


# Parks + People: Stronger Together

**The value of parks community networking:  
locally, regionally, nationally**

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The City of Liverpool

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**National Federation of  
Parks and Green Spaces**

*supporting grass roots*

## Parks & People: Stronger Together

- an introduction to the NFPGS
- building a national parks community group network
- why network? benefits for all!
- current and future networking - challenges and opportunities

## an introduction

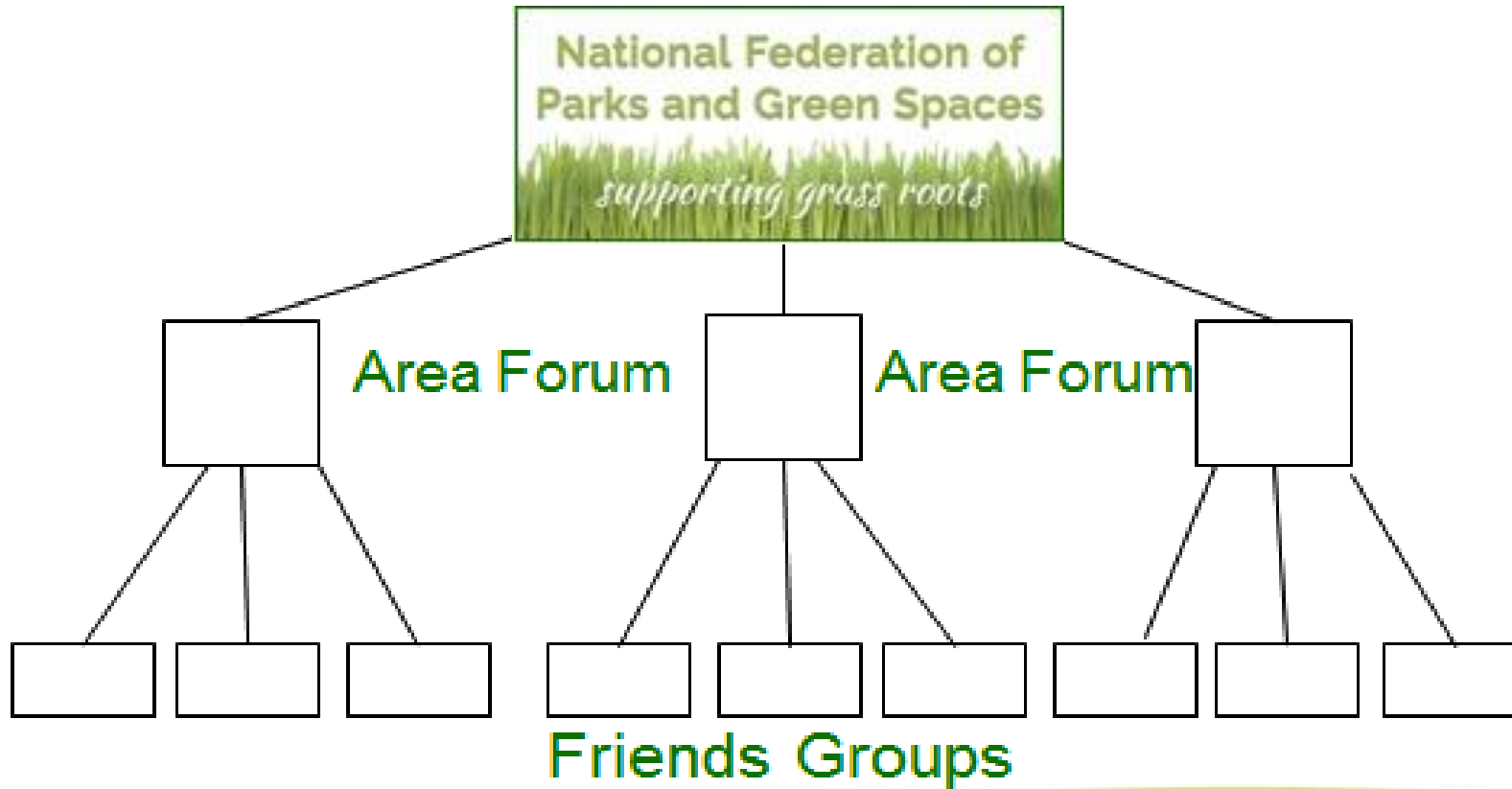
- Founded March 2008 at a meeting of 9 local/town-wide Forums with a combined membership of 398 local Friends groups.
- Originally the National Open Spaces Forum (NOSF), grew to 29 local Forums, representing over 1,500 friends of parks groups
- constituted in Feb 2010



