

Your Voice

Support



Advice

Information

"Have your voice heard"

February 2026

Dear all,

Welcome to PPV's February's newsletter.

We will be back in the office on Monday 23rd February 2026. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half term break.

PPV Team



**PPV is closed from Monday 16th February 2026.
We are back in the office on Monday 23rd February 2026.**



PROJECTS PPV HAVE BEEN WORKING

PPV attended the Annual 2026 Contact/NNPCF Conference this February. This was an incredible opportunity not only to catch up with PCFs from around the country, but to hear from guest speakers and find out the latest goings-on within the DfE and the NHS.

We received a warm welcome followed by NNPCF and Contact updates. Anna Bird, CEO Contact provided us with an update followed by an update on the results of the joint survey. PPV then participated in a workshop about 'Strengthening PCF Workshop' there was some great conversations taking place around the room.

We also had an in person Ministerial Keynote address from Georgia Gould Minister to School Standards, this was a very positive experience after last year's online video. It felt like she really listened and her passion for change in the world of SEND and PCFs shone through.

We then completed another workshop on the 'SEND Reform' and we were also updated on the new Contact Handbook from Elaine Lamb and Olivia Newbolt. We had the pleasure to have members of the SE PCFs do a presentation about the new forum support offer.

We spent an evening networking with PCFs from around the country and PPV even came home with a trophy and the team we joined came 3rd in the quiz of the night.

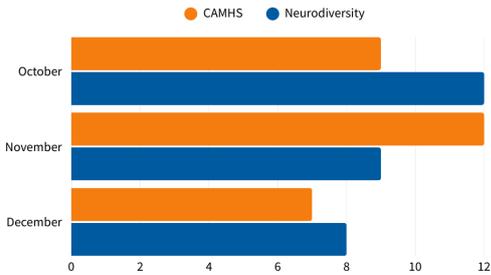
We saw PCFs stand side by side with NNPCF, Contact and together we fed back our concerns and the importance to work with PCFs in co production and the importance for the DfE to acknowledge the amazing work PCFs do with very limited funding.

As always, the NNPCF and Contact deserve a round of applause for the incredible work they put into putting on the annual conference. PPV wanted to do a special shout out about the amazing work done by Sarah Clarke (NNPCF Director - Southeast) for your amazing support during the event and the event itself so "thank you" from everyone at PPV.

October 2025 to December 2025



Attendance at Drop-ins



Satisfaction Score

On a scale of 1 - 5, families rated their experience...

100% ★★★★★



Just under a quarter of attendees were dads or male care givers.



75%

of parent/carers felt more confident after attending the drop in

Topics covered

- Sensory Needs
- Emotional Regulation
- Activity Levels & Impulse Control
- Eating disorders
- Medication
- Mental Health



Coproduction
 6 Sessions
 Hubs/Drop ins
 13 Sessions
 Strategic Meetings
 213 Hours



Jo's Farewell

At the end of January we wished a fond farewell to our wonderful CEO Jo Toms. Jo has been at the very heart of Home-Start Portsmouth for nearly three decades. Her vision, compassion and tireless commitment have shaped the charity into what it is today, supporting countless families and creating a legacy that will be felt for years to come.

Jo will be sorely missed by so many that worked alongside her and we are truly grateful for everything she has given to our community, and wish her every happiness and adventure in what comes next.



We welcome our new Interim CEO Iain Cooper.

Iain said: *"I'm really looking forward to working with such an inspiring team as we shape the next chapter of Home-Start Portsmouth together. Jo Toms' leadership over the past 25 years has left a city-wide legacy supporting thousands of local families, and I'm proud to build on the foundations she has created."*



SPOTLIGHT ON A SERVICE

Connors Toys Library



What is Connors Toys Library?

Connors Toy Libraries has supported children and families since 1973, guided by our belief in Community, Connection and Play. Through four core projects, Community Toy Libraries, Mobile Toy Library, Toy Store and one to one Outreach Support. We provide inclusive play opportunities, early intervention and practical support to families who need it, however they need it. Our work helps reduce isolation, removes barriers to play and creates welcoming community spaces where children can learn through play, families can connect and communities grow stronger. We offer toy loan services to families, childcare providers and organisations supporting children, including specialist and inclusive toys and resources.

What they offer?

We run 11 community Toy Library groups weekly during term time, one of which is a dedicated SEND session and a 0-2 years group. Groups are open to all families, no booking required so please do just turn up. We have a Toy Store with over 6000 toys and resources available to loan. We offer memberships to families, childcare providers such as childminders, nurseries, pre schools, before and after school clubs, schools and playschemes. We have a huge variety of toys including a range that would benefit children with SEND needs. We also have an outreach 1-1 service where families who may need additional support are referred in and one of our workers will contact them directly.



SPOTLIGHT ON A SERVICE

Toys Library

Accessing the service

To discuss a potential referral or request further information, contact the team at toylibrary@ctlib.org.uk

Website: www.connorstoylibrary.org.uk

Phone: 02392 832926

Click on the images below to read more about Connors Library:

Connors Toy Libraries Play

Our Toy Store is here for anyone who cares for children. Whether you're a parent, foster carer, grandparent, children's provider or part of a service supporting children with additional needs.

We have thousands of toys available to borrow, with something for everyone, from construction sets, and puppets to musical instruments, craft supplies, outdoor toys and inclusive sensory resources.

You're welcome to visit & browse in person or explore and join online.

Toy Delivery Available:
We offer home delivery and collection (on a term time only) for just £4. Available in the PO1-PO6 areas.

