

# [Press release: £2.7 million fund to tackle parental conflict](#)

A £2.7 million fund to increase support for disadvantaged families at risk of parental conflict has been announced by the Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance, Justin Tomlinson.

Parental conflict can range from a lack of warmth and emotional distance, right through to verbal abuse. If children are exposed to this sort of distress over longer periods of time, their emotional and social development can be significantly affected. It may stop children from doing as well at school or even impact their career chances in later life.

Children most at risk are those with parents who are out of work, on low incomes, or struggling with physical and mental health conditions.

The fund will be made up of 2 separate strands.

## **£1.1 million of funding for projects to support families at a greater risk of parental conflict**

Parental conflict could be caused by a range of complex issues experienced by families, including debt trouble, divorce and mental health issues. Projects will look at new solutions to address parental conflict as part of these wider family challenges.

Innovation might include suggestions on how local services can work together better or targeted interventions for families.

## **£1.6 million of funding for digital support to help parents find help online**

Pioneering approaches are needed to better improve access to digital support for families at risk of parental conflict.

Grant participants will be asked to develop creative solutions which target digital help at parents with low digital skills and who live in low income and workless households.

The Reducing Parental Conflict Challenge Fund is part of a wider programme which encourages councils across England to integrate approaches addressing parental conflict into their local services for families.

The Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance, Justin Tomlinson, said:

Conflict between parents can have a devastating and long-lasting

impact on children, and it's often caused by external stresses. We want families experiencing problems to have easier access to help.

This innovative fund will develop solutions for parents to repair their relationships, resolve any conflict and provide a safer environment for their children to grow up.

The main fund will be managed by Ecorys UK and Family Lives. They will review applications for funding and oversee the delivery of the final projects, taking place between April 2019 and March 2020.

Eligible bidders could include local authorities, digital organisations, organisations from the public and private sector, voluntary and community organisations, and social enterprises.

## **More information**

Potential applicants can register their interest from 11 January 2019 and apply between 21 January and 15 February 2019. More information is available on the [Reducing Parental Conflict Challenge Fund](#) website.

Share your thoughts about the fund on social media using [#RPCchallengefund](#).

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## **[Press release: Commission appoints interim manager to Jole Rider Friends after suspending trustees](#)**

The Charity Commission has today (4 January 2019) appointed an interim manager to Jole Rider Friends ([1112914](#)) after it suspended trustees following continued concerns about the charity's governance.

Interim managers are appointed to take over the running of a charity where the Commission has identified misconduct or mismanagement, or there is a need to protect the charity's property.

The Commission opened a [statutory inquiry](#) into Jole Rider Friends on 5 September 2017, to address significant regulatory concerns, which included outstanding annual accounts and concerns about potentially unauthorised payments to trustees and inadequate stock control.

The inquiry has already taken protective action to safeguard charitable funds. In September 2017 it issued orders under section 76(3) of the

Charities Act 2011 to restrict expenditure by the trustees. The trustees appealed the orders, however this was [dismissed by the Charity Tribunal](#), who agreed that there had been misconduct and/or mismanagement in the administration of the charity as a result of the unauthorised remuneration paid to two trustees, failure to engage with regulatory advice and failure to file accounts on time.

Although the trustees have since submitted the outstanding accounts, the Commission continues to have serious regulatory concerns regarding the charity's governance, in particular relating to management of conflicts of interest and risk to the charity's property.

On 2 January 2019, both the trustees of the charity were therefore suspended from their roles as charity trustees under section 181B(4) of the Charities Act 2011, and the inquiry has today made an order under section 76(3)(g) of the Charities Act 2011 to appoint Geoff Carton-Kelly of FRP Advisory as interim manager. He will take over full control of the day-to-day management and administration of the charity until the Commission makes a further order.

This appointment is being undertaken on a pro bono basis.

The Commission's investigation continues; it intends to publish a report setting out its findings on conclusion of the inquiry. Reports of previous inquiries are available on [GOV.UK](#).

Ends.

#### **Notes to editors:**

1. The interim manager appointment is a temporary and protective power that will be reviewed at regular intervals. It will continue until the Commission makes a further Order for its variation or discharge.
2. In September 2017 the Commission made an order under section 76(3)(d) restricting payments from the charity's bank account (and an account associated with the charity). The Commission also made an order under section 76(3)(f) restricting the use of the charity's credit card.
3. The Charity Commission is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. For more information see the [about us](#) page on GOV.UK.
4. Search for charities on our [online register](#).

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## **[Press release: Change of the Head of the UK Delegation to OSCE in Vienna in March 2019](#)**

Mr Neil Bush is to succeed Ms Sian MacLeod OBE as Head of the United Kingdom's Delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in March 2019.



Neil Richard Bush

Mr Neil Bush has been appointed Head of the United Kingdom's Delegation to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna in succession to Ms Sian MacLeod OBE, who will be transferring to another Diplomatic Service appointment. Mr Bush will hold the personal rank of Ambassador and will take up his appointment during March 2019.

## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

Full name: Neil Richard Bush

Married to: Veeral Dattani Bush

2015 to present FC0, Head, Arabian Peninsula (and Iran) Department  
2011 to 2015 Department of Energy and Climate Change, Deputy Director and Head Energy Economist  
2008 to 2011 London Economics International, Senior Executive and Managing Consultant (Senior Consultant 2008-9)  
2006 to 2008 Columbia University, New York and London School of Economics  
2005 to 2006 The World Bank Group, Deputy Country Manager, Kosovo  
2003 to 2005 The World Bank Group, Strategy and Programme Officer, Washington DC  
2001 to 2003 Bank of England, Economist

## **Further information**

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