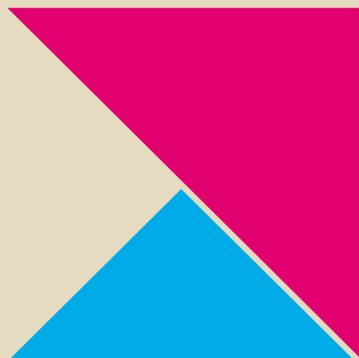
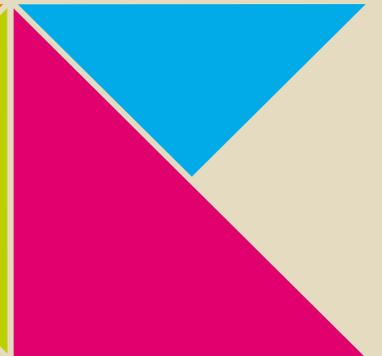


Annual Review

2016



Chief Executive and Interim Chief Executive's foreword

We are delighted as Chief Executive and Interim Chief Executive of the Family and Childcare Trust to introduce this review of our achievements in 2016. Under our leadership, we worked with families, policy makers and providers to continue to deliver on our mission to make the UK a better place for all families.

Our programmes working directly with parents continued to expand. The Parent Champions programme, funded by the Department for Education, had over 500 volunteers, reaching over 14,000 families across the UK. Parent volunteers help disadvantaged parents access childcare and early years services and to connect with their community.

Our highly successful Young Dads Collective (YDC) programme, co-funded by Esme Fairbairn, continued to advocate with and for young dads to change policy and services. Our small team of young dads used their knowledge and experience to represent issues affecting themselves and their peers to parliamentarians, professionals and the general public.

Our annual Childcare Survey and Holiday Childcare Survey, now in their 15th year, are the definitive source of information of childcare prices and places across Britain. We were excited to publish the first of a new annual survey, the Older People's Care Survey, looking at prices and availability of care for older people. We also published impactful research on childcare quality, childcare for children with special education needs and disabilities and looked after children.

In a year which saw significant developments in the childcare space – as we work towards the introduction of both tax free childcare and 30 hours of free childcare for three and four year olds with working parents – we successfully influenced government policy. This included more money for early years education and funding to improve access to early education for disabled children and their families.

We were also excited to see the growing strength of our National Association of Family Information Services (NAFIS) membership. It provides a national framework, quality standards and best practice for 70 local Family Information Services now part of NAFIS. We also doubled the number of organisations signed up to our Family First Quality Awards.

This is only a small window into the efforts of the Family and Childcare Trust in 2016. In the year ahead we will redouble our efforts to produce leading research, parent-led programmes and policy solutions that deliver long lasting improvements to the experience of families in the UK.

We will continue to rise above the challenge common to many small charities of raising and securing enough funding to remain sustainable. We will work closely with the Board of Trustees to make sure we take the necessary steps to secure our long term future so that we can continue the important work we do with and for families.



Chair's introduction



This review of the Family and Childcare Trust's work in 2016 demonstrates the breadth and influence of our policy, research and advocacy work on childcare and family issues. I am grateful to all of the staff, past and present, who have contributed to the success of our organisation.

Childcare provision is crucial to a modern state's infrastructure. It supports parents to work, improves children's outcomes and helps narrow the gap between disadvantaged children and their more affluent peers.

Despite successive governments recognising the importance of childcare and rightfully investing significantly in childcare, the entrenched problems still persist: too many families cannot afford childcare prices, and there is not enough childcare, particularly for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

The time for urgent action has come, to make sure that every family is able to access the high quality childcare place that they need to boost children's development and support parents to work. This is particularly important for children who are more likely to fall behind in the early years, including children with special educational needs and disabilities and those who are living in poverty.

In order to address these problems in full, we need a blue print for childcare in the 21st century, an ambitious childcare strategy that creates a simple and efficient system that encourages quality, promotes child development, supports working parents and delivers for employers and the economy.

As the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Family and Childcare Trust, I look forward to working to achieve our vision of a society where all families are well-supported and have genuine choices about their lives.



About us

The Family and Childcare Trust is a leading national family charity in the field of policy, research and advocacy on childcare and family issues, with over 40 years' experience in making things better for families.

