

SPEAKING OUT

Supporting the Sector to Influence Policy

Survey of Speaking Out project
January 2009

Background

A total of 25 respondents answered the survey.

Question 1

The Speaking Out project has focused on a number of policy issues. Which of the following issues have you found useful?

	Very useful	Useful	Fairly useful	Not useful
access to services in rural areas	22%	26%	22%	30%
community cohesion	27%	37%	27%	9%
community empowerment	39%	18%	30%	13%
knife, gun and gang crime	26%	30%	35%	9%
local government reform	5%	36%	45%	14%
placeshaping	5%	24%	47%	24%
public service delivery	27%	27%	27%	22%
rural migrant children and young people	10%	29%	38%	24%
substance misuse	5%	46%	36%	14%
the comprehensive spending review	27%	27%	32%	14%
the social exclusion agenda	57%	17%	17%	9%
youth justice	26%	44%	22%	9%

The results show that respondents found **the social exclusion agenda** and **community empowerment** to be the most useful policy issues that the Speaking Out project has covered to date. **Access to services in rural areas** and **placeshaping** were considered the least useful topics.

Question 2

What policy issues do you think we should focus on for 2009-2011?

	Yes	No	Unsure
access to services in rural areas	74%	10%	16%
community cohesion and citizenship	90%	10%	0%
environment/climate change	45%	10%	45%
placeshaping	28%	11%	61%
health	82%	14%	4%
migrant children and young people	63%	10%	27%
substance misuse	45%	15%	40%
London 2012 Olympics and sports	35%	35%	30%
youth employment, education and training	95%	0%	5%
youth justice	82%	0%	18%
housing and homelessness	79%	5%	16%

Youth employment, education and training, community cohesion/citizenship, health, youth justice, housing and homelessness are the top five areas that respondents would like to see the Speaking Out project focus on in the next two years.

61% of respondents are unsure whether **placeshaping** should be a priority issue and 35% of respondents would not like the Speaking Out project to focus on the **London 2012 Olympics and sports**.

Additional issues that respondents would like the Speaking Out project to focus on include:

- *'Volunteering - which form a part of many of the above'*
- *'Opportunities for children and young people to enjoy themselves in an interesting challenging and safe environment'*
- *'Education'*
- *'Transition to adulthood issues'*
- *'Contribution by faith-based organisations supporting young people and families'*
- *'Adult volunteering in youth and children's work settings'*
- *'Commissioning'*
- *'Children and young people's rights and access to civil justice (NB: 'youth justice' tends to only cover criminal justice)'*
- *'Child & safeguarding protection policy & action - Authorities are failing vulnerable and at risk children & young people'*

Question 3

Do you or your organisation work on any of the following policy issues already?

	Yes	No	Possibly in the future	Unsure
access to services in rural areas	48%	42%	10%	0%
community cohesion	47%	37%	21%	0%
environment/climate change	21%	53%	26%	0%
placeshaping	16%	52%	16%	16%
health	68%	26%	6%	0%
migrant children and young people	42%	32%	26%	0%
substance misuse	37%	47%	5%	11%
London 2012 Olympics	25%	65%	5%	5%
youth employment	53%	32%	10%	5%
youth justice	47%	47%	10%	0%
housing and homelessness	39%	50%	11%	0%

Additional comments:

