

## Speaking Out Briefing No.16

### Environment

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is responsible for ensuring that everyone is able to live within our environmental means which includes securing a healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment. Defra has published a *Third Sector Strategy* which will govern its future relationship with the voluntary and community sector. This briefing sets out the policy context behind the Strategy, the main elements of the Strategy and considers the implications for the children and young people's voluntary and community sector.

This briefing is part of the Speaking Out series.

#### Speaking Out

Speaking Out is a partnership between Children England (formerly the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations) and the National Council for 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 aims to develop closer links between a range of government departments (Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Communities and Local Government, Cabinet Office and HM Treasury) and the voluntary and community sector in delivering cross departmental policies such as Every Child Matters and *The Children's Plan* and the direct implementation of initiatives which affect children and young people.

Speaking Out aims to support children, young people and family voluntary and community organisations to better understand the impact on their users of a wider range of government policies and provide routes to influence them.

The project is funded by the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office.

#### Who are these briefings for?

This series of briefings intends to provide members of both NCVYS and Children England and other interested parties with background and analysis on specific policy items affecting the sector.

### Other activities

In addition to these briefings the Speaking Out project is developing work streams around the policy themes which include:

- organising a series of seminars and events;
- establishing communities of interest amongst members and other organisations on specific policy themes;
- making representations to government; and
- linking with wider NCVYS and Children England campaigns.

To discuss this briefing or any other aspect of the Speaking Out project please contact Hannah Dobbin, NCVYS's Policy Officer on 020 7278 1041 or email [hannah@ncvys.org](mailto:hannah@ncvys.org), or Sophie Griffiths, Children England's Policy and Information Officer on 020 7833 3319 or email [sophie@childrenengland.org.uk](mailto:sophie@childrenengland.org.uk).

# 1.Introduction

The environment is becoming increasingly important both in terms of environmental issues, such as climate change and sustainable living and in its capacity to engage children and young people in imaginative and positive activities. In central government, policy work around the environment is traditionally led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), however it has developed into a cross-cutting issue that requires a joined-up approach by government departments and the third sector to deal with it.

In November 2008, Defra launched its *Third Sector Strategy*<sup>1</sup> which sets out how the Department will improve the way it works in partnership with the third sector to achieve its overall mission of living within environmental means.

This briefing provides some policy context to Defra's Third Sector Strategy and summarises its content, highlighting particularly pertinent areas of interest for the children and young people's voluntary and community sector (CYPVCS) and how these relate to environmental issues. In addition, the briefing highlights projects that have successfully combined the environment and youth work in order to share learning and considers possible implications for the CYPVCS.

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<sup>1</sup> Defra (2008) *Third Sector Strategy* is available via:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/how-do-we-work/third-sector/strategy/index.htm>

## 2. Policy context

### Government departments and roles

Defra's *Third Sector Strategy* was launched following a public consultation process<sup>2</sup>, and just before a Ministerial reshuffle and the creation of a new government department: the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)<sup>3</sup>.

The departmental changes saw Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP remain Secretary of State for Defra, but his department's portfolio was reduced to help create DECC, headed by Secretary of State Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP. DECC brought together much of the Climate Change Group, previously housed within Defra, with the Energy Group from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The Department for International Development<sup>4</sup> retained the lead on issues around developing countries and their environmental concerns.

Defra's *Third Sector Strategy* is not a shared strategy with DECC but Defra will be working closely with DECC on some of the issues. This should become clear throughout the implementation of the strategy. The CYPVCS will have to wait and see whether DECC decides whether or not to have its own strategy.

During the Ministerial reshuffle, Kevin Brennan MP was appointed as Minister for the Third Sector after serving as a Minister in the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The Office of the Third Sector<sup>5</sup> (OTS) is based in the Cabinet Office and leads work across Government to support a thriving third sector (voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, charities, cooperatives and mutuals<sup>6</sup>), enabling the sector to campaign for change, deliver public services, promote social enterprise and strengthen communities.