Our vision is a society where all families are well-supported and have genuine choices about their lives. Our mission is to make the UK a better place for families, achieving positive change for children via parent-led solutions.

Our approach is to listen, innovate, advocate and support, in order to achieve long lasting change for all families. We focus particularly on those who face disadvantage or multiple challenges, including social exclusion, precarious work conditions and poverty. Our on-the-ground programmes and services with parents and providers inform our research and campaigning priorities. In turn, our research produces evidence and insight that informs our work with families, policy makers and providers.



Our work

We focus most of our efforts on the early years, particularly childcare and early years education, as research shows that this is the most critical period for ensuring children grow up to live healthy and happy lives. Childcare is part of our infrastructure, as vital as the roads and railways in enabling our country to run.

We run a range of parent led programmes working with parents on the ground, helping them connect to services and support in their local community. Our research reveals new insights and helps us formulate innovative policy solutions to make sure families are supported and have genuine choices about balancing work and care.



Key achievements from 2016

Policy and research:

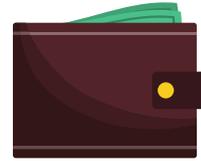


11

research reports
published



better funding for early
education for children
with SEND



research on childcare
costs used to decide the
Living Wage rates

Press and media coverage:



147,860,000

total reach in the
media



668,145

pageviews on our
website



6000

engagements on
social media

THE TIMES
Daily Mail

theguardian
itv NEWS

The Daily Telegraph
BBC NEWS

Parent-led programmes:



429

Parent Champions
volunteers



14,000+

families reached
by Parent
Champions



500+

professionals
engaged by Young
Dads Collective

Research

In 2016, we continued to build on our strong track record of delivering high quality, research that supports effective policy making. Our reports are used widely by the government, politicians, providers and academics both in the UK and overseas and abroad.

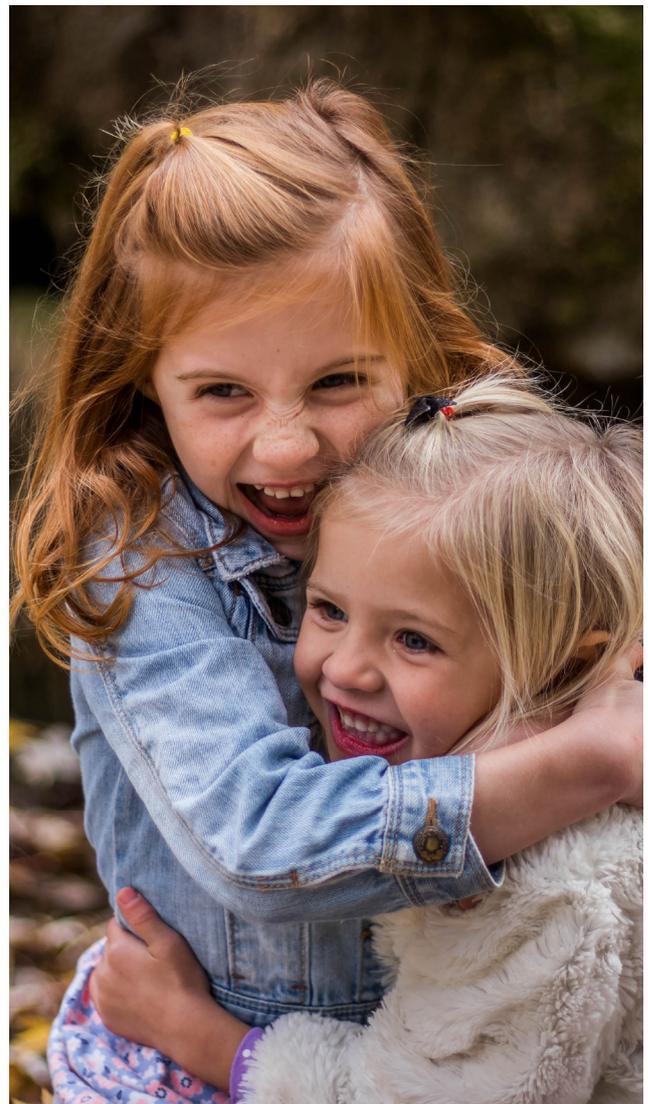
Annual surveys

During 2016, we delivered our annual Childcare Survey and our annual Holiday Childcare Survey, now in their 15th year. We also added a new report to our tracker suite, the Older People's Care Survey. Together, these surveys represent an unparalleled resource for understanding the prices and availability of care for children and older people, and their impact on family finances.

