

Quarterly project update October 2009

Dear colleague

NCVYS and Children England jointly run the Speaking Out project which seeks to ensure that the voice of the children and young people's voluntary and community sector is heard in key policy debates outside of traditional areas that the sector focuses on. Since the project commenced in 2006, the team has developed policy streams in several areas and, in June 2009, announced its six policy priority areas for 2009/10. These are: **community empowerment, health and wellbeing, housing and homelessness, youth justice, employment, education and training, and financial capability.**

In October 2009, Speaking Out published its latest briefings on community empowerment and health and wellbeing, based on full research reports commissioned out as part of the project. Demos produced ***A scoping study concerning community empowerment relating to children and young people***, and ECOTEC produced ***A scoping study concerning health and wellbeing issues relating to children and young people***. Both scoping studies consider the policy background to the relevant area and provide recommendations to Government and the voluntary and community children and young people's sector. Full reports and briefings are available to download from www.ncvys.org.uk or www.childrenengland.org.uk

Speaking Out's National Conference - **Government and charities – a civil partnership? A national conference joining up cross-government agendas for children and young people** – is taking place on 9 December 2009 in London. The conference will bring together key players working to improve outcomes for children and young people across England, and will look at how partnership working between government and charities can be further improved. This **FREE** event is aimed at strategic managers and decision-makers in cross-government agendas affecting children and young people, such as community empowerment, health, housing and homelessness, and education, employment and training. It will link up policy and practice, and provide an opportunity to network between sectors and exchange ideas about key issues affecting children and young people. The Conference has an exciting line-up of confirmed speakers including **Minister for the Third Sector Angela Smith MP** and **Shadow Minister for Charities, Social Enterprise and Volunteering Nick Hurd MP**. There will also be the chance to participate in seminars linked to the themes above that link national policy with local practice. Further information and booking details are available via: <http://speakingout.eventbrite.com/>

For further information about any aspect of the Speaking Out project please contact Faiza Chaudary, NCVYS's Head of Policy and Communications on 020 7278 1041 or email faiza@ncvys.org.uk, or Sophie Griffiths, Children England's Policy and Information Officer on 020 7833 3319 or email sophie@childrenengland.org.uk.

Best wishes

The Speaking Out team