## current overview

- **Grassroots movement** of over 6,000 local groups; 50+ area forums
- **Protect and improve** UK's green spaces
- **Community voice** countrywide
- **Crisis** 'State of UK Parks' Report
- **Campaigning for Adequate Resources**
- **Pressure on government**
- **Networking** and promoting Forums
- **Share** knowledge and information
- **Partnerships** with green space organisations
- **About to become a Charity (CIO)**
- **National, voluntary group**

# Towards a National Network





# local area forums: why network?

# the benefits

## For the Community

- Share experiences (+ and -)
- Support / mentoring
- Support (resources)
- Joint working
- United voice
- Focus
- Links & partnerships

## For the Local Authority

- Community Contact
  - Consultation
  - Wider links
- Support (e.g. resources, events)
- Support and independent voice
- Focus
  - Single point of contact
  - Coordination
  - Synergy



## Background

- 591 parks & open spaces
- formed in 2005
- a Community Voice
- Not just parks
- Charity Status
- Currently 150 groups
- a network with many partners
- Esmée Fairbairn funds
- Staff
- [www.bosf.org.uk](http://www.bosf.org.uk)



## Activity

- Starting a new group
- Help with funding bids
- enquiries
- Signposting
- Sites under threat advice
- Events & Conferences
- Workshops & Training
- Coffee Mornings
- Monthly Information Sheet
- Newsletter
- Shrub Bed Project
- BeActive
- Nature Improvement Area



- campaign & lobbying
- awareness & advocacy
- advice & information
- research & consultation
  - evidence
  - capacity building
  - social & networking
- communication & coordination
  - involvement & inclusion



LEEDS parks and green spaces forum



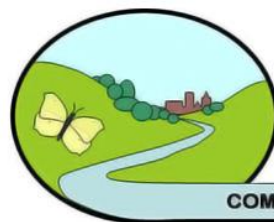
**Wirral Parks Forum**  
wirralparksforum.org.uk