In response to Government changes, the shadow cabinet had a reshuffle. Within the Conservative party, Nick Hurd took over from Greg Clark as the Shadow Third Sector Minister, while Greg Clark became the new Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change<sup>7</sup>. Equally, the Liberal Democrats made some new appointments, including Tim Farron MP as the new Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Steve Webb as the new Shadow Secretary of State for Climate Change and Energy<sup>8</sup>.

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2 The Speaking Out response to Defra's *Third Sector Strategy* consultation is available to download via: <http://www.ncvys.org.uk/index.php?page=568>

3 Further information on the Department for Energy and Climate Change is available via: <http://www.decc.gov.uk>

4 Further information on the Department for International Development is available via: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk>

5 Further information on the Office of the Third Sector is available via: [http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector.aspx)

6 A mutual is an organisation that exists with the purpose of raising funds from its membership or customers which are then used to provide common services to all members.

7 A full list of Conservative party appointments is available via: <http://www.conservatives.com/People.aspx>

8 Further information on positions within the Liberal Democrats is available via: <http://www.libdems.org.uk/people>

In July 2007, the Government published the final report of its review of the third sector. The review, carried out by OTS and HM Treasury's Charity and Third Sector Finance Unit, set out plans to promote partnership between government and the third sector. Government departments started to develop third sector strategies and some have already been published, including Communities and Local Government<sup>9</sup> and the Ministry of Justice<sup>10</sup>. The strategies aim to lay out how the department will effectively work with the third sector to implement its work programmes.

### Key targets and objectives

The Government has published cross-departmental targets, public service agreements (PSAs), for the period April 2008 to April 2011. Defra leads on the following two new PSAs<sup>11</sup>:

- secure a healthy natural environment for today and the future; and
- lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change.

Defra also has Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs) that describe everything that it does and which will be used to manage performance. These include:

- a healthy, resilient, productive & diverse natural environment;
- sustainable patterns of consumption and production;
- championing Sustainable Development across government, across the UK, and internationally;
- strong rural communities; and
- a respected department delivering efficient and high quality services and outcomes.

These DSOs link in with other policy areas which impact on children and young people, for example engagement with a healthy and diverse natural environment can be beneficial to children and young people's emotional health and well-being and strong rural communities can provide environments in which children and young people can engage with positive activities and their natural environment.

### Emotional health and well-being

The Sustainable Development Commission<sup>12</sup> is the Government's independent adviser on sustainable development and reports to the Prime Minister. Through advocacy, advice and appraisal, the Commission aims to help put sustainable development at the heart of Government policy and it has recognised children and young people as a key policy area to focus on. *Every Child's Future Matters*, produced by the Commission, explores the influence the environment has on children's well-being and demonstrates how attention to the environment provides a powerful mode of delivering the Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes<sup>13</sup>.

9 Further information on Communities and Local Government's work with the third sector is available via: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/thirdsector/>

10 Ministry of Justice (2008) *Third Sector Strategy* is available via: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/third-sector-strategy.pdf>

11 Further information on Defra's business planning and Public Service Agreement is available via: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/busplan/spending-review/>

12 Further information on the Sustainable Development Commission's work around children and young people, including *Every Child's Future Matters*, is available via: <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/children-and-young-people.html>

13 Further information on the Every Child Matters outcomes is available via: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk>

Children's emotional health and well-being is a cross-departmental issue and recent evidence, produced by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)<sup>14</sup>, highlights the impact that the environment can have on children and young people. For example, access to green space can help alleviate a range of mental health problems, it can improve children's concentration and self-discipline, including the symptoms of attention deficit disorder (ADD). Further work by the RSPB<sup>15</sup> explores the relationship between public health and the provision of natural green space with local opportunities for social walking and outdoor activities. Increasing the availability of accessible natural green space will increase levels of physical activity, leading to increased public health and associated cost savings.

### Education

DCSF has recognised the importance of children and young people's environment in relation to their learning by introducing its programme for out of school learning<sup>16</sup> which incorporates children and young people being involved in cultural and arts festivals, expeditions, summer camps and sport events.

In Wales the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills has linked education for sustainable development and global citizenship with youth work and is working to create an integrated whole service approach. The position of young people and what they can achieve through their participation is recognised as being of prime importance<sup>17</sup>.

