

# Using your grant



Light bulb with hand putting money in the top

Presented by Kate Lovelace-Collins and Sarah Lee



# Welcome to this online workshop



Welcome sign



# What to expect from this session

- This session will be recorded and uploaded to the parent participation you tube account. If you don't want to be on the recording please do switch off your camera.
- We have designated some time for questions and answers. However if you need to ask something at another time please do, you can ask by voice or in the chat.
- Please keep yourself muted if you aren't talking to help us minimise background noises.
- At the end of the session we'll send you a link to a short feedback survey – please complete it. Your views and ideas are really important to help us improve and develop how we can support.



# Contents

- Purpose of the Department for Education (DfE) grant
- What you can use the grant for
- What you can't use the grant for
- Examples from parent carer forums
- Question & answer session



# The purpose of the DfE grant

- To support, develop, sustain, and enhance parent carer participation in local areas
- To enable the strategic participation and representation of parent carers with local statutory and voluntary partners in service provision, development, and improvement



# Essentials for parent carer forums

- Pan disability – open to parent carers of children and young people with any special education needs and/or disability.
- Covering 0-25 years
- Actively working to be fully representative of all communities, including Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups and other seldom heard groups in your area.



# Your forums grant application

- You should only use your grant for what's in your approved application
- If you need to change your spend during the year you can go ahead as long as you are confident it meets the purpose and conditions of grant.
- We recommend that you check with your Adviser about any changes ahead of making any payments or commitments.
- There is a risk, if you don't check, that this spend won't be approved.



# What you can use the grant for

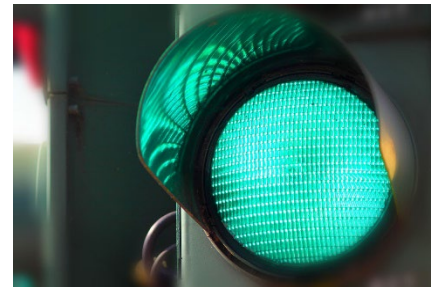


Image of a green traffic light

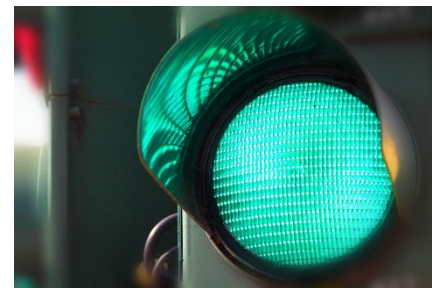
- activity that supports collective parent carer participation in the local area
- activity to build the forum's membership or increases reach and inclusivity
- outreach activities to include parent carers from underrepresented communities





# What you can use the grant for

Image of a green traffic light

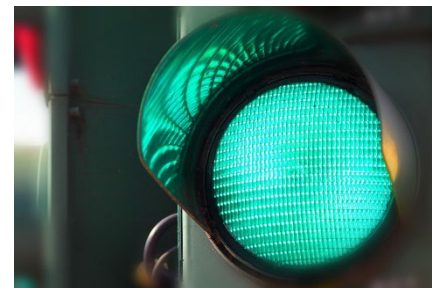


- engagement events, whether these are solely organised by the forum or in partnership with other organisations
- day to day running costs of the forum including admin/development worker costs
- accounting or auditing; phone and broadband costs; insurance
- parent carer out of pocket expenses (travel, childcare, subsistence)



# What you can use the grant for

Image of a green traffic light



- parent carer remuneration for reps attending strategic meetings
- website development and website hosting
- information, marketing, promotion, branding, publicity, and resources
- one-off commissioned work on the forum's website, on a consultation or training
- forum capacity building and team building activities
- paying associates, consultants, or trainers,



# What you can't use the grant for

Image of a stop sign



- to fund activities which are the responsibility of the local authority or other body. (for example, short breaks activity).
- to purchase alcohol, or to pay for parking fines or other fines
- to pay for parent carers' involvement in shaping individual care packages for their own children
- to develop forums which pursue the resolution of individual parent carer problems or concerns regarding their own child
- to fund a forum that only concentrates on a limited number of conditions