Sheffield  
Green Spaces  
Forum



South West London  
Environment Network



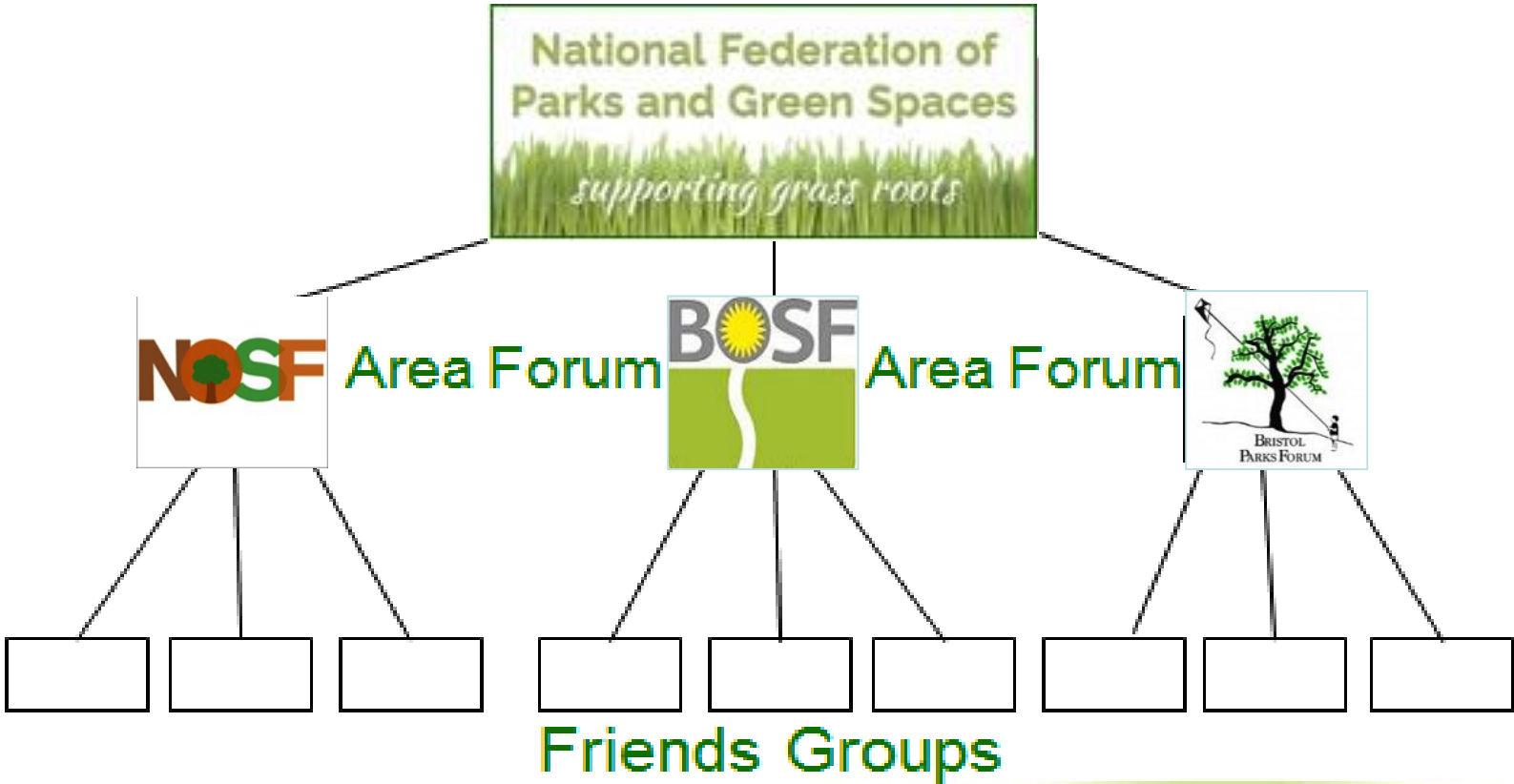
**NATURAL BASINGSTOKE**

COMMUNITY ACTION FOR NATURE



BRIGHTON & HOVE  
GREEN SPACES FORUM

# Towards a National Network



**local forums: wider benefits**


**projects, partners, participation**



ParkWork, a Bristol Parks Forum initiative, gives the opportunity to those on a route to employment to gain valuable work experience, training and skills


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**ParkWork**  
@ParkWorkBristol





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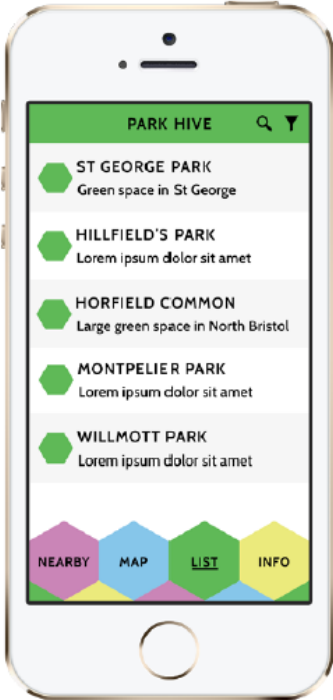
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16 photos

All photos







## Wirral Parks Forum

wirralparksforum.org.uk

- Meets 4 times a year
- Committee meets more frequently
- Committee as link with Council staff in regular Steering Group meetings
- Chair Wirral Parks and Countryside Partnership & Performance Board (3 times a year).



- Regular meetings with Head of Parks
- Inputs include:
  - Scrutiny Committee
  - Grounds Maintenance Tender
  - Park Keepers Forum
  - Restructure Process
  - Green Places Fund Partnership
  - Birmingham in Bloom
  - Green Infrastructure
  - Adaption & Delivery Group