### Change4Life

Defra's *Third Sector Strategy* gives examples of cross-departmental working, including its work with the Department of Health in supporting a new movement called Change4Life<sup>18</sup>.

Change4Life aims to improve children's diets and levels of activity so reducing the threat to their future health and happiness. The campaign's goal is to help every family in England eat well, move more and live longer. Change4Life is calling on a range of national, regional and local partners, from within Government, health care, the media and the commercial and voluntary sectors, to help. The movement is in its early stages and recognises that it needs a joined-up approach to make it work. Change4Life is also (at the time of writing) developing toolkits for the voluntary and community sector to help plan and deliver healthy outcomes for children and young people.

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14 RSPB (2008) *Natural Thinking* is available to download via:  
<http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/health/index.asp>

15 RSPB (2008) *Natural Fit: Can Green Space and Biodiversity Increase Levels of Physical Activity?* is available to download via: <http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/health/index.asp>

16 Further information on *Learning Outside the Classroom* is available via:  
<http://www.lotc.org.uk/>

17 Further information on *Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship – A Common Understanding for the Youth Work Sector* is available via:  
[http://www.esd-wales.org.uk/english/youth\\_work/youth\\_work.htm](http://www.esd-wales.org.uk/english/youth_work/youth_work.htm)

18 Further information on Change4Life is available via:  
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/News/Currentcampaigns/Change4Life/index.htm>

## Sport, play and physical activity

Sport and physical activity can be key to engaging children and young people and improving their health, but it relies on having appropriate environments to participate in. As highlighted by the ECM outcome 'be healthy', an active lifestyle and involvement in sport contributes to keeping children and young people healthy and has featured strongly in recent Government strategies. DCSF strategies, such as *Aiming high for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities*<sup>19</sup> and *The Children's Plan*<sup>20</sup>, focus on access to positive activities and creating safe environments in which children and young people can participate.

There has been a great drive within Government to increase children and young people's participation in PE and school sport, for example through the Healthy Schools<sup>21</sup> programme as the first step to promoting physical activity. The programme has four core themes: personal, social and health education, healthy eating, physical activity and emotional health and well-being, and supports links between health, behaviour and achievement.

In July 2008, DCMS and DCSF closed the *Fair Play: a consultation on the play strategy*<sup>22</sup>, which links into creating safe and accessible environments for children and young people to participate in play opportunities. As part of emphasising the importance of children and young people's environment, Fair Play highlighted the role that communities have in providing activities and places to go, encouraging greater interaction amongst people and fostering a stronger community culture:

Recognise the importance of children being able to play out with their friends in the local natural and built environment. It has positive health and community social capital building benefits which far outweigh any actual risk and danger to children.

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) encourages policymakers to create places that are safe, beautiful and efficient to run. It has issued many publications that consider the importance of the environment including *Designing and planning for play: public space lessons*<sup>23</sup> which aims to encourage local authorities to create spaces that allow children to use their imagination, with natural play design.

Play England and government departments leading on play have published guidance which will help transform the design of play spaces in the future. *Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces*<sup>24</sup> shows how to design good

19 Further information on the implementation of *Aiming high for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities* is available via: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/aiminghigh/>

20 Further information on *The Children's Plan* is available via: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/>

21 Further information on the healthy schools campaign is available via: <http://www.healthyschools.gov.uk/Default.aspx>

22 *Fair Play: a consultation on the play strategy* is available via: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/fairplay/>

23 Further information on CABE, including *Designing and planning for play: public space lessons*, is available via: <http://www.cabe.org.uk/>

24 *Design for Play: A guide to creating successful play spaces* is available to download via: [http://www.playengland.org.uk/Page.asp?originx\\_2757hp\\_70994779705616h30y\\_2008630728a](http://www.playengland.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_2757hp_70994779705616h30y_2008630728a)

play spaces, which can be affordably maintained, which give children and young people the freedom to play creatively, and yet still allow them to experience risk, challenge and excitement.

