of small things that Contact can change next year, the most popular are listed below. Forums gave a huge variety of responses for what might be needed in a future contract. We will bring these ideas to the discussions in the virtual meetings so that we can shape a future support offer together.



DfE Grant

Grant monitoring and application forms, and all supporting guidance and documentation will be refreshed and available on our website by the end of March. Please visit our [grants page](#) for further information - we will inform you when the new forms are ready.

The deadline for grant monitoring will be - Wednesday 29th April

The deadline for applications will be - Monday 8th June

Please remember - that you can apply for the first tranche of the 2020-21 grant before

your forum's 2019-20 grant monitoring has been approved - so start to put in your applications from the beginning of April so that there is not a gap in your work. If your forum has changed its bank account details since you last put an application in, or if you are a new forum, please contact Ben Bennett - ben.bennett@contact.org.uk as soon as possible to avoid a delay in receiving your grant.

Webinars

Our latest webinar hosted by Contact and the NNPCF on the [NHS Long-Term Plan](#) and what this means for PCFs is now available to view online.

Our next webinar 'An introduction to the work of the learning disability and autism work stream' will be taking place on [February 26th at 12:00 PM GMT.](#)

[Register now.](#)

The webinar will include:

- Reducing inpatient care
- Community support
- Key working
- Learning disability health checks
- Eyes, Ears and Teeth
- Reasonable adjustments

The Leading your Forum Nuts & Bolts webinar will be taking place in March - look out for further information soon.

Seldom Heard toolkit

Thank you to the forums who came forward to volunteer to test our developing Seldom Heard toolkit. The forums will be supported by a Contact associate to use the toolkit and to feedback on its design, language and any changes that need to be made before it can be rolled out to all forums later this year.

Fledglings



Part of the Contact family

Contact's not-for-profit online shop, [Fledglings](#) offers over 500 products - including toys, clothes, sensory products and equipment - that help with some of the everyday challenges families face. The products we source and supply help make life a bit easier for a parent, and more fulfilling for their child. We specialise in finding those unusual items, including many specially designed for disabled children with specific needs.

Every purchase you make in the Fledglings online shop directly helps Contact to continue supporting families of disabled children with expert information and advice - this is our cycle of support. Sign up to our free Fledglings [e-newsletter](#) to receive information about the latest Fledglings products and special offers as well as tips and advice from Contact!



Strategic Health Lead recruitment

Most of you will know that our Strategic Health Lead, Lynn left us at the end of December, and now that funding has been confirmed, we're in a position to recruit a replacement for Lynn. Details of the role and the person specification can be found on the [jobs page](#) of our website. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Walshe, Director of Participation and Regional Development (gail.walshe@contact.org.uk) for further information.

Harrow Local Offer Promotion Video for GP Surgeries & Training

Co-Production work with Harrow Council and Harrow Parent Forum/Special Needs Community CIC

Parents and carers in Harrow have been supporting the LA with the development of the Local Offer since it was introduced. However, we found it was difficult for families to know what it is and how to access it. In addition to creating a one-page map to help parents search for the names of the SEND related services, we helped the LA design and write the script for the Local Offer promotional video for GP surgeries. Its deliberately silent and designed to play on monitors installed at a network of 25 GP surgeries around Harrow. The video was made accessible to everyone when it was listed on [Harrow Council's own YouTube](#) channel. It is now used in many other places as well and for training purposes, including at events and presentations.



Suffolk's involvement in the SEND inspection re-visit

Suffolk was awaiting the Ofsted / CQC re-visit in relation to the SEND Written Statement of Action (WSOA).

Feedback and evidence of the lived experience of families demonstrated that insufficient progress had been made against the majority of areas within the WSoA. It was important that the voices of Suffolk's parents and carers were central to the re-visit and that the Parent Carer Forum represented that voice.

To ensure this, we gathered evidence focused on the areas of the WSoA. This included individual case experience where families had consented for these to be shared, as well as the qualitative and quantitative feedback on the themes. The data from our [annual SEND Parent Carer Satisfaction survey](#), including all the comments from parents and carers was shared with the inspection team in full. Our first evidence set for the inspection team was 102 pages long and included other inspection reports e.g. the CQC inspection of our Mental Health Trust. We also provided the inspection team with evidence of where things were working well and had improved.

Suffolk was found not to have made enough progress in 3 out of the 4 areas of the Written Statement of Action.

Healthwatch and Forums – National Event and new resources around joint working

Healthwatch England held a national event last year, with support from Contact and the NNPCF, to enable local Healthwatch and parent carer forums to learn from one another. The day, attended by people from all over England, showcased good practice and explored barriers to joint working.

