

Both Parents Matter Cymru Newspoints February 2021

New Web Site – Please Subscribe!

Since the last Newspoints our new web site has gone live: <https://bpmuk.org>. Please visit and subscribe. There is no charge for subscribing. It gives us a way of keeping you informed.

Staff

We are pleased to have welcomed Steve Wells to the management team at the beginning of January. This is a key part of our drive to streamline our workflow processes so we can address more service users.

Helpline

The new helpline number, 0333 050 6815, has been in operation for four months now. Volunteer Nick Gray has kindly taken up the role of Helpline Coordinator for which the charity is very grateful. We continue to look for more volunteers to ‘man’ (or woman!) the helpline - to help out Nick and provide reserves. Having succeeded in our objective of freeing our National Manager from having to man the helpline himself, we don’t want to slip back again.

Grant Applications

The management team will be focussed on making bids for grants over the next few months. This is necessary to consolidate our current capacity and also, hopefully, to take on another part-time member of staff as a key part of increasing our capacity.

Fundraising

If you have a good idea for fundraising, or would be willing to contribute to someone else’s fundraising initiative, contact our Marketing & Fundraising volunteer, Catrin on fundraising@fnf-bpm.org.uk.

To donate, see the home page at <https://bpmuk.org>. Can I draw your attention in particular to the Give As You Live facility, which is a way of getting online retailers to donate to us without it costing you anything.

Volunteers – we always need more!

We have taken 47 new volunteers through our induction process in the last 7 months. But the turnover of volunteers is high and we are continually looking for more. Helpline operatives are the No.1 requirement at present, but outbound callers and Buddy emotional support volunteers are also required.

Recording Social Workers – work in progress

One of our top campaigns is to persuade the Welsh Government to make recording of meetings between social workers and parents/carers a formal obligation. Most service users will not need us to explain the motivation behind that objective. Last year we submitted a proposed Petition to the Welsh Government Petitions Committee, but it was rejected. We are not letting the matter lie. We have a plan to try for a Petition again. The first step was to canvass all Local Authorities in Wales to determine what interactions between social workers and parents/carers are already recorded. Thanks to Nick Gray this has now been done. The next step is to compile a comprehensive case for the benefits of recording, from the perspective of all parties (social workers, Cafcass Cymru, parents/carers, the Courts, and the children). Watch this space.

“All-Wales” Support Meetings by Video Conferencing

These online support meetings have been a regular weekly event for over 6 months now. To apply see [All-Wales online | BPM Cymru \(bpmuk.org\)](https://www.bpmuk.org).

Monthly Location-Specific Support Meetings

It has now been 11 months since we held any face-to-face meetings. Despite that there has been no reduction in new service users contacting BPM Cymru. This has continued via the helpline, website, emails, and referrals from solicitors and many other agencies. However, we fully intend to restart local face-to-face meetings as soon as we are able, although the date of this and the terms & conditions that may apply are not yet clear. Watch this space.

...and finally

We hope you have found these Newspoints informative. We intend to update you on a more regular basis from now on,

The Management Team, BPM