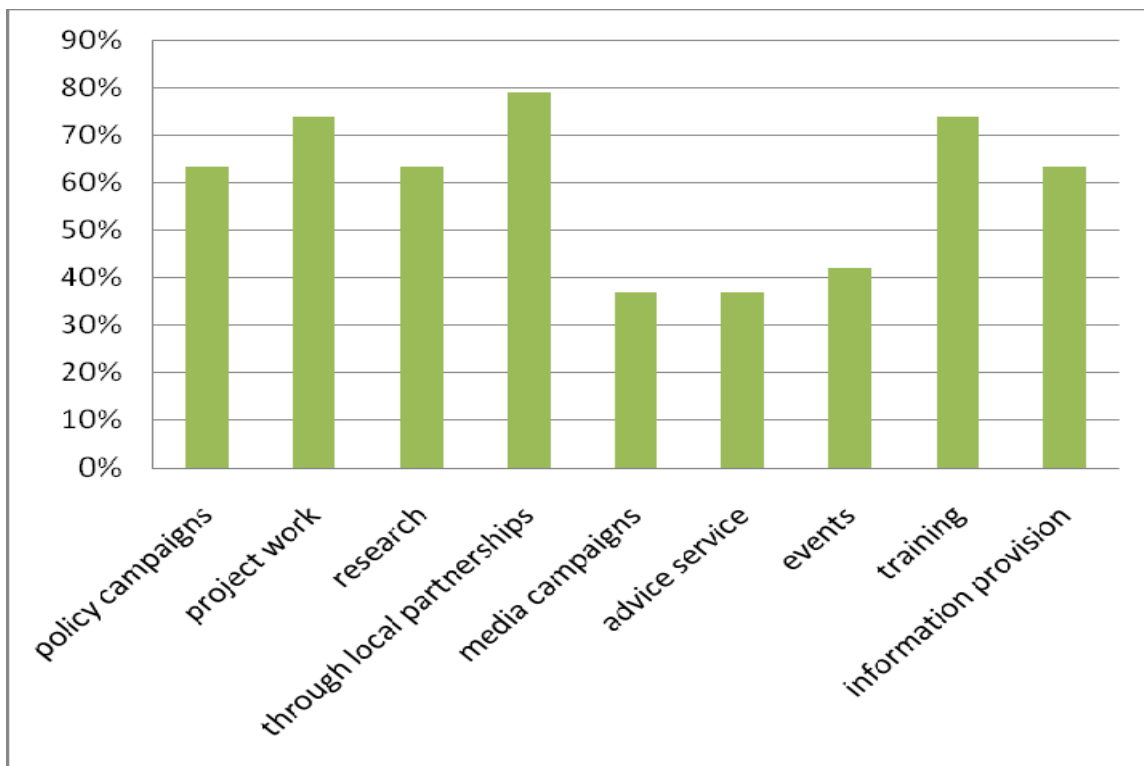
- *'We work extensively with schools on Extended Services in an around schools'*
- *'General youth work'*
- *'Our charity works to improve outcomes for children in care, care leavers and sons and daughters of foster carers. We also support foster carers themselves. Therefore some of these issues are covered in this context.'*
- *'Faith-base work ,Human Trafficking ,Supporting young people and families'*
- *'We are primarily a service deliverer not a campaigning organisation'*
- *'Main one every child matter agenda - with aiming high & youth matters'*

Health, youth employment, access to services in rural areas, youth justice and community cohesion are the main five policy areas that organisations are currently working on.

The **London 2012 Olympics, environment/climate change** and **placeshaping** are the three policy areas that respondents are least likely to be working on. 26% of respondents may possibly decide to focus on **environment/climate change** issues and **migrant children and young people** in the future.

Question 4

If you are already working on any of the policy issues outlined in the previous question, please provide information on how you are working on these issues.



Additional comments:

- *'In providing play and leisure opportunities for children and young people visiting parents and relatives in prison it includes information provision, advice, research and policy campaigns'*
- *'None, we just do youth work'*
- *'0-19 3rd Sector Forum only campaigns locally in Dorset'*

Question 5

Are there any other policy areas that are priorities for your organisation or you think should be priorities for the Speaking Out project?

