

# SPEAKING OUT

Supporting the Sector to Influence Policy

## Press release

11.12.09

### Future looks bright for children and young people's voluntary services

High profile speakers, including former Minister for Third sector Hilary Armstrong MP and Chief Executive of the BIG Lottery Fund Peter Wanless, discussed how partnerships between government and the charitable sector can help to achieve positive change for children and young people at the Speaking Out national conference yesterday in Westminster.

Speaking Out is a partnership project between Children England and the National Council of Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) which aims to build a voice for the children and young people's voluntary and community sector across government. The project, funded by the Office of the Third Sector, aims to develop closer links between government departments and the voluntary and community sector.

In an exclusive announcement at the event, Peter Wanless said "while in parliament the chancellor is trying to take money away from us, I'm here to announce that we'll be giving more away", revealing the BIG Lottery Fund's commitment to providing £30 million in funding for young people, particularly in the areas of young people leaving care and getting into education, employment and training; young people leaving youth offending institutions and young carers' post-16 transitions.

The conference: *Government and charities – a civil partnership?* explored areas of cross-cutting policy issues such as community empowerment, health and well-being, housing and homelessness, and education, employment and training through an inspiring range of seminars and discussions throughout the day across Whitehall.

Contributions to the day highlighted:

- The need for voluntary and community organisations to demonstrate the difference they make through evidence gathering
- The continued need to represent young people's views to government
- The importance of ensuring sustainable funding for the sector in the context of the pre-budget report which announced £5 billion in efficiency savings

The conference particularly focussed on the positive contribution of the children and young people's voluntary sector and aimed to link up policy and practice, providing an opportunity for local, regional and national policymakers to meet colleagues from the independent, voluntary and community sectors to exchange ideas about key issues affecting children and young people.

Susanne Rauprich, Chief Executive of the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) said:

"Today's conference is a fantastic example of synergy at its best and the momentum should not be lost if we are to have any impact on the lives of children and young people. Government and charities must do all they can to continue investing in long-term sustainable projects for children and young people and must persist in building meaningful relationships with those accessing their services based on mutual respect, understanding and love."

**Children  
England**

Charities working for children and families



**CabinetOffice**  
Office of the **Third Sector**

**NCVYS**  
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
VOLUNTARY YOUTH SERVICES

Registered charity no. 1044239  
Registered company no. 3011053

Registered charity no. 1093386  
Registered company no. 4385383

Maggie Jones, Chief Executive of Children England added that:

“The energy, enthusiasm and commitment to children and young people demonstrated at this conference is a powerful antidote to the doom and gloom merchants. Any government would be foolish not to harness this in building better futures for children, young peoples and their communities.”

#### **Notes to editors**

1. Speaking Out is a partnership between Children England and the National Council of Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS), which seeks to build a voice for the children and young people’s voluntary and community sector across government. The project is funded by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.
2. Further information about the Speaking Out project is available at [www.childrenengland.org.uk](http://www.childrenengland.org.uk) or [www.ncvys.org.uk](http://www.ncvys.org.uk).
3. For further information please contact Kathy Evans, Children England on 020 7833 3319 or [Kathy@childrenengland.org.uk](mailto:Kathy@childrenengland.org.uk) or Faiza Chaudary, NCVYS on 020 7278 1041 or [faiza@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:faiza@ncvys.org.uk)