The London 2012 Olympics provides an ideal opportunity to promote participation in sport and create an environment in which to do so, not only in London but the whole of the UK<sup>25</sup>. London 2012 aims to make the Olympic Park a blueprint for sustainable living and leave a lasting legacy in terms of facilities and transport networks. CABE is providing expert advice on the planning, procurement and management of the Olympic Park and buildings for London 2012.

### Place-shaping

Placeshaping is about developing local areas that engage children and young people through providing opportunities for them to influence decisions about their local environment. The geographical environment in which children and young people live can affect their engagement with positive activities, sports and the use of the natural environment around them. Place-shaping has been used in policy as a concept and defined as ‘the creative use of powers and influence to promote the general well-being of a community and its citizens’<sup>26</sup>. It is a cross-cutting government issue, for example it features in *Strong and Prosperous Communities – the Local Government White Paper*<sup>27</sup> which sets out Government’s proposals on how to reinforce and further develop local authorities’ role as ‘place-shapers’. Place-shaping also links in with children and young people’s policies through *Aiming high for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities*, *The Children’s Plan* and the *Staying Safe Action Plan*<sup>28</sup>. All of these policies aim to create safe and accessible ways for children and young people to engage with their environments<sup>29</sup>.

There can be a conflict between rural and urban issues and how to fulfil the needs of children and young people in these contrasting environments. Children and young people have not featured prominently in Defra’s policies and there is often concern within the CYPVCS that Defra is not working effectively with other departments, or the CYPVCS, to ensure that environment issues, such as transport, are fully considered when developing policies that effect children and young people.

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25 Further information on London 2012 and its legacy can be found in Speaking Out briefing paper 14. Available at: <http://www.ncvys.org.uk/index.php?page=551>

26 Lyons (2007) *Place-shaping: a shared ambition for the future of local government* is available via: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/lyonsinquiryinto/>

27 Communities and Local Government (2006) *Strong and Prosperous Communities – The Local Government White Paper* is available via: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongprosperous>

28 Further information on Staying Safe, including the Action Plan, is available via: <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/stayingsafe/>

29 Speaking Out’s briefing paper on place-shaping is available to download via: <http://www.ncvys.org.uk/index.php?page=551>

### 3. Defra *Third Sector Strategy* summary

This section summarises the key points of Defra's *Third Sector Strategy* that relate to the children and young people's voluntary and community sector (CYPVCS).

Defra recognises the role of third sector organisations as advocates and experts in issues around the environment and wants to work collaboratively with the third sector to identify and advocate the needs of rural community and ensure these are addressed by mainstream policy and service delivery. Although keen to work in partnership, Defra will maintain respect for the independence of the sector. The overall objectives of the Strategy are:

- Defra and the third sector to improve their understanding of the evidence about why we must act, the key actions which make the most difference, and the lessons of past activities;
- improve Defra and the third sector's understanding of the barriers, gaps and opportunities related specifically to third sector involvement in achieving Defra's DSOs;
- mainstream the above into existing third sector programmes - within the sector and between government and the sector;
- facilitate better links between environmental goals and the wider social and economic goals and motivations of third sector organisations, individuals and communities;
- improve the way Defra understands and works with the sector – from consultation to procurement – and thereby improve the effectiveness of its engagement with the third sector; and
- improve collective understanding about the ladder of engagement with third sector organisations, and making the right choices about when to inform, consult, proactively engage or co-design jointly with third sector stakeholders.

The Strategy looks at objectives and visions of success for various topics, including advocacy, voice, campaigning and information policy development, improving communications with the third sector and understanding the sector, and building better partnerships and better commissioning practices and procedures. Other focus areas are sustainable living, communities and places, public services, encouraging social enterprise and environmental entrepreneurship and greater environmental leadership in the third sector.

