

Changes to the 2026-27 grant application form and 2025-26 grant monitoring form processes

We have listed below the changes to the grant forms this year so that forums can easily identify the changes and understand why they have been made. The main change this year is:

The value of the main grant remains at £17,500 for 2026–27, but in addition, this year the DfE has awarded an extra £3,500 per forum in recognition of the increased workload associated with engagement around SEND reform, the white paper consultation process, and wider peer support, training and collaboration with the NNPCF. This means you will receive an additional £3,500 as part of your first tranche.

It is up to forums how best to allocate this additional £3,500 in line with the above details on additional work during the reform period, and the application/monitoring approval process remains the same.

Please include this additional £3,500 in your grant application budget when applying for your grant.

You Said....We Did

Thank you to everyone who gave us feedback to help improve the forms/approval process. Wherever possible we have listened to your feedback and made the necessary changes

You Said	We did	Form changes applied to
<p>“the grant form is slow to complete and there is repetition across forms “</p>	<p>If you applied for the grant yourselves in 2025/26 then you will be able to use the same login details as last year, your contact information/forum information/last year's budget will be pre-populated on the form. We hope this will save you time and aid you in completing the form. To log in, just log in as a returning user. If you've forgotten your password, just use the forgotten password link.</p> <p>There will still be some repetition across monitoring and application as the DfE need to be able to compare progress from when an application is made at the start of the year and when the monitoring is completed at the end of the year; and the forum applying for the grant is not always the same forum who is applying the following year and if we were to combine application and monitoring into one form this would prevent forums applying early for their first tranche the following year and would then complicate the process.</p>	<p>Application and monitoring</p>



“make it easier to navigate to the end of the form”	We have been able to add some navigation buttons at the top of the form which will help users to get to the end of the form a bit easier, particularly when making edits to the form.	Application and monitoring
“the grant form is too long”	Time will be saved with contact details/budget info from last year being saved (as above) We have taken out the question 3.3: “Have contributed their experiences of services to the forum during the year e.g. via drop-in sessions, surveys or consultations” as it is not something forums can give a meaningful answer to at the start of the financial year.	Application and monitoring Application
“the Grant conditions are long and confusing”	We understand that the grant conditions are daunting, but as the grant is funded by public money these conditions are required to be in place. We have included links to all words/jargon that may be hard to understand and have asked forums to get in touch if they are unsure of anything listed in the conditions before signing.	Application
“the need to have your application approved by the local authority is a major delay”	Added explanation about the MOU not being an ‘approval’ but an agreement to work in partnership with the forum. Explained our follow up process when there is a delay in receiving the MOU.	Application and Website text

Other changes:

Application

NNPCF Privacy Notice

We have adjusted the GDPR statement to include a privacy notice in relation to *sharing limited information about your forum (forum name and role of representatives) with the NNPCF to provide support, monitor programme effectiveness, and coordinate activities. **No personal contact details or sensitive data will be shared.***

Section 3.3 Forum Members

We have clarified this question. Here we mean parent carers in your wider membership (who have signed up to receive a newsletter for example) rather than forum committee members.

Section 6.3 Parent support letter



We have added a downloadable template letter.

Conditions of grant

There is an additional condition of grant asking that all funded forums should use the [PCF handbook](#) as the standard for their work and work towards being fully in line with it as part of the grant conditions. We have also added relevant links to the handbook throughout all the guidance.



Grant monitoring

Section 4 – Forum Members

We have clarified this question. Here we mean parent carers in your wider membership (who have signed up to receive a newsletter for example) rather than forum committee members.

General pointers that remain unchanged –

- All 2025-26 grant spend must take place by 31st March, and any/all underspends (including unused vouchers) must be deducted from the 2026-27 grant. Forums should not commit to any further spend or use of their underspend until they have an approved grant application for 2026-27. We encourage forums to put in early applications to avoid a funding gap.
- Forums can spend up to 75% of their total grant on salaries or a paid worker.
- Contact is the grant giver, and all grant payments will come direct from Contact.
- We would urge everyone involved in the grant application to read the HM Government Code of Conduct for grant recipients because as grant recipients, you are bound by this, and it is in place to protect forums and their members.
- Visit the Parent carer forum handbook for guidance, templates, and best practices to support your forum's work. <https://contact.org.uk/help-for-families/parent-carer-participation/parent-carer-forum-handbook/about-the-handbook/>
- Note: Contact will need to perform due diligence checks and set up new forums as payees on our finance system, which will result in a slight delay – this will be kept to a minimum if all required information is supplied. We will also offer all new forums a grant 1:1 with our grants team.

Deadlines -

Applications:

Friday 3rd July 2026

Grant monitoring:

Friday May 8th

The live [online learning session about the grant forms](#) will take place on Wednesday 25th March 12:00 – 13:00 and will be recorded and uploaded to the parent carer participation YouTube channel.