All Family Memberships - £20
Childcare Provider - £40
Inc - Nannies, Childminders, Foster Carers, Specialist Advisors

Weekly Group - £40
Inc - Uniform Groups & Parent and Toddler Groups

Preschool & Nurseries - £80

Breakfast & Afterschool Club - £80

PlayScheme - Please contact us for individual quote.

Birthday Parties & Event Hire - £50
(Additional refundable deposit of £50)

Contact Us
Connors Toy Library
Grenville House, St George's Square
Portsmouth
PO1 3AZ
Phone - 02392 832926
Office Email - toylibrary@connorstoylibrary.org.uk
Toy Store Email - admin@connorstoylibrary.org.uk
Website - www.connorstoylibrary.org.uk

Toy Store Opening Times
Monday - 3pm - 6pm
Tuesday - 9am - 3pm
Thursday - 9am - 3pm
Friday - 9am - 12pm

Charity Number - 1129353

Connors Toy Libraries Community

Charity Number - 1129353

Join us at one of our Toy Library Groups just £3.00 per family. Enjoy a fun and friendly play session that includes a craft activity, snack time singing time & you can borrow a toy for the week. Meet other families, enjoy a cuppa, and support your child's language, communication, and social development through play.

No need to book, sessions run throughout term time and are open to everyone. Just come along!

CONNORS TOY LIBRARY Weekly Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
St Catherine's Church 100 High Street Portsmouth PO1 1EA 9:30-10:30am	Eastney Community Centre Brimley Park PO1 2JF 9:30-10:30am	North End Baptist Church Fremont Road PO1 2JF 9:30-10:30am	Highbury Community Centre Hawthorn Road PO1 2JL 9:30am-10:30am	Northern Parade Family Hub Dodd's Avenue PO1 2PH 9:30-10:30am
Havelock Community Centre Havelock Road PO1 1QJ 9:30-10:30am	Busby's Family Hub Tynard Road PO1 4PH 1:00-3:00pm	Anchorpoint Lodge Sandy Lane PO1 3JH 9:30-10:30am	St Mary's Church Havelock Community Centre PO1 1QJ 10:00-11:00am	Somerset Family Hub Orange Street PO1 2B 1:00-3:00pm

02392 832926 toylibrary@ctlib.org.uk

Connors Toy Libraries Connection

Charity Number - 1129353

At the heart of our work is a simple idea, every family deserves to feel supported, connected, and confident. That's why we offer friendly, practical outreach support to families across Portsmouth, in your home, in the community and at our Toy Library sessions.

Whether you're navigating parenthood for the first time, feeling isolated or just need a bit of extra help getting to local groups or accessing services, we're here for you. Our goal is to walk alongside you, offering support that fits your needs and builds your confidence.

We believe strong families build strong communities and connection is key. Our team is here to help you feel part of something, whether that's through one-on-one visits, play sessions or supporting you in ways that matter most to your family.

If you or someone you know would benefit from extra support, please reach out. Referrals can be made by you, a health visitor, or any professional working with your family.

Let's build a community where every family feels seen, supported and connected.

02392 832926 toylibrary@ctlib.org.uk

GET TO KNOW A MEMBER OF THE PPV TEAM

Amy Baines

Position at PPV and the year you joined:

I work for Home-Start Portsmouth, the host organisation for PPV. I joined Home-Start six years ago, just before the pandemic.



Reason for joining: I was a volunteer at Home-Start and loved working with families so when a job opportunity came up, I went for it.

Biggest achievement whilst working at PPV: I really enjoy supporting the team at PPV – the work they do is fantastic and it is a joy to be part of it. My biggest achievement is seeing PPV's work succeed and knowing I've played a small part in that.

The song that gets you on the dance floor: Freed from Desire – Gala

Three people you'd invite to your dinner party (dead or alive): Emma Thompson, Henry Cavill and Jane Austen.

What superhero would you be and why: Spiderman so I could everywhere quickly and dramatically. I could even leave work via the window – it would beat the cycle to work!

If you were an animal, what would you be and why:

A dolphin so I could explore life under the ocean.

What I wanted to be when I was a child:

A lawyer.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February

16

S.A.F.E Event (Support, Awareness, Family, Empowerment) CAMHS

9:00am – 5:00pm

Priory School Southsea, Fawcett Road, Portsmouth, PO4 0DL
Reserve your place: [eventbrite.com/e/safe-event-support-awareness-family-empowerment-tickets-1906123248949?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/safe-event-support-awareness-family-empowerment-tickets-1906123248949?aff=oddtcreator)

February

18

NEURODIVERSITY SUPPORT GROUP

9:45am – 11:45am

Portsmouth Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2DX
Further information: portsmouthparentvoice.org/neurodiversity

March

3

CAMHS DROP IN

10:00am – 12:00pm

Portsmouth Central Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth, PO1 2DX
Further information: portsmouthparentvoice.org/camhs

March

3

ZOOM SLEEP COURSE FOR PARENTS

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Reserve your place: portsmouthparentvoice.org/sleepcourse

March

10

ZOOM SLEEP COURSE FOR PARENTS

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March

18

NEURODIVERSITY SUPPORT GROUP

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March

18

CELEBRATING NEURODIVERSITY

10:30am – 1:30pm

Guildhall, Portsmouth - Reserve your place:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-neurodiversity-tickets-1982996963298?aff=oddtcreator>

March

20

MOVING FORWARD SEND SUPPORT

9:30am – 3:00pm

City of Portsmouth College (Sixth Form Campus),
Tangier Road, PO3 6PZ - Reserve your place:
<https://portsmouthlocaloffer.org/events/moving-forward>

Note: Drop-ins and Coffee Mornings are open to parent carers of children and young people with special additional needs and disability. Feel free to bring a friend or family member.