# What you can't use the grant for



Image of a stop sign

- Only focussing on one service such as short breaks or preparing for adulthood
- to fund support groups or advocacy
- to fund political, religious, campaigning, or lobbying activities
- to pay for training in relation to impairment specific issues
- to fund training for staff in a host organisation unless this has been agreed with the Adviser prior to the training taking place



# What you can't use the grant for



Image of stop sign

- to fund any other local groups, or be gifted to any other groups
- to fund any gifts to individuals, e.g., flowers or vouchers to a parent carer leaving the forum, over the value of £25
- to fund fun events that do not have the aim of increasing parent carers' knowledge of the forum, widening reach, identifying parents experiences, or attracting new members



# Blackburn with Darwen Parents in Partnership



Disability information day – which brought together children and adults with local providers, such as the NHS and other voluntary services. The event helped the forum meet parent carers, increase their membership, promote their role, and build relationships with local partners.



**Westminster Parents Participation Group, Brighton Parent Carers' Council, and Swindon SEND Families Voice** share how they reached underrepresented communities in their areas. [Watch on our you tube channel.](#)



**SEND Alliance Cumbria** created some [great videos to help with their recruitment](#) and [welcoming and supporting their volunteers](#) as part of their induction.

**Why Volunteer at SENDAC?**

SENDAC wouldn't be possible without our Amazing volunteers! Having a parent carer forum is so important to ensure there is someone to include parent carer opinions in the decisions made about SEND Services across Cumbria. Being a volunteer has so many benefits!

*Makes Friends & Connections!*

You will be Part of a brilliant team with other parent carers, who understand the struggles we can face!

*Make a difference!*

Volunteering for SENDAC & helping families with SEND is so rewarding!

Increase your Knowledge & communication skills

**Kick start your career & gain references**

Have Fun, attend events & socialise!

Be Involved in Discussions & decisions on SEND services in Cumbria

*Professional & Personal Growth!*

Find your passion & a new purpose

*New career path & Passions!*





# Plymouth Parent Carer Voice

**Plymouth Parent Carer Voice** responded to the pandemic by changing its planned SEND conference to a week of online activities. High-profile speakers like parent carer Cary Grant and Luke Jackson helped them reach 400 new families and recruit new parent carer reps.

They also organised a panel with councillors, MPs and professionals and parents which resulted in five new working groups being formed to address different issues parents had highlighted. This included projects working with Plymouth University to carry out audits of local parks and disability play equipment and shopping areas and the additional services that are available for families of disabled children.



## Stockton Parent Carer Forum

We invest time in building up relationships with parent carers we're in touch with so they get to know us and build up trust between us.

We identify areas where we need support, develop roles around this and advertise. We've found that parents have been really keen to give something back and help other families as well as the forum.

We make sure some of our activities are aimed at being able to help and support families such as wellbeing packs, equipment and we use other funding to enable us to do this. Read more about this story here: [Stockton-on-Tees-Success-Story.pdf \(contact.org.uk\)](#)



# Useful Links

Information about the grant can be found on the [grants and monitoring page](#) of our website.

- [Managing-Your-Grant.pdf \(contact.org.uk\)](#)
- [Grant application guidance](#) – grant application examples
- [Grant monitoring guidance](#)

## [Parent participation Youtube channel](#)

- [Grants Online Learning 2023 24 – YouTube](#)
- Role of the treasurer online learning session: [Role of the Treasurer in Parent Carer Forums Webinar recording - YouTube](#)



# Questions?



# Thank You!

- Thank you for attending with us today
- A short survey link will be sent to you via email
- Please take the time to complete this it will help us plan future online training events including other topics you would like to see
- The recording of this session and presentation will be on the parent participation Resources page of Contacts' website next week – an email confirming this will be sent to you once this is available

If you want to talk through your grant spend please get in touch with your [Adviser](#), or if you're unsure who that is – us [sarah.lee@contact.org.uk](mailto:sarah.lee@contact.org.uk) or [kate.lovelace-collins@contact.org.uk](mailto:kate.lovelace-collins@contact.org.uk)