Key points of the Strategy include:

- the Strategy makes a range of new commitments about how Defra will improve its way of working with the sector and further mainstream the principles of the Compact agreement into all that it does;
- Defra will establish a new high level Third Sector Advisory Board which will provide advice to senior officials and Ministers about the ways in which Defra and the third sector can work together. Defra is recruiting members to the board, closing date 14 January 2009<sup>30</sup>;
- Defra to run a multi-year greener living fund worth over £6 million to support third sector delivery partners to help people make more environmentally-friendly choices at home, on the move and when shopping;
- Defra is planning a campaign to enhance biodiversity by encouraging environmental volunteering so that people can support their local wildlife and natural environment. Defra will be working in partnership with a range of delivery bodies and non-governmental organisations to roll this out, as part of the Department of Health's Change4Life campaign;
- Defra is launching its new social enterprise strategic partnership with five national social enterprise organisations;
- Defra is launching a new task group that will involve third sector stakeholders. The group will be jointly chaired by Defra Minister Huw Irrance-Davies, Joan Ruddock, Minister from DECC, and Kevin Brennan, Minister from the OTS. It will recommend practical ways in which the environment, climate change and sustainable development can be further mainstreamed into national third sector programmes;
- Defra will work with its delivery bodies to improve the way they all engage with the third sector. Many organisations, such as the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Forestry Commission, have agreed to publish their own third sector policy statement by November 2009; and
- Defra will work with Government Offices in the regions, third sector stakeholders and delivery bodies to explore how the Strategy can enable better links at the regional and local level.

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<sup>30</sup> Further information on Defra's Third Sector Advisory Board and how to apply is available via:  
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/how-do-we-work/third-sector/strategy/advisory-board/index.htm>

## 4. Case studies

The Defra *Third Sector Strategy* does not directly cite children and young people or the CYPVCS, nor does it recognise the vital role that youth work can have in engaging young people in their environments and environmental issues. A common problem in policy work is translating policy into action, especially national strategies into local delivery. Young Pioneers aims to tackle this:

### Young Pioneers

Young Pioneers was set up by a 12-year-old school boy who wanted to demonstrate to other young people that it is 'cool to care'. A key part of this message is that it is cool to care for the environment.

The young people in the charity have translated policy into action by developing an accreditation education course that trains young people with the necessary skills to manage their carbon footprint. It empowers them with the skills and knowledge to change their lives and become positive role models for other young people.

The charity also trains young people to be carbon footprint trainers which involves young people training other young people to make a difference.

Further information is available at: <http://www.youngpioneers.org/gogreen>

Defra's *Third Sector Strategy* recognises the expertise of the third sector and the vital contribution of volunteers. One of Defra's objectives within the Strategy is to promote environmental volunteering and recognise the role of unpaid volunteers in Defra affairs. Many CYPVCS organisations are run by volunteers and children and young people are involved both as volunteers and as leaders themselves. For example:

### **Viva Veolia Youth Ranger Project**

Young volunteers aged 16-25 years old across England are being encouraged to develop ideas on how to protect and improve their local environment – and put them in to practice.

Viva Veolia was launched in autumn 2007, a two-year initiative funded by The Veolia Environmental Trust (VET) through the Landfill Communities Fund and v, the youth volunteering charity, through a match fund programme which will see £500,000 being spent at eight local project sites across England.

This is enabling eight local Wildlife Trusts to support young volunteers as they help to improve their local environment and offers them a chance to gain new practical, networking and social skills.

Young people from each of the eight Wildlife Trusts have come together to form a national media team, to help promote the project and to inspire other young people to find out more about volunteering on environmental projects.

Further information is available via: <http://www.veoliatrust.org>

As previously highlighted, the environment can have a positive impact on children and young people's mental health and well-being. There are many CYPVCS organisations that focus on this including BTCV:

### **BTCV – Taster Volunteering Programme**

BTCV's Taster Volunteering Programme, which ran from September 2006 to September 2007, is up and running again - this time until March 2011.

In its first year, the Programme offered taster events for children and young people to try out volunteering around environmental issues.

3,061 young people aged between 16 and 25 years old took part in the taster events. 94% were new to volunteering with BTCV. Participants came from all English regions and there was an even gender split – 49% female and 51% male. The diversity mix was good, with 19% describing themselves as other than “White British” and 3% describing themselves as disabled.

The volunteers participated in volunteering taster sessions that involved real life tasks for environmental and community benefit. Most activities took place outdoors and included litter clearance, tree planting, dry stone walling and hedgelaying. Participants enjoyed themselves and felt a real sense of achievement. Equal commitment came from volunteers who chose indoor tasks in offices, schools and environment centres. These too picked up new skills and a sense of pride in having done something worthwhile.