- ▶ The Childcare Survey found that, while average prices for a child under two attending a part-time nursery place dropped by 0.3 per cent over the previous year to £119 per week, this marked a 20 per cent increase in prices from 2011. The number of English local authorities reporting a shortage of free early education places for three and four year olds more than doubled since then.
- ▶ The Holiday Childcare Survey revealed a slightly larger fall in fees for holiday clubs, with average weekly prices down 1.9 per cent from 2015 to £121.12. This deviated from a longer term trend of rising prices. Across Britain, only one in eight local authorities were confident that they had enough holiday childcare to meet demand.
- ▶ The Older People's Care Survey found widespread gaps in care provision for older people. The gaps were largest for those with the highest needs. While 84 per cent of local authorities in the UK said they had enough availability for standard care home places, just 32 per cent of local authorities reported having enough nursing homes with specialist dementia support.

Specialist reports

Complementing our annual surveys, we published a range of reports focussing on key aspects of early education and childcare, particularly for the most vulnerable groups. Topics included the benefits system and childcare, the degree of social mixing in London's early years provision, access to early education for looked after children, and the role of schools in delivering expanded services.



Policy

Our policy work has continued to push for longer term reform of the childcare system. This year we worked with Government to prepare for the delivery of two flagship policies: tax free childcare and the extension of free childcare to 30 hours per week during term time for working parents of three and four year olds.

Extension of free childcare for three and four year olds

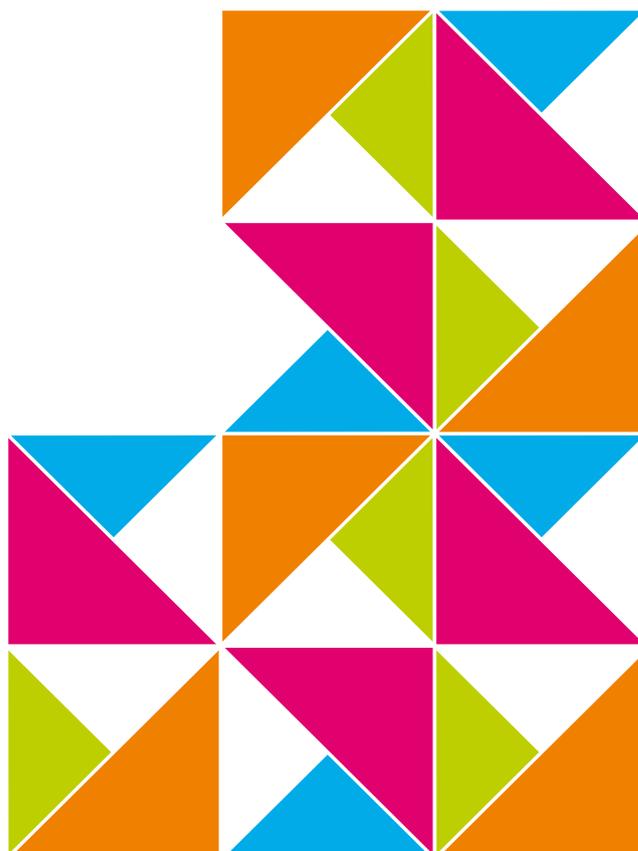
We focused on making this new offer work well for parents. This included successfully making the case for a simple system for checking whether families are eligible and providing consistency across the country on eligibility. We also highlighted the importance of funding to support access to the offer in areas where flexible childcare is not available. The Government has now allocated £50 million to support the development of new childcare places.

A new funding formula for early years

The Department for Education set out reforms to early education funding to distribute resources more fairly across areas depending on levels of need. We support the reform but have raised a number of concerns about the depth of cuts imposed on some areas and the pace of change at which reforms will be rolled out. We also raised concerns about the absence of effective controls to make sure that the public benefits from this significant new investment in private and voluntary services, such as improving admissions policies and quality standards.

Supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities

Throughout 2016, we continued our long running work to highlight the poor standard of inclusiveness in early years services and the negative impact on children with disabilities and their families, building on our independent Parliamentary Inquiry into childcare for disabled children in 2014. This year has seen significant improvements to funding for early education to support access for all. The Department for Education announced a new automatic £615 Disability Access Fund payment for children in receipt of Disability Living Allowance and a requirement for local authorities to maintain an Inclusion Fund that provides additional top-up funding where appropriate and good practice guidance.



Quality of childcare

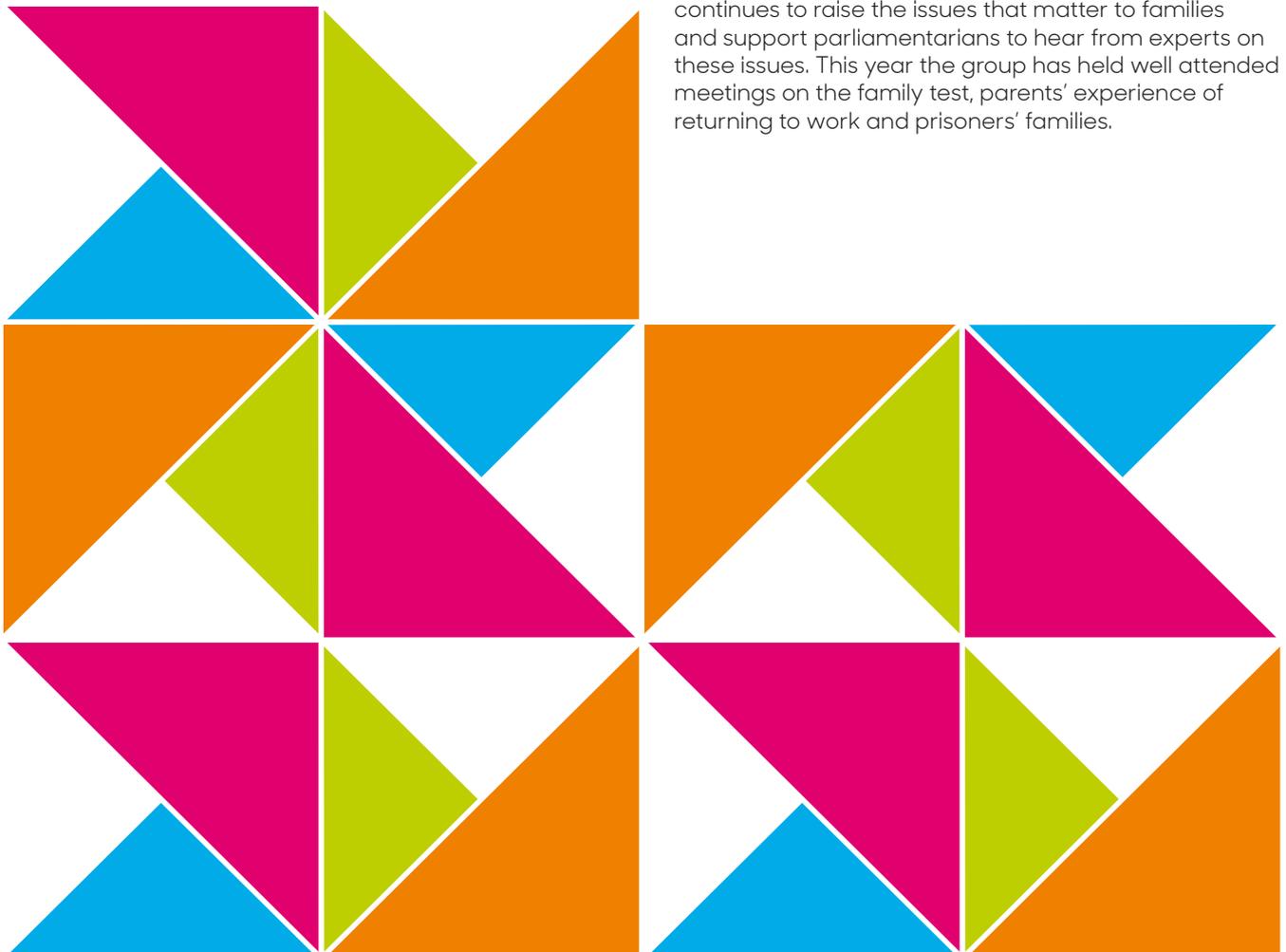
The Family and Childcare Trust have continued to push for the quality of childcare to be prioritised and improved in order to support children's learning and to help narrow the achievement gap between disadvantaged children and their peers. This year we published Putting quality at the heart of the early years, supported by Community Playthings, which outlined pragmatic steps that could be taken to make improvements, including setting up an £111 million 'early excellence fund'.

