



National Network of Parent Carer Forums

'Our Strength is our Shared Experience'

NNPCF & Contact a Family Parent Carer Participation Bulletin

6th October 2013 No 10

Contact: Sue North Tel: 07738896474

sue.north@cafamily.org.uk www.cafamily.org.uk

info@nnpcf.org.uk www.nnpf.org.uk

contact a family
for families with disabled children

Strengthening Parent Carer Participation

CONSULTATION LAUNCHED ON THE DRAFT SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS CODE OF PRACTICE, DRAFT REGULATIONS AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Minister at the Department for Education, Edward Timpson M.P. has written to the NNPCF to let us know that the Department have published the **Consultation Code of Practice, and other supporting documents.**

This version of the Code does reflect some of the comments and feedback provided by forum members, but there remain many elements which we are sure that parent carers will have views about.

The NNPCF Steering Group will be producing a national response, so we would welcome your and your forums thoughts, comments and opinions so that we can create a consensus document.

The Department remain committed to hearing the views of parent carers about these documents, and will be offering forums the opportunity to meet directly with them on November 26th. We will be inviting two representatives from every region to attend. They have also offered to attend regional meetings in the North East and South West to meet with parent carer forums who may be unable to travel to London, or Birmingham for the national event, to provide the opportunity for those forum members to be able to respond directly to them. We are producing a briefing paper which we will circulate to Forums over the next 10 days to support you as you review and consider your response to these documents.

Also note, the Department has written to non pathfinder Local Authorities to let them know they will receive £75,000 to support the transition. Forums may wish to discuss this with their authorities and consider how some of this funding could also be used to support the participation of parent carers in the transition.

You can view the documents by going to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/draft-0-to-25-special-educational-needs-sen-code-of-practice-draft-regulations>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Consultation launched for Code of Practice	1
Parent Carer Rights and the Care Bill.....	2
National Parent Carer Participation Event.....	2
Co-chair NNPCF.....	3
Pathfinder Information Packs.....	3
Pathfinder Champions Events.....	3
Pathfinder and delivery partner evaluation.....	3
Grant Information.....	4
Learning & Development.....	4
OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE	
MONITOR—GP survey..	5
Good Practice.....	5
Regional Events.....	5

THE CARE BILL, THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES BILL AND THE RIGHTS OF PARENT CARERS

The Government is improving the rights of carers of adults in the Care Bill: removing the need to be providing regular and substantial care in order to receive an assessment, removing the need to request an assessment of their needs, placing a duty on local authorities to provide services to the carer following assessment and introducing a new well-being principle

The Bill as currently drafted applies only to adult carers of adults. This means that parents of disabled children are not included in the important new rights and duties introduced by the Bill. The Children and Families Bill does not include equivalent rights for parent carers compared to those of carers of adults as set out in Care Bill.

Unfortunately, the Children and Families Bill doesn't require a local authority to provide assessment and services to parent carers. All of the general duties relate solely to children and young people with SEN, not to parent carers, other than the duty to provide information in clause 32 which applies to both parents and children. Commitments during Report stage of the Children and Families Bill in the House of Commons, Government pledged to improve the rights of young carers (they will table amendments at Lords committee stage). Therefore parent carers with disabled children are the only group of carers without improvements in rights.

Carers UK, working with Contact a Family and the NNPCF have written and raised these issues with the relevant ministers but there has been no change.

Carers UK have a briefing including some key actions

individuals and forums could take. You can read those by going to: <http://www.carersuk.org/get-involved/campaign-a-better-care-bill> Time is of the essence, so please read these.

CARERS UK
the voice of carers

NATIONAL PARENT CARER PARTICIPATION EVENT—NOVEMBER 5TH IN BIRMINGHAM

Following on from the success of our last national conference, and in light of comments made by you about preferring for such events not to take place in March, we are pleased to let you know the conference this year will be on November 5th. We are very pleased that the Minister for Children and Families, Edward Timpson will be meeting with us. The NNPCF will also hold its first Annual General Meeting as the organisation continues to move towards independence.

Your forum will have received a formal invite, with joining instructions and frequently asked questions. If you have any questions please contact Helen Jones — Helen.Jones@cafamily.org.uk or tel: 07738895007. We hope that you are able to join us at this important time.