Further information is available via: <http://www2.btcv.org.uk/>

## 5. Implications for the children and young people's voluntary and community sector

Defra's *Third Sector Strategy* follows a string of such publications from other government departments. A challenge for the CYPVCS will be to ensure that children and young people are recognised across these strategies and that there is a role for the CYPVCS to promote this and keep children and young people in the consciousness of Defra and associated government departments.

The Strategy is a positive step in formally recognising the role of the third sector and an attempt to create better relationships between Government and the sector. Although it does not specifically refer to children and young people or CYPVCS organisations, it does offer some opportunities for engagement and support.

### Representation

The creation of a Third Sector Advisory Board offers the CYPVCS the chance to get involved at high level decision and policymaking. The Board will be established as a non-executive advisory group (not an Advisory non-departmental public body) to advise Ministers and Defra in overseeing the implementation of the Strategy. The appointment of Board members needs to be transparent so that the sector that it represents are aware of who they are. The sector also needs to be clear about how it can contribute to discussions and decision-making at this level.

The new task group, to be chaired by Ministers from Defra, DECC and the OTS, will offer another opportunity for third sector stakeholders to get involved in recommending practical ways of mainstreaming issues such as the environment and sustainable development into national third sector programmes.

### Partnership working and funding

Defra is keen to demonstrate what partnership working it already does with the third sector and it is important that the sector continues to inform the Department of examples of good practice and projects which can be learned from. New initiatives should be introduced after a thorough assessment of existing projects that are already working effectively.

The Commission for the Compact (at the time of writing) is reviewing both national and local compacts<sup>31</sup>. If Defra will achieve mainstreaming the principles of the Compact into all that it does, then it will need to ensure that it implements any changes that come from the Commission's review. The CYPVCS will need to ensure that it is aware of the Compact arrangements so that it can hold Defra to account. Funding is of on-going concern to the CYPVCS, but the launch of Defra's greener living fund will hopefully offer organisations another potential funding stream. Defra is also aiming to improve its understanding of its existing third sector supplier base and the way it manages contracts and grant programmes to ensure compliance

31 Further information on the Compact and the Commission for the Compact is available via:  
<http://www.thecomcompact.org.uk/>  
NCVYS and Children England's joint response to the Commission for the Compact's debate on the future of the Compact is available via:  
<http://www.ncvys.org.uk/index.php?page=273>

with the Compact and Government's eight commissioning principles<sup>32</sup>. CYPVCS organisations need to work with Defra to develop its understanding of the sector and, as highlighted above, hold the Department accountable in accordance with the Compact and commissioning principles.

### Communication

Communication is key and one of Defra's aims is to improve its listening to, and communications with, the third sector. The CYPVCS has a role to play to ensuring that children and young people's voices are heard, whether this is by representative organisations or facilitating children and young people to speak for themselves. Infrastructure organisations, like NCVYS and Children England, can aid the flow of two-way communication between Defra and the CYPVCS. It is essential that Defra not only listens to the CYPVCS, but also shows that its views have contributed to the development of policy.

All work with children and young people can use the environment as a medium for engaging children and young people, not just those labelled as environmental organisations. CYPVCS organisations can use the environment in its work, either an appropriate safe and accessible setting to work in, or as a cause to engage children and young people with, for example climate change. Furthermore, the CYPVCS has a strategic role to play in holding the Defra to account with this strategy, ensuring effective implementation and a maintained, influential presence in policymaking and service delivery.

## 6.Resources

Information on Defra, including its *Third Sector Strategy*, is available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk>

Information on DECC is available at:

<http://www.decc.gov.uk>

Information on the Commission for Sustainable Development is available at:

<http://www.sd-commission.org.uk>

Information on the Every Child Matters agenda is available at:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk>

Information on the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, including *Designing and planning for play: public space lessons*, is available at:

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/>

Information on the work of the RSPB and its publications is available at:

<http://www.rspb.org.uk>

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<sup>32</sup> The eight commissioning principles are