Anti-poverty childcare system

Supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, we developed ambitious plans for how the UK's childcare system could boost children's achievement and enable parents to work in Creating an anti-poverty childcare system. The paper recommended restructuring the current subsidy schemes so that all government support is paid directly to childcare providers and charges to parents are based on income levels and number of children so that parents are only paying what they can afford.

All Party Parliamentary Group for Parents and Families

The Family and Childcare Trust provide the secretariat for the All Party Parliamentary Group for Parents and Families, chaired by Angela Crawley MP. The group continues to raise the issues that matter to families and support parliamentarians to hear from experts on these issues. This year the group has held well attended meetings on the family test, parents' experience of returning to work and prisoners' families.



Programmes



Parent Champions

Our flagship Parent Champions programme, funded by the Department for Education is now into its tenth year of delivery, reaching more families across the country than ever before. This parent led model of support has proved hugely successful at bringing otherwise hard to reach groups into the community. These families are often isolated and face a range of language, cultural and structural barriers to accessing services. The programme's primary aim is to connect disengaged families with local free childcare.

We continue to support local delivery partners to run Parent Champions schemes across the country using our model of highly refined consultancy, training and resources. Partners range from local authority services to schools and community based organisations. This year there have been 429 active Parent Champion volunteers, who have engaged with 14,809 families. Most focus on reaching disadvantaged families: 52 per cent of programmes target BME groups, 61 per cent target families who have children with SEND, 58 per cent target young parents, 35 per cent target job seekers and 58 per cent target other low income groups (58 per cent).

We celebrated the tremendous achievement of our Parent Champions at our annual national conference and awards ceremony last March. Parents were able to demonstrate their amazing capacity to bring about change in their own communities as stories of personal transformation and social connection were shared. The Mayor of Wandsworth later congratulated his local Parent Champions saying they were "inspirational" and that "it is very clear the work they do is making a real difference to people's lives".

Integration Champions

Building on the success of the Parent Champions programme, with funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and in partnership with the Parent House in Islington, we are now piloting a scheme that will examine how our Parent Champions model can support community integration among migrant and refugee communities. The aim of this project is to support parents to navigate, understand and access local services. Parent Champions have been recruited from a range of communities including Somali, Bangladeshi and Syrian families. They have begun outreach activities and as we learn from the project we hope to replicate the model, extending its reach to more locations and communities in the future.



Our Young Dads Collective (YDC), co-funded by Esmée Fairbairn, works to reduce levels of poverty and isolation experienced by young dads while developing the skill sets and employability of all the young dads who are members.

We believe that as 'experts by experience' young dads are the best people to make change for themselves and their peers. This year we have recruited nine young dads, who have engaged with over 500 professionals through events and consultations. The programme has worked with services across the country spanning from Glasgow to London. Professionals from maternity services, city councils, universities and the criminal justice system have been inspired to change their behaviour and practice, pledging to improve their engagement with young fathers.

The skills and confidence of the young dads in YDC continue to flourish. One young father shared his sense of achievement after taking part in the London Youth Participation Network at the Greater London Authority: "It's amazing just to be here and be heard in the place where the Mayor of London works".

Parent-led Childcare

This year we embarked on an ambitious and innovative new project to develop a new model of childcare to support groups of parents – especially those with low incomes – to set up childcare themselves and help to deliver it in communities where none currently exists or where it does not meet their needs. We worked in conjunction with the New Economics Foundation, with funding from Trust for London and the Young Women's Trust.

We began the initial development phase of the project, carrying out research and community engagement examining how a new parent-led childcare model could work. We consulted widely with parents, local council services and regulatory bodies to create a constitution, legal and governance framework for parent-led childcare services. We also begun work on business plans and financial models for childcare services that would be low cost. The project has attracted a lot of excitement and attention from community groups and local authority services across the country who are keen to find solutions for local affordable childcare as well as increase parental participation in children's learning. We hope to run a pilot site in 2017.

