



Bristol Parent Carers secures Department for Education grant funding

We are delighted to announce that we have secured funding from the Department for Education (DfE) to work in partnership with Bristol special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) families and Bristol City Council's (BCC) education, health and social care services.

BPC and senior leaders at BCC worked with [Contact](#), the national delivery partner supporting parent carer forums in England, to secure funding for the formal parent carer forum for Bristol. The £17,500 DfE grant funding is secured for the next financial year.

Hayley Hemming, BPC Chairperson, said: "We recognise this has been an uncertain year and, with the support of Contact and our fantastic volunteers, we have remained committed to ensuring that the DfE funding is accessible to families for the next financial year.

"The DfE funding means we can shape the future together and ensure that some of the most vulnerable people in our communities can access services that work for them.

"We are committed to representing the voices of parents and carers from all communities across the city and working together with other organisations to ensure that these vital services are accessible, effective, and responsive to the needs of the community."

Councillor Asher Craig, Deputy Mayor for Children, Education and Equalities, said: "Representing all communities is incredibly important to our administration. I know that Bristol Parent Carers, who are already part of our community of groups, are, like us, committed to supporting and advocating for all SEND families.

"We are on track to meet our Mayoral pledge to provide 450 specialist provision places by 2024 and are opening more specialist Resources Bases in schools across the city. Ofsted found that we have made sufficient progress in addressing four of the five key areas of weakness highlighted in their 2019 inspection. This is an exciting time and opportunity to be working together, with partners, to shape the future, make further progress, and create equitable opportunities for a valued part of our Bristol community."

Working in partnership with parent carer led groups, Bristol City Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB), we will be developing a programme of strategic co-production aimed at maximising the impact and reach of essential services for children and young people with SEND, as well as their families, across the city.

Abi Gbago, Executive Director for Children and Education at BCC, said: "We want to thank BPC for working with local authority colleagues so that we can move forward together to ensure that some of our most vulnerable children and young people have positive experiences and ensure good outcomes for them and their families."

If you would like to get involved and support Bristol Parent Carers with this exciting development, please get in touch [here](#).