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**Themes:** Advocacy, , Physical Disabilities, , Public Sector Services

**Aimed at:**

The British Polio Fellowship is a charitable organisation dedicated to supporting and empowering people in the UK living with the late effects of polio and post-polio syndrome (PPS). We provide information, welfare and support to those affected, to enable them to live full, independent and integrated lives and campaigns to raise awareness of PPS.

We have over 2000 members throughout the UK with 50 branches and groups reaching Polio survivors at ground level. We also provide advice and information about managing Polio and PPS as well as supporting and assisting in benefit and welfare advice through our dedicated support service team. We provide a variety of grants to Polio survivors and campaign to raise awareness of PPS and disability rights issues among healthcare professionals, members of parliament and the general public. We also publish a seasonal member magazine titled thebulletin.

**THE SERVICES WE OFFER**

The British Polio Fellowship is dedicated to improving the lives of those living with the effects of Polio and PPS. We do this through offering the following services;

Our Support Services Team;

Offers a Freephone Helpline Service, the volume of calls and emails increasing year on year, enquiries being primarily PPS and welfare related.

A range of informative literature both for people affected by the late effects of Polio/PPS and the professionals they consult are available.

Advice, guidance and support with completion of Personal Independent Plan forms is ongoing due to the changes in legislation and many of our members on low incomes feel very vulnerable and worry that their allowance will decrease.

We Offer Grants Towards;

Heating bills, cold intolerance being one of the symptoms with PPS, for those who do not qualify for government allowances.

Holiday grants are given to those who are in great need of a break with family, friends and carers.

Essential adaptations to the home and mobility equipment.

Grants to provide webcams for those who are elderly or isolated and to combat mental health issues associated.

Resistance band grants to improve Polio survivor's physical health.

Further services

A seasonal magazine is produced, the Bulletin, this publication is sometimes mentioned as a lifeline for so many of our members.

We also host an expert medical panel to allow us to give those we support the best and most up to date advice.

Advocate and campaign for disability rights and for the rights of the 120,000 Polio survivors in the UK

Annual event 'The Indoor Games' in which Polio survivors from across the UK come together to compete in a variety of games, encouraging inclusivity and combating isolation.

**Area:** Bassetlaw, Bolsover

### **Contact Details**

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