National Association of Family Information Services (NAFIS)

"As the childcare landscape changes, collaboration through NAFIS is more important than ever to improve the quality of childcare and family service information for parents and government."

Carole Ward, Chair, NAFIS

The National Association of Family Information Services (NAFIS) is a national membership organisation of local Family Information Services (FIS). Managed by the Family and Childcare Trust, NAFIS supports a UK-wide network, providing a national framework, quality standards and best practice that helps us reach more than 450,000 parents per year. This national network gathers an accurate picture of the challenges and opportunities local authorities are facing, and helps them to learn from each other in taking these on.

NAFIS has gone from strength to strength this year. We refreshed the NAFIS brand and pioneered a new NAFIS Facebook group which hosts best practice documents,

open discussions and live question and answer sessions with key government officials. We established regular contact with government departments responding to the Government's consultation on 30 hours childcare. We maintained our membership despite the very challenging local government funding settlement and our annual NAFIS conference saw a bumper crop of delegates turn out to hear from three government departments.

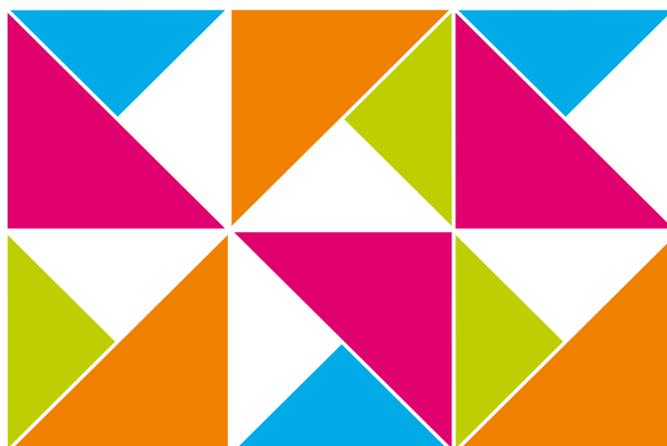


Families First Quality Award

"I would thoroughly recommend the Families First Quality Award as a way to pinpoint and evaluate your current offer to parents. I have found it to be a rewarding process which enables you to improve areas highlighted and bring about change."

Mrs L Spall, Headteacher, Somerleyton Primary School

The Families First Quality Award (FFQA) is a national quality assurance and improvement tool designed to help keep families at the heart of practice and help provide gold standard information. FFQA is available for children's centres, local authority Family Information Services and schools. FFQA continues to generate significant revenue for us and has allowed us to increase our regional reach considerably in 2016 – in fact we doubled our number of assessors and signed up 30 organisations.



**Families First
Quality Award**



Consultancy

In 2016 we worked for the Department for Education on a mixed model partnership project developing 22 partnerships between schools and the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector for delivery of the 30 hour free childcare for working parents of three and four year olds. We used this work to produce a toolkit to support childcare providers to work together to offer services to meet families' needs. The toolkit is free to download on the Family and Childcare Trust website.



Partnerships

The Family and Childcare Trust derives its income from a range of different sources, that include grants, contracts, corporate partnerships, membership subscriptions, consultancy services and publications. In 2016 we have benefited from a number of key relationships that have supported us to build on our income year on year. We would like to offer our sincere thanks and gratitude to all those who have supported us.

Funders and sponsors

Bernard Van Leer Foundation
Big Lottery Fund – Silver Dreams
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Community Playthings
Department for Education
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
Greater London Authority
John Ellerman Foundation
Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Legal & General
Nesta
Kelloggs
Nuffield Foundation
Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Sobell Foundation
Young Women’s Trust
Tedworth Trust

Partners

Child Poverty Action Group
Contact a Family
Council for Disabled Children
Family Room members
Family Lives
Grandparents Plus
Mencap
Department for Education
New Economics Foundation
Numbers for Good
Leeds University
Oakhill Secure Training Centre
The Parent House, Islington
Little Village

Consultancy clients

Department for Education
London Borough of Camden





If you would like to support our work, or think that we could support you in your work, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact us through info@familyandchildcaretrust.org or by calling 020 7940 7510.