

CLB Website

How you can help for free!

1) Spread the Word!

At most meeting leaflets and wallet friendly sized cards to give out are distributed. The first are to be put up on supermarket notice boards and the like. The 'business card' thing are to give to individuals you encounter who might need our help. You don't need to go out of your way, just do this when you see an opportunity.

Talk to your neighbours and friends about us. We estimate there are 1.5m fathers affected by our issues. That is a high proportion. And for any one father whose children do not see him as much as they would like, there are probably three or four siblings, grandparents and other family members

Use your Facebook and other social media. Talk about the issue, mention the needs.

Two essential caveats, however. If you are involved because of your children, there must be no means of identifying them.

You may mention FNF as a source of help and as a charity that promotes an aspect of child welfare - see 'about us', *However, you must not claim to speak for us or link us with any opinions other than the ones described in that section.*

We are an equal responsibility charity that respects diversity. Our niche is the rights of children to a full and free relationship with both their parents and their wider families, unless there is a reason otherwise. We do not have views on other topics. Obviously our members and supporters do, but they are outside our remit.

We are 'cyber-stalked' by opponents of shared parenting who are looking for opportunities to associate us with opinions that it would suit *their* agendas for us to have. Don't give them any!

2) Get in touch with your elected representatives.

Members of Parliament, local councillors (especially those involved in social services), Members of the London Assembly.

There are two reasons you might want to do this.

The first is to express your support for shared parenting or whatever aspect of it is topical. This, however, must be with the caveats above.

The second, however, is the more important. All of them do 'casework' that is trying to help with people who have problems. But they also like (or should like!) to know what is going wrong in their area of interest.

So take to your local councillor issues like the unavailability of help for housing for parents

whose children should be with them overnight, but who cannot get their need for this recognised.

Or if social services are involved with your children but they will tell you nothing, despite your having parental responsibility.

Or you have a disabled child who has a right to be with you some of the time, but the local authority will only provide home adaptations in their other home.

Take to your MP the defects in the family justice system and so on.

It is sometimes a good idea for you to make the contact over your own case, but take someone from our charity along to point out the wider implications.

3) Communicate with the local media.

Local papers, local radio, the whole network of neighbourhood newsletters. Mention your problems.

But the same caveats as in 'Spread the word' above

4) Contribute to blogs or discussion boards

These are often read by the main contributor/person running them as well as the other readership. If in newspapers, the journalists who wrote the original article will look at them, and sometimes even reply. One suspect that some of the 'good points' made will appear in a later article by that journalist.

Our opponents dominate these. It is part of their clout. Introduce some balance!

All forums have 'rules'. Such as being respectful, not being personal. For all that, a lot of comments are just abusive. (The Daily Telegraph is particularly bad here). Don't do that. Make a point or an argument.

Study the style of the outlet and try and match it. For example over length. The BBC seems to have the shortest. No more than a couple of dozen words for the Daily Mail. Go up to 150 for the Guardian. Some of the 'professional' ones, such as the Marylyn Stowe ones for lawyers can almost be scholarly articles.

Contributions must not plug a product or a service, otherwise they would be just another advertising forum. Read the rules and respect them. But mentions of sources of help can get through.

Again the same rules over attributing things to our charity.