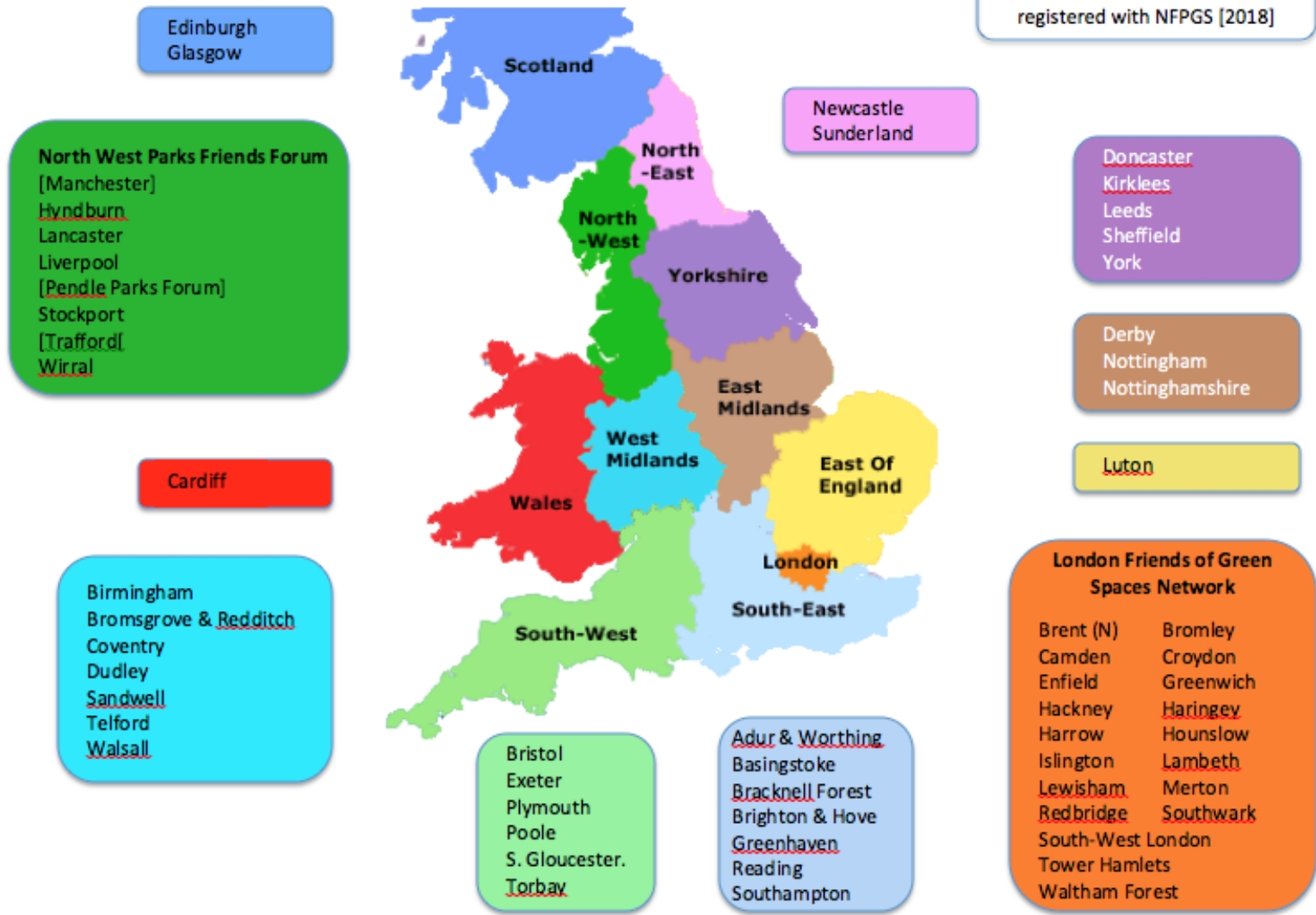




# regional opportunities- and challenges

## Summary of Area Parks & Green Space Forums


Current position showing active Area Forums and Networks registered with NFPGS [2018]







Support us reduce oversized events on Clapham Common


LFGN  
London Friends of Green Spaces Network





WHAT WE SAY
WHAT TO VIEW
SAVING GREENSPACES
LEGAL CASES
MANAGING GREEN SPACES
FRIENDS GROUPS
CONTACT US

DIARY FOR 2018
Q

### CPRE London E-Bulletin

📅 14th November 2018 👤 committee

Latest Planning & Environment news from around the London boroughs CPRE London's latest Green London E-Bulletin is out now. It's packed with vital environmental and planning news including: · major developments, [...]










📁 Uncategorised

### Offer of a video of your park

📅 14th November 2018 👤 committee

We are making short films about friends groups around London: would you like one? · It will be yours, so you can use it to promote your group · It will be shown [...]

📁 Uncategorised

### JOIN OUR MAILING LIST.....

Add your email here

JOIN NOW

### Next Meeting


NEXT MEETING FOR ALL LONDON'S FRIENDS' GROUPS:

Monday 3rd December 2018

6pm – 8pm @ City Hall (Committee Room, downstairs by the cafe). 110 The Queens Walk, London, SE1 2AA(10mins walk from London Bridge tube station).

Topic – London Green Spaces Management Plans





MAP



### Park and 81 mature trees still doomed, despite builder pulling out

📅 7th November 2018 👤 committee

A third of a town centre park, including 81 mature lime trees, are still condemned by development scheme, despite the council's development partner pulling out of the "transformational project". This [...]

📁 campaigning, Saving Greenspaces



### Old Tidemill Garden

📅 2nd November 2018 👤 committee

Police and protesters clash in south east London as community fight to save green space Evening Standard, 30.10.2018 The clash has been the latest hurdle campaigners have faced in their [...]






📁 Borough, Updates News from Member Groups

### GET INVOLVED!

Already part of your local park friends group?

- Join our newsletter email list and be inspired!
- Come along to an open morning / afternoon hosted by Park Friends Groups around London
- Is your group linked up to other such groups in your borough? If not we can help you set up a Friends of Parks Forum there



NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDED



North West Parks Friends Forum

### Wildlife, the Role of...

A Workshop for...



Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan  
The Environment  
BOLTON

North West Parks Friends Forum

### Health and G...

A Workshop for...



Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Power League S...  
STOCKPORT

North West Parks Friends Forum

### Defending our Parks

A Workshop for North West Park Community Groups



Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2014  
Birkenhead Park Pavilion  
WIRRAL

Liverpool Parks Friends Forum  
Wirral Parks Friends Forum



# Toolkit

guidance for park friends



North West Parks Friends Forum  
"...supporting the region's parks"



## Building and Sustaining a Network

- Need to keep in touch
- Maintain a database
- Provide regular activity and support
- Issues
  - geography
  - communication
  - capacity & governance
  - resources
  - voluntary



# Continuing development

Provisional dates



Merseyside  
Liverpool: 16 Feb.  
'19

NWPFF Conference  
Wirral: 13 April '19

Cheshire (Crewe)  
Cumbria (Carlisle)  
tbc

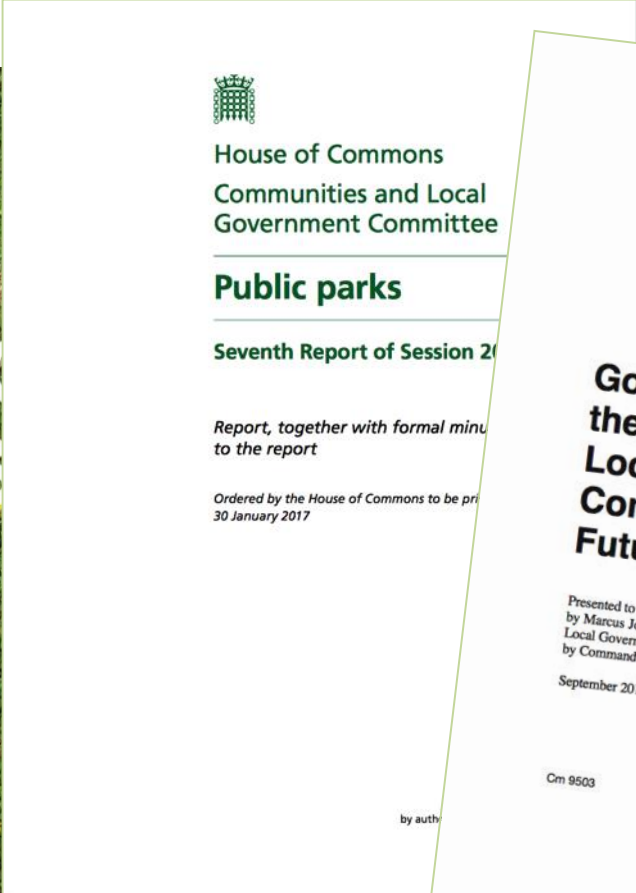


**a national network**





# Facing The Challenge



# Parks Action Group (PAG)



National  
Trust





# Progress and future impact



- Awareness and advocacy
- MoU and joint working
- Lobby for resources and recognition
- Statutory status
- Retaining grass roots
- Regional reps
- Staff support

# Info., support + please keep in touch!



[www.facebook.com/NWPFF](http://www.facebook.com/NWPFF)



[www.natfedparks.org.uk](http://www.natfedparks.org.uk)

@nwparcsforum



@NatFedParks

[nwparcsforum@gmail.com](mailto:nwparcsforum@gmail.com)



[secretary@natfedparks.org.uk](mailto:secretary@natfedparks.org.uk)

# **APSE Parks, horticultural and grounds maintenance advisory group**

**28 November 2018**

## Developing skills for the 21st Century Parks Manager

- Government and Parks Sector experts looking at a number of work streams
- APSE skills and knowledge workstream
- 2 Focus Group this year
- On-line survey to APSE parks contacts in England
- One-to-one interviews with 20+ professionals
- Statistical and thematic analysis of data gathered.
- Looked at: responsibilities; skills needs; skills gaps, training providers.

# Aims

- Develop clearly defined set of skills for managers and staff responsible for parks.
- Develop competency framework for different stages of career and attach to JD's and person specifications.
- Consideration of module skills learning depending on existing level of skills and knowledges e.g. horticulture, commercialisation.
- Identify relevant training providers as well as plugging training needs gaps.
- Develop career pathway to enhance future productivity, recruitment and retention of parks personnel at all levels.







# Skills and Knowledge Report

- Report findings currently being finalised.
- APSE working closely with other work streams to develop proposals for future parks management
- Developments will be reported to Advisory Group colleagues as they are confirmed.