A NEW CO-CHAIR FOR THE NNPCF STEERING GROUP—AND GOODBYE AND THANK YOU TO CARRIE BRITTON



Carrie Britton

It is with great sadness that the NNPCF Steering Group says goodbye to one of our co-chairs Carrie Britton. Carrie has been an integral member of the steering group since it's inception and her insight, wisdom and strategic leadership has supported the NNPCF developing to the degree it has been able to, and having the influence that it does.



Sherann Hillman

We are pleased to welcome Sherann Hillman, the North West Representative who was selected as the incoming co-chair and will continue to work alongside Sarah Thomas. We hope that Carrie will be able to join us at the national event in November.

SEND PATHFINDER INFORMATION PACKS

Mott McDonald have published information packs that demonstrate the learning and work of the pathfinder areas. Each information pack will pull together resources from across the pathfinder programme to cover the six principal themes pathfinders have been working on: preparing for adulthood; 0 – 25 coordinated assessment and EHC plans; personal budgets; local offer; joint commissioning,; and participation and engagement with children, young people, parents and carers. You can find the information packs published via the following link, on the updated SEND Pathfinder website: <http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/infopacks/>

PATHFINDER CHAMPION EVENTS HELD IN EVERY LOCAL AREA

The Pathfinder Champions have a remit to hold an event and workshops in local areas. It has always been agreed that forums were key partners and should be invited to and where possible attend these alongside their local authority colleagues. However, we know in some areas that forums are not being invited or are not aware these are happening. We have been working with the Department and Mott McDonald and the Pathfinder Champions to make sure that we address this. There has been a commitment to share dates with us so that we can let forums know when these event are taking place.

If you are experiencing challenges in finding out about these events in your local area, please let your regional advisor know.

PATHFINDER AND DELIVERY PARTNER EVALUATIONS

The Department for Education has released the latest evaluation of the SEND pathfinder programme, produced by SQW, the Pathfinder Support Team.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/impact-evaluation-of-the-send-pathfinder-programme>

In addition government has released a high level evaluation of the Delivery Partners <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/evaluation-of-the-green-paper-support-contracts>

PARENT CARER PARTICIPATION GRANT INFORMATION

If your 2012/13 grant monitoring has been approved, you can now claim the second grant payment by completing a simple one-page form which is available on our website: www.cafamily.org.uk/claimform. The closing date for claiming the second payment is **29th November 2013**. This is an absolute deadline. **Any second payment forms received after this date will not be considered under any circumstances.**

ADDITIONAL DISCRETIONARY GRANT

Each year, for various different reasons, not all forums claim all of their grant allocation. Following discussion with the Department we have recently agreed a process whereby forums who have been able to spend all of their grant, and could spend more, could apply for some additional grant funding.

The discretionary grant application documentation will shortly be available on our website. **Forums can submit a discretionary grant application from 1st October 2013 onwards.** Applications must be received by **8th December 2013**. Applications can only be assessed after the closing date for the second grant payment, as only then will we know how much is available for redistribution. Key points to note about the discretionary grant are:

- ⇒ only forums which are the 2013/14 grant recipient can apply
- ⇒ forums must have already claimed the second grant payment, and must project a full grant spend by March 2013.
- ⇒ discretionary grant applications must meet the same Conditions of Grant and will be subject to the same monitoring requirements as the 2013/14 grant application
- ⇒ discretionary grant applications must be agreed with the Regional Advisor
- ⇒ there is no limit to the value of the discretionary grant which can be claimed, but it must all be spend by 31st March 2014

Summary of timetable:

- ⇒ Autumn 2013: 2012/13 grant monitoring approved (date will vary for each forum)
- ⇒ 5th September 2013: process for second grant payment commenced
- ⇒ 1st October 2013: discretionary grant process commences 1st October 2013
- ⇒ 29th November 2013: second grant payment process closes (no exceptions)
- ⇒ 8th December 2013: Closing date for discretionary grant applications
- ⇒ 11th December 2013: Forums advised whether discretionary grant application is successful
- ⇒ End of December 2013: Forum receives discretionary grant payment from Department for Education

We have tried to make the application form as simple as possible, and the accompanying documentation includes a frequently asked questions, and examples of possible activity that you may wish to bid for.

