



National Network of Parent Carer Forums

'Our Strength is our Shared Experience'

# NNPCF & Contact a Family Parent Carer Participation Bulletin

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## INDEPENDENT SUPPORT

The Council for Disabled Children have now published the first Invitation to Tender for the build and evidence phase of the Independent Supporter programme. You can read more about the details of this, including reviewing a powerpoint presentation that explains more about this by going to

[www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/news/january-june-2014](http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/news/january-june-2014).

Contact a Family and the NNPCF have considered carefully the advice that we should give to forums in relation to this opportunity, and have waited until we have been able to review the documents to confirm what this should be.

We think it is essential that forums play a key part and influence the planning and development of what independent support should look like in your area. However, as usual, we would urge caution to forums if you are considering becoming service providers in this instance, as whilst we know it can work, we also know that there can be complexities when those whose primary purpose is about participation and influence become deliverers and providers of services. Our understanding is that this is time limited funding, so considering the impact of changing forums remits needs serious consideration.

We also know that some forums may be being approached by interested private or VCS organisations as they consider whether they apply, and they may seek out forums to support, join, or be part of their application. Forums need to think carefully about this, as if you support one organisation over another and they are then unsuccessful, this may impact on your ability to influence delivery in your local area.

On a national level, when faced with a similar dilemma, the NNPCF Steering Group decided that they would not support any individual application but would expect to work in partnership with any successful applicant, and they produced a statement that they were able to give to all parties who approached them explaining what they would expect to see in bids relating to the participation of parent carers, and their willingness to work with the successful party. You can find a copy of this [here](#).



We know that can cause some challenge complexities as you may have preferences about who you may or may not want to provide independent support (or indeed want to bid yourselves)

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but the risk to consider is that in supporting one bid should there be multiple bids it may exclude and isolate you should the provider you support not be successful. Maintaining an independent position also enables you to maintain your role in influencing at a strategic level. Whilst there are some inherent risks with not being more directly involved with bids, the risk of aligning with one provider over another could outweigh those.

The NNPCF Steering Group have also been invited to be part of the selection panel for the Independent Support applications, and so will be able to influence in that way.

Obviously all forums can make their own decisions about what you do and how you do it, but we want everyone to be aware of, and consider all of the implications in relation to the different options available to you.

## GRANT APPLICATION AND MONITORING FORMS

The 2014/15 grant parent carer participation application forms are now available to download as yet. Please remember that for 2014/15 forums can apply for up to £15,000. You can download the forms by going to

[www.cafamily.org.uk/pcp/resources](http://www.cafamily.org.uk/pcp/resources)

The monitoring forms for your 2013/14 grant are also available to download.

If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact your parent carer participation advisor—you can find their contact details [here](#)



## NNPCF to join External Implementation Board

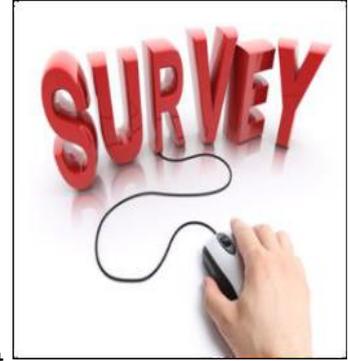
The Co-chairs of the NNPCF Steering Group have been invited by the Department for Education to join the External Implementation Board which will support and report back to the Department about the implementation of the SEN reforms. They have yet to attend their first meeting but will report back about this as soon as they have.

We are trying to make sure this bulletin is accessible for all. If we use acronyms we will always put the full meaning in the first time we use it. Throughout this bulletin, we use the acronym SEN and sometimes SEND throughout and this means Special Educational Needs and / or Disability. Please keep us on our toes and let us know if we are using too many acronyms, or you have ideas for how we could improve things.



thank  
you!

## Parent Carer Forum Survey on the SEND Reforms and Health Survey



Many thanks to the 123 forums that responded to the SEND reform survey. This was a fantastic response in such a short timescale. The report has been compiled and sent to the Department for Education so that they can see and consider your individual responses. We will be publishing an anonymised version of the report with the key data and information presented in a way that does not identify who submitted it. This should be available next week, so please keep an eye on the [website](#) and the [NNPCF facebook page](#).

Many thanks also to the many forums who responded to the Health Survey. Sheila Davies is completing the report detailing the outcomes of this work, and the engagement of forums with health, which will also be published shortly.

Parent Carer Forums Survey - Impact of the SEND Reforms



## Conference—a new landscape for SEN and disability

You may have seen the Council for Disabled Children advertising 3 conferences titled “A new landscape for SEN and disability” to be held on:

23rd April in London, 1st May in Birmingham and 8th May in Manchester.

Many forums raised concerns about the cost of these conferences being prohibitive and preventing forums from attending. As such, we have procured with CDC places at the conference, and are able to offer at no cost 2 spaces for each region (3 in London) for parent carer forum representatives to attend these conferences.

It would be helpful if you could decide as a region who you would like to attend, and would ask that those who do attend commit to reporting back in the next regional meeting about the conference so all can share the information and learning.

Your regional representative from the NNPCF will be in touch shortly to suggest how you might decide who your regional representatives should be.

# OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

The Disability e-Learning Programme curriculum is currently undergoing a wide consultation, carried out by Triangle on behalf of RCPCH. Triangle are consulting disabled children and young people, parents and primary carers, healthcare, social care, education, faith and youth group workers, sport and recreation, transport, and criminal justice to gather opinions about the content that will be available on the e-Portal. Both Contact a Family and the NNPCF are Consortia members for this project as reported in our last bulletin.



RCPCH and Triangle both value and welcome your input into this curriculum and e-learning resource. Please help us in the following ways:

- **Completing a questionnaire, and/or**
- **Passing the questionnaire to others in your organisation or social network for completion**

**Encouraging those with a particular interest to volunteer for a focus group that will be carried out by Triangle**

Please follow the questionnaire link most relevant to you below:

[Workers, Volunteers and Trainees Questionnaire](#)  
[Disabled Children and Young People Questionnaire](#)  
[Parents and Primary Carers](#)

These links can also be found at <http://www.triangle.org.uk/>

The closing date for these surveys are Sunday 16 March 2014. If you would like any further information about this consultation, please contact Sylvia Lamb:

[sylvia@triangle.org.uk](mailto:sylvia@triangle.org.uk)

## Consultation on Statutory Guidance for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions



The new statutory guidance for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions has been developed in collaboration with a range of stakeholders, including members of the Health Conditions in Schools Alliance, school leaders, academy organisations, unions, young people with medical conditions and their parents, and with Department of Health officials. You can find the guidance on line

<https://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/> The closing date for responses in Friday March 14th 2014

## Inquiries into Children and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) services and Mental Health Crisis Care

This is an important opportunity to contribute evidence in relation to the particular health needs of children and young people. In light of concerns that have been expressed by the Chief Medical Officer and others about both the extent to which children and adolescents are affected by mental health problems and difficulties with gaining access to appropriate treatment, the Health Committee has decided to undertake an inquiry into children's and adolescent mental health and Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). They will be looking at the current state of CAMHS, including service provision across all four tiers; funding and commissioning; and quality. The deadline for written submissions is noon on 19 March. Find out more [here](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is also looking at the mental health crisis care in England. [The CQC inquiry](#) closes on 30 April 2014

### Your views needed

Both are asking people who have experienced a mental health crisis, or their families to share their experiences of the help, care and support they may have received.

Contact a Family will also respond and we're interested in finding out more about your experiences. Please contact [una.summerson@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:una.summerson@cafamily.org.uk) or phone 020 7608 8742 to share your views.

### Tips if you or your forum want to respond directly

It is not necessary for your submission to address every question. Your submission should be short, no more than six pages, are preferred (max 3000 words). No PDFs.

### Related items

Read about how Kirklees parent carer forum has helped redesigning their CAMHS, [see here](#)

## NNPCF Facebook Page

The NNPCF closed Facebook group has been set up at the request of numerous members of parent carer forums contacting us over the last few months. This is a place where you can quickly share information and find out what is happening in different areas. Only members of forums are able to become members of the closed group, but our open page is accessible to all. You can find our pages by going to [www.facebook.com/nnpcf](http://www.facebook.com/nnpcf)



## Update on the Code of Practice

The co-chairs of the NNPCF, and some other parent carer representatives from forums were invited to some final opportunities to meet with the Department for Education and continue to provide feedback about the draft Code of Practice. We have continued to raise the key issues that forums raised during the consultation processes last year. We will let you know as soon as there is a clear timescale for the publication of the final Code of Practice.

## Interested in becoming a non steering group representative for the NNPCF?

The NNPCF Steering Group are regularly asked to become involved in a wide range of activities to ensure that parent carers are at the heart of service development. We are keen to recruit non steering group representatives to support our work and participation. We are looking for parent carer representatives who are part of their local forum, and regional network who would be willing to represent the parent carer voice. We do have a remuneration policy for this work, and a formal application process. You can read the details by going to our website [www.nnpcf.org.uk/about-us](http://www.nnpcf.org.uk/about-us) and looking in our governance documents. If you want more information contact [Sarah Gallimore](mailto:Sarah.Gallimore@nnpcf.org.uk) on 020 7608 8708

## Regional Meetings

“Regional meetings give Parent Carer forums time to reflect and share great practice. There are always opportunities to network, this gives people the chance to chat with neighbouring forums and organise joint work and training sessions. There is a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the room at regional meetings. People are always willing to share their skills and understanding of participation to encourage and empower forums that are just starting their journey. There is a real sense of regional cohesion at the network meetings, which I know from speaking to those forums that attend, strengthens the work of Parent Carer forums locally. It’s definitely worth finding out when your next regional meeting is planned, speak to your regional adviser, and try to go along if you can” *Laura Burling, Parent Carer Participation Advisor for North East and Yorkshire & Humber.*

## Success stories—how has your forum made a difference?



We love being able to share forums’ inspiring stories and successes in bringing improvements to services and strengthening participation.

To find out about how forums have improved hospital experiences for disabled children and young people, doubled their forum’s membership and diversified their representation, or worked with Local Authorities to improve the local offer, among other success stories, please go: <http://www.cafamily.org.uk/what-we-do/parent-carer-participation/success-stories/>

Or to tell us about something positive your forum has achieved, please get in touch with your Contact a Family Regional Advisor or our Participation Team Administrator:

[leela.shanti@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:leela.shanti@cafamily.org.uk)