

NEWS RELEASE

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Top adoption charity wins health and wellbeing award

A charity supporting children, families, and birth parents affected by adoption has won a prestigious national award.

PAC-UK, which formed in 2014 from a merger of the Post Adoption Centre and After Adoption Yorkshire, has beaten more than 400 organisations from all over the UK to be one of the 10 winners of the 2017 GSK IMPACT Awards, a national award that recognises excellence in charities improving health and wellbeing in their communities. The charity will receive £30,000 in funding and expert support and development provided by The King's Fund.

PAC-UK, a national organisation with offices in London, Leeds, and Banbury, estimates the local authority costs per child of post-adoption support range from £10,000 through to £104,000 for those children with more significant needs. Children waiting for adoption wait on average for a year and nine months. These children's disrupted early lives, often involving neglect and abuse as well as multiple moves between carers and schools, frequently lead to challenging behaviour in the new family, and many adoptive families report physical and mental exhaustion as they struggle to cope.

The charity's work, including its comprehensive training programme for professionals and adopters, is focused on securing better outcomes for adopted children and all those affected by adoption and other forms of permanence (arrangements for finding a child a permanent home). It also offers a unique support service for birth parents and relatives. PAC-UK has helped to improve understanding of the needs of adopted children and families, and it provides advice and therapy to strengthen families' ability to cope with pressure.

As well as PAC-UK's main services of a telephone advice line and provision of therapeutic support and counselling, the charity runs a number of other projects. These include working with families affected by children's violence against their parents, support to grandparents who become carers of their children's children, and assisting adults who were adopted as children and are interested in tracing family members.

PAC-UK's ground-breaking education service supports adopted children in their learning and helps schools to understand the impact of early life trauma and how to become 'adoption friendly'. The charity has developed guidance for the Department for Education.

Katie Pinnock, Director of UK & Ireland Charitable Partnerships at GSK, said: “PAC-UK is a pioneering charity that provides much-needed support to children and families affected by adoption.

“We were hugely impressed by PAC-UK’s strong leadership, clear sense of direction, and commitment to those it supports. This is a charity doing important and innovative work, making it a worthy winner of a GSK IMPACT Award.”

Peter Sandiford, Chief Executive of PAC-UK, said: “Children entering the adoption process have often experienced trauma that impacts them and their families for the rest of their lives. By delivering support to all those affected by adoption and permanence arrangements in a spirit of respect, compassion, and without judgement, PAC-UK works to enable them to live their lives to the full.

“We are thrilled to have won this award and to be recognised for our contribution to community health and wellbeing. It’s a great honour and it will also help us to keep delivering high-quality support to all those who need it.”

Developing leaders in the charity sector is an important aim of the GSK IMPACT Awards programme, which has now been running for 20 years, and PAC-UK will have access to training and leadership development tailored to its needs. It will also be invited to join the GSK IMPACT Awards Network, a national network of more than 70 award-winning health and wellbeing charities working together to develop their leaders, find new ways of working, and support others.

PAC-UK will receive its prize at a ceremony held at the Science Museum in London on Thursday 18 May, along with nine other GSK IMPACT Award winners.

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Notes to editors:

GSK IMPACT Awards

The GSK IMPACT Awards, run in partnership with The King’s Fund, are designed to recognise the outstanding work of community-based health care charities. An introductory video can be viewed at www.uk.gsk.com/gskimpactawards

The awards are open to charities working in health and wellbeing with an annual income of between £25,000 and £2 million that are at least three years old. The name ‘IMPACT’ derives from the criteria that winners must have demonstrated in their application submissions: **I**nnovation, **M**anagement, **P**artnership, **A**chievement, **C**ommunity Focus and **T**argeting Need. For more information visit www.kingsfund.org.uk/gskimpactawards

This year £340,000 in prize money will be awarded to UK charities through the GSK IMPACT Awards. There are ten winners that each receive £30,000, and ten runner-up organisations that each receive £3,000. An overall winner will be awarded an additional £10,000 at the award ceremony at the Science Museum in London on Thursday 18 May 2017.

The 2017 winners have been selected by a judging panel of health and charity experts including Dawn Austwick, Chief Executive of Big Lottery Fund; Gilly Green, Head of UK Grants at Comic Relief; Michelle Mitchell, Chief Executive of MS Society and NHS England board member; Lord Michael Bichard; Sir Philip Hampton, Chair of GSK; and Sir Christopher Kelly, Chair of The King's Fund.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the GSK IMPACT Awards programme. Since the awards began in 1997, more than 420 community health care charities have received a GSK IMPACT Award and funding totalling over £5.8 million.

The 2018 GSK IMPACT Awards will be open for applications in July 2017. For further information, visit www.kingsfund.org.uk/gskimpactawards

Supporting information about charities

An estimated 3 million people volunteer in health and social care. They play a vital role in delivering services and are an increasingly important part of the extended care team for many people.

Small, local charities are often well-placed to understand the needs of the UK's increasingly diverse population and can respond flexibly and creatively to community health and wellbeing challenges.

GSK – one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and health care companies – is committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer. For further information please visit www.gsk.com

The King's Fund is an independent charity working to improve health and care in England. We help to shape policy and practice through research and analysis; develop individuals, teams and organisations; promote understanding of the health and social care system; and bring people together to learn, share knowledge and debate. Our vision is that the best possible health and care is available to all. For further information visit www.kingsfund.org.uk

Contacts

Photos, interviews and case studies available.

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For further information about PAC-UK visit www.pac-uk.org