

## PCF STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2025

### Introduction

The Paediatric Continence Forum (PCF) is an independent national campaign group which was set up in 2003 to increase political awareness of the needs of children and young people with continence problems and to improve NHS services in this often neglected area of child health.

This document sets out the framework for the PCF's work over the next four years and against which its activities will be measured.

### Vision

Every child, young person and their families are able to receive the support they require so that any bladder or bowel condition or issue they have is identified, assessed and treated promptly to allow them achieve their full potential and maximum quality of life.

### Aim

To increase awareness and understanding of children young people's continence needs with government and key policy and decision makers across the UK.

### Objectives

1. To promote:

- Integrated, well-resourced, community-based children's bladder and bowel services that are available to all children, young people and families nationally, on an equal basis
- The establishment of new services where required and the development of existing services to ensure they remain based on the most up-to-date evidence and fit for the needs of the communities they serve
- The principles of good practice and key design elements for community-based children's bladder and bowel services
- The savings and improved clinical outcomes that are possible where there are properly integrated and resourced services

This will be achieved by:

- Reviewing the PCF Commissioning Guide in 2022
- Publicising the PCF Commissioning Guide and actively promoting The Guide by working with key delivery partners (ongoing)
- Programme of engagement with MPs, peers and government officials in appropriate departments, to promote the needs of children and young people with bladder/bowel issues (ongoing)
- Ask members and clinical supporters to identify and share good practice (ongoing)
- Ask members and clinical supporters to highlight areas for improvement and periodically respond to questions that support the PCF's strategic position (ongoing)
- Ask members and clinical supporters to raise any strategic issues that they become aware of (ongoing)
- Review the data on the costs of appropriate versus inappropriate patient journeys in 2022
- Ensuring representation of the PCF on groups and organisations as appropriate (ongoing)
- Contributing to consultations as appropriate (ongoing)

2. For the PCF to remain well informed of local and national clinical, public health and education policy so far as it affects childhood continence.

This will be achieved by:

- Ensuring appropriate representation from relevant groups and organisations as members of the PCF (ongoing)
- Whitehouse Agency continuing to provide weekly political updates and monitoring to the co-chairs and to other members as requested (ongoing)
- Engaging with other groups and organisations as appropriate (ongoing)

3. To have a current awareness of the state of children's community bladder and bowel services and provision nationally

This will be achieved by:

- Undertaking a freedom of information survey of Clinical Commissioning Groups in England and of Health Care Boards in Wales and Scotland and of Health and Social Care Boards in Northern Ireland in 2021.
- Undertaking a freedom of information survey with local authorities in England in 2021
- Encouraging feedback from clinical supporters' group (ongoing)
- Carry out polls and surveys via social media (as appropriate)