

SPEAKING OUT

Supporting the Sector to Influence Policy

Quarterly E-Bulletin:

October 2007

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[Update from Speaking Out](#)

E-bulletin Launch

The Speaking Out project has launched its first quarterly e-bulletin to provide updates on the project's progress and enable stakeholder groups to follow developments in the key interest areas of the project.

Third Sector Consultation Response

The project team has published its response to the Third Sector Strategy by Communities and Local Government. In order to view the document, please download the PDF version: [Speaking Out page](#)

Policy Briefings

As part of the Speaking Out project's commitment to inform the children and young people's voluntary and community sector of government policy and its implications, we will publish six briefing papers at the beginning of October. The briefing papers address issues relevant to children and young people's organisations, including rural access to services, community cohesion, social exclusion, local government reform, knife and gun crime, and public service delivery. To download an electronic version of the documents please follow this link: [Speaking Out Policy Briefings](#). Alternatively you can request a hardcopy by contacting [Mark Blake](#) at NCVYS.

Oto25 Website

In the coming weeks, NCVCCO and NCVYS will be launching their new joint website *Oto25* as part of their ongoing partnership in providing support to the children and young people's voluntary sector. This will also be the platform for the Speaking Out project, which will have a designated page for a variety of information resources enabling users access to an overview of the project and its team, updated information on the progress of the project and upcoming events as well as an archive of all joint briefing papers and consultation responses. Users will also have opportunities to interact with the project further by participating in online discussion forums, submitting responses to polls and consultations directly on the site. Keep an eye out on the NCVYS and NCVCCO sites for further developments.

Commissioned Research

The Speaking Out project has commissioned several briefing papers aimed at selected Government departments to inform them on the state of the children and young people's voluntary sector. In addition, we have commissioned a mapping exercise of the sector in order to provide better quantitative data on the diversity of voluntary children and young people's sector. The document will be

available on our respective NCVCCO and NCVYS websites in the coming months.

Drugs Strategy

The team is currently preparing a response to the '**Drugs: Our Community, Your Say**' consultation paper launched by the Home Office in July 2007. We are consulting with members and anyone interested in giving their views should contact **Jason Pollard**, Policy Officer at NCVCCO.

In the news

Targeting gun and gang crime

10 September 2007

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith has announced plans for a dedicated national unit to run an anti-gang programme in order to tackle gun crime and violence among young people. Working with police, local authorities and other agencies, the Government aims to roll out a package of initiatives focusing on troubled neighbourhoods in London, Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham, in areas that jointly account for more than half of all gun crimes in England and Wales.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news/gun-gang-crime>

Youth crime seminar

23 August 2007

Prime Minister Gordon Brown hosted a seminar on youth crime with the Home Secretary, representatives from the police, government and voluntary agencies following the murder of 11 year old Rhys Jones in Liverpool this week. Home Minister Jacqui Smith said the government would review legislation compelling witnesses of gun crime to come forward and outlined plans for a major increase in the use of acceptable behaviour contracts to tackle lawlessness.

<http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page12906.asp>

Army officer mentors

20 August 2007

The Guardian has reported that Trevor Phillips, head of the new Commission for Equalities and Human Rights, has initiated a plan to bring together black military officers with young people at risk of being engaged in violence and gang activity. The strategy apparently includes the organisation of summer adventure camps already piloted by the CRE in partnership with the army.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/race/story/0,,2152302,00.html>

New qualification

August 2007

The Young Leaders for Safer Cities, BTEC, has been created by the Metropolitan Black Police Association (MetBPA). It is hoped the BTEC, aimed at 13 to 15 year olds, would give young people the skills to become strong leaders who would then have a positive impact on their communities.

http://metbpa.cfclientzone.net/news_item230807.htm

Events and Consultations

The Gangs in the UK: What's working?

A conference is being hosted by Brathay, Leap Confronting Conflict and the Serious and Organized Crime Prevention and Partnership unit of the Metropolitan Police Service on 5 and 6 November, 2007 at Brathay Hall, Ambleside, Cumbria. The aim of the conference is to focus on the solutions that are working around the UK in addressing youth group and gang conflict. For more information link to [Brathay's website](#)

ASBO Consultation

The Sentencing Advisory Panel has issued a consultation paper on sentencing for breach of an Anti-social Behaviour Order (ASBO). The number of ASBOs has increased considerably since the order first became available in 1999, and the courts now regularly face the task of sentencing an offender for breach. The deadline for responses is **9 November 2007**. More information can be found on the [Sentencing Guidelines](#) website.

Information Resources

New role models

9 August 2007

The REACH report commissioned by Communities and Local Government, calls for new role models to tackle underachievement among young Black men, providing recommendations on what government can do to counter this 'culture of low aspiration'.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/reachreport>

ABC Guidance

23 August 2007

The Home Office's Anti-Social Behaviour and Alcohol Unit has produced a guidance on how to make the best of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and agreements. It is aimed at neighbourhood policing teams working with local people and local partners to continue to tackle anti-social behaviour, and looks at how the contracts are being used effectively across the country as part of the toolkit for tackling anti-social behaviour.

<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/antisocialbehaviour>

Locked out

5 September 2007

Youth Access has launched a new report highlighting the cost of young people's marginalisation from access to advice they need to resolve their complex housing and homelessness problems. The report is entitled 'Locked Out: the prevalence and impact of housing and homelessness problems amongst young people, and the impact of good advice'.

<http://www.nya.org.uk/Templates/Internal.asp?NodeID=96003>