

Membership/What we offer for your subscription

As a member of DC Network you will become part of our supportive community, and will have access to all our resources. You'll be joining the largest specialist donor conception support organisation in the world! These are the benefits of membership -

- Personal connection with others
- Online Forum
- E-Bulletin
- Library
- National Meetings twice yearly
- Local informal groups
- Books for children and for parents
- Workshops to Prepare for DC Parenthood and Telling and Talking
- DCN Journal
- Contacts and connections
- Telephone or email help-line

Personal connection with others

As a new member we'll send to you by post (or email if you live outside the UK and Republic of Ireland) some Welcome material – a copy of our latest Journal, information about current events, a list of materials in our library, and a contact list. This is a list of other members who have volunteered to be available on the 'phone or via email. They are listed by geographical area with details of their family set up and donation type, so there is likely to be someone near you who shares your situation. You can be in touch with them for support whenever you want. Unless you have already talked over your situation with someone from the office, you'll receive a phone call or email from a "welcomer member" who is or has been in a similar situation to you. And we'll ask you how you'd like to be contacted, and if we can keep you updated by email rather than post.

Online Forum

You can join our password protected forum for members to discuss issues online. No part of our forum is viewable to anyone other than members. In addition you can have access to *Siblink*, an online facility for those who might like to explore whether their children have been conceived using the same donor and may be half-siblings.

E-bulletin

You'll receive a monthly news and information bulletin via email

Library

From the **library** you can borrow books, films and pamphlets from our extensive collection of material on donor conception.

National meetings

We'll invite you to the two day-long meetings we hold each year – one in London in March and one outside the capital in September/October. Usually between 140 and 200 people attend. We provide a crèche for babies and young children. We have plenary speaker sessions and small facilitated groups where members can discuss their personal issues.

Also for children between 8 and 12, there is the opportunity to join a children's workshop led and facilitated by professional consultants, allowing children to share their feelings about being donor conceived with each other in a safe setting. These meetings encourage and facilitate on-going connections and friendships between both parents and children.

Local meetings

There are a number of local groups around the country enabling members to meet informally, and if there's a group in your area we'll put you in touch.

Publications

You can buy from us a number of books, including our exclusive popular illustrated **Our Story** children's books for parents to read to their children explaining their origins; and the **Telling and Talking** booklets written specially to guide parents of different aged children. Also the professionally made film to accompany the Telling and Talking booklets.

Workshops

We offer two **programmes of workshops** around the country, one for those contemplating donor conception parenthood and another for parents to support them in 'telling and talking'. Lesbian couples and single women are catered for in special workshops.

DCN Journal

We'll send you our DCN Journal twice a year – either by email or by post if you prefer. It contains longer articles, commentaries, personal stories and research material.

Contacts and connections

The Network has good contacts with the HFEA, the Department of Health, specialist lawyers, researchers, counsellors and therapists as well as many of the senior clinicians in the UK. If you are encountering a problem, we can sometimes take up a case or at least put you in touch with someone who can help. We are also connected to world-wide networks of parents, donor conceived people, academics and others with knowledge and experience of donor conception families. These people keep us up to date with what is happening in other places and we pass on information likely to be helpful to UK families via this site and our eBulletin.

Telephone helpline

Ring us on our helpline 020 7278 2608 10am – 3pm weekdays for information, advice or help on donor conception issues. If you ring outside of these hours and leave a message we will be notified and can get back to you quickly if necessary. Or email us at enquiries@dcnetwork.org

Cost of membership

Membership costs £35 for families where there is at least one wage earner and £15 if unwaged.

Use the PayPal button on the Home Page or download a form and send a cheque to subscribe paying the full amount. If you are unwaged we are sorry that it is only possible at the moment to subscribe by downloading a form and sending a cheque or postal order.