- *'The importance of the **prevention** of children and their parents and families getting involved with the law. The provision of family support particularly for those families who are difficult to reach, well organised **play and leisure opportunities** both for the children and their families, more education for young people and families on how to enjoy **healthy eating** and eating and cooking together as a family. Real support for **children with a parent in prison** and continued support when the parent is released from prison.'*
- *'Represent the 3rd sector so that Government understands what we do.'*
- *'Seeking a more holistic approach to wellbeing that honours the contribution of faith-based organisations more and includes spiritual development of young people more purposefully.'*
- *'Young People's Participation.'*
- *'Preventative work - 'Seeds of exclusion' document available from Salvation Army.'*

- *'Our primary concern is the **lack of adult volunteering in youth and children's work settings**. We are also very concerned about the poor access to premises for delivery and lack of support for existing premises. In this context we are concerned about the divide between service delivery organisations using contracts to deliver services (and therefore financially dependant on central funding) and the volunteering organisations that rely on adult volunteers for the majority of service delivery. We have noticed a marked separation of the needs of these organisations recently.'*
- *'Focus of much of work is on youth agenda rather than children's agendas.'*
- *'Access to services for young people generally Mental health Access to advice and counselling services. Young people's rights / access to justice.'*
- *'rural.....'*
- *'Short breaks, transition to adulthood, outcomes for children in care, neglect.'*
- *'Further work on stat. sector to work with vol. sector youth provision and recognising the value of the sector.'*

Question 6

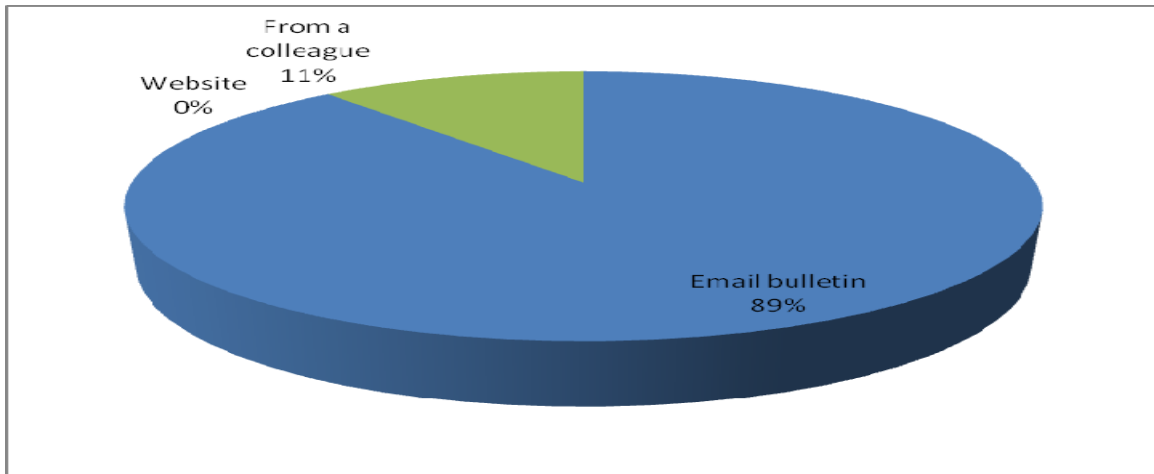
The Speaking Out project has been involved in a range of different activities. Which of the following have you found useful?

	Very useful	Useful	Fairly useful	Not useful
policy briefings	42%	37%	11%	10%
quarterly e-bulletin	33%	39%	17%	11%
roundtable events on specific policy areas	23%	18%	23%	35%
conferences (for example on placeshaping)	6%	41%	18%	35%
research	37%	26%	26%	11%
small grants funding programme	24%	29%	24%	23%

Respondents find **policy briefings** and **research** the most useful activities relating to the Speaking Out project. **Conferences**, the **quarterly e-bulletin** and the **small grants programme** are also considered useful activities.

Question 7

How did you find out about this survey?



Question 8

Are there any other comments you would like to make about Speaking Out?

- *'It would be useful to know about any opportunities for young people that the project provides.'*
- *'Thank you for your work.'*
- *'In Kingston Upon Hull the vol. sector is run by the big boys and small vol are overshadowed or disregarded by the authority. Bureaucratic systems over take common sense and the wishes of the people and community. Historic mistrust and constant re structures by the authority seem to be an excuse for not delivering service. The care of duty placed on the authority is overtaken by power structures and high salaried official's who seem unaware of the deprivation around them.'*