Learning from the event has been shared in a [Working with Partners resource](#) and an MOU outlining how the NNPCF and Healthwatch England will work together was drawn up. A network briefing and two webinars were produced:

1. For [parent carer forums](#) to help them to understand the role and work of the Healthwatch network, including reflections from case studies, as well as discussing the benefits of partnership working.
2. For [local Healthwatch](#) about the [benefits of working together](#) and for Healthwatch to understand the work of Parent Carer forums and gain insight into how shared data intelligence can work well, including case studies and exploring how parent reps can provide strategic roles for the Healthwatch network to enable successful collaborative working - which ultimately improves services for disabled children and their families in their communities.

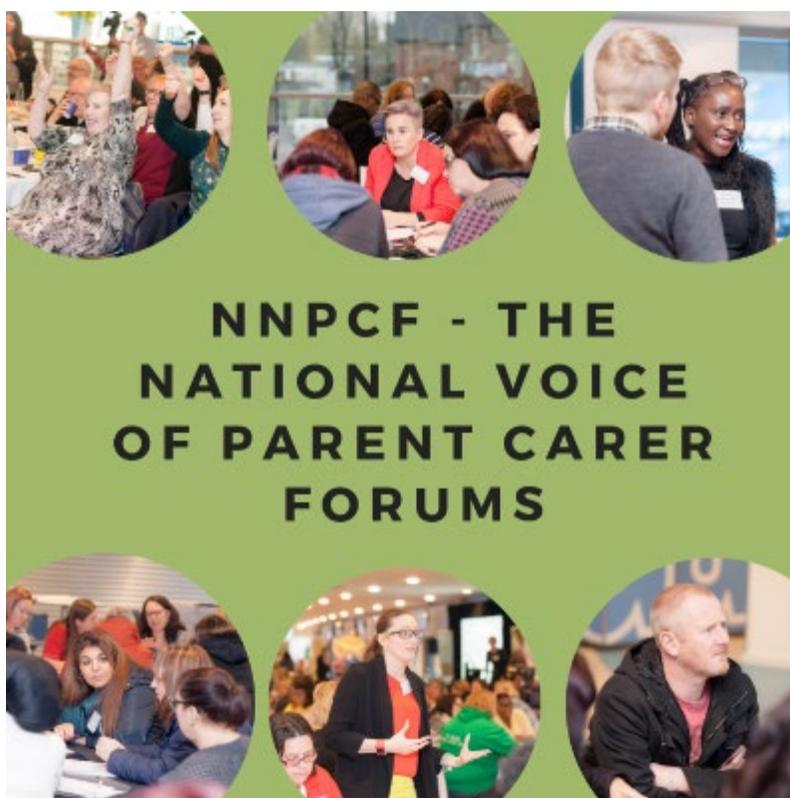
Forum participation stories

We want to be able to share positive examples of forums' work and their impact in every newsletter - if your forum would like to share something with other forums in the next newsletter or on our website, please contact Sue Mennear - sue.mennear@contact.org.uk. - we'd like to hear your positive participation stories that demonstrate the difference that forums are making to services, and we're sure that other forums would too.

Do you have a child aged 14 or over who is preparing for adulthood or been through this already?

We are planning new resources for parents and carers of young people who are preparing for adulthood and the transition from child to adult services. If you care for a child aged 14 and over, help us make sure the information developed is as useful as possible for families by telling us about your current or past experiences when your child or young person was transitioning to adulthood and [filling in a survey on transitions into adulthood](#).

The survey is part of a project funded by the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) and delivered by Contact, Carers UK, National Development Team for Inclusion, and the National Network of Parent Carer Forums.



NNPCF C.I.C.



After much hard work and patience we have officially formalised our structure by becoming a Community Interest Company (C.I.C.).

This will allow for a more protected work structure and gives the NNPCF the opportunity to seek more ways to be involved in the development of SEND procedures and policies.

NNPCF New steering group members.

Recently we have had a change to our Steering Group membership due to previous members completing their terms.

We would like to again thank Maureen Morris, Kay Moore, and Lara Roberts for all the hard work they have put in during their time as Regional Steering Group members. Of course Kay and Lara both continue their roles on the management team as Policy and Participation Leads.

So we would like to welcome Joanne Gilliland as the new North East regional Steering Group member, Ros Luff as the new London region Steering Group member (working

alongside Fazilla Amide), and Sarah Clarke as the new South East region steering group rep.

We all look forward to the experience that they will bring to their roles as the NNPCF moves forward as a C.I.C.

Policy Briefing 2020

We will be posting the current policy briefing on our website and linking to the closed group. This contains the latest consultations and other calls for evidence that we as forums, and individuals, can take part in.

We strongly recommend taking the time in reading, and taking part in any that apply.

Useful Information

- [SEN 2 Data](#)
- [DfE Newsletters](#)
- [CDC Case Law](#)
- [SEND Single Route of Redress \(SEND Tribunal National Trial\) Guidance and toolkit](#)
- [NNPCF news updates](#)
- [SEND Joint Inspection Outcome Letters](#)
- [Find your forum](#)

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