Please note that this is a discretionary grant, and decisions about allocation will be made based on the amount available, the activity proposed, and our intelligence about forums abilities to be able to spend and meet the Conditions of Grant.

If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact your regional advisor to discuss this. You can find your advisors details [here](#), or for questions about the process contact Kate Johnstone, Grants Programme Officer at Kate.Johnstone@cafamily.org.uk or on 0207 7608 8783

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

We will shortly be publishing details and dates of new training courses and resources for parent carer forums in England.

With the start of the new contract period Contact a Family and the National Network of Parent Carer Forums have considered the position and progress of forums across England and have reviewed the feedback from previous face to face and online training to determine how best to utilise the limited development budget we have.

Feedback from the previous face to face training was that the course content was great and having the opportunity to workshop issues with skilled trainers and other forum members was really helpful. However we received lots of feedback that it was difficult to attend and courses weren't local enough. We also had lots of people book on and for various different and legitimate reasons were not able to attend on the day.

Taking all this into account we have come up with the following range of options for forum members to access in the coming months.

WEBINARS AND ONLINE LEARNING



On September the 19th we held our first webinar with Steve Broach presenting on **“What Parent Carer Forums in England need to know to influence local post 16 education and transport provisions.”** You can watch



this now by going to the Contact a Family website.

We would like to hear from you about ideas for webinars, and can provide support to enable you to access these if this is a new way of learning for you.

We also intend to develop our online resources and information in the coming months and hope to be able to create some more short video clips for you to watch at times to suit you.

We will also be offering: A training budget for every Regional Network; a 2 day course for leaders of forums; Introduction to Participation events for new forum members. You can read more about our plans [here](#) and we will contact forums with further details as they are confirmed.

WORKING TOGETHER—OUR EXPERIENCE OF CO-PRODUCTION

Contact a Family, SE7 Pathfinder and the NNPCF have produced a video that provides examples from parent carer forums, local authority officers, and health commissioners about how they have developed co-production methods of working, and the benefits of this. The video was produced in collaboration with the Department for Education and Mott McDonald. You can find the link to this video on all three organisations websites or by clicking [here](#). We are also offering two workshops on Co-Production to be held on October 21st In London and November 14th In Sheffield. All forums have received the flyer for these events, but if you require further information please contact Tracy.Mander@eastsussex.gov.uk



OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

MONITOR GP STUDY

Monitor the Health Service regulator for England, would like to hear about people's experience of local GP services. This is part of an earlier 'call for evidence' around the challenges faced by general practices. They are reaching the end of this study but would particularly like to hear your responses to the following questions;

- How important is it to you to see the same GP each time?
- Are you able to access a GP or practice nurse in a reasonable amount of time when you need to?
- Are you able to see a GP or practice nurse or register at a GP surgery in a place which is convenient for you?
- Are you able to switch GP or GP practice when you want to?

Do you feel that your GP and practice are responsive to your specific needs?

Feedback should be submitted directly to Monitor gpservices@monitor.gov.uk. We have not been given a clear deadline for this request, other than that they would like views to be submitted over the next few days.

Further information about this study is available on the Monitor website. <http://www.monitor.gov.uk/gpstudy>

SUCCESS STORIES—HOW HAS YOUR FORUM MADE A DIFFERENCE?

We are always keen to know how your parent carer forum has made a difference, and the impact your participation has had. This evidence helps us to demonstrate why parent carer participation is so important.

We know that every forum has examples that show how they have managed to work with their partners to overcome obstacles and challenges and improve services for disabled children and their families. We would really like to hear your stories, and they always help other forums who may be experiencing the same challenge. Please let us know, and consider if you are happy for us to share this in the good practice newsletter. Contact your regional advisor if you have stories you can share. You can find the contact details for your regional advisor [here](#)

REGIONAL NETWORK MEETINGS

Don't forget to find out when your next regional network meeting is. These are really important for forums to meet together, share intelligence and information, and have the opportunity to support and gain support from other parent carer forums. If you want to know when and where your next regional network meeting is, contact your NNPCF regional representative, or your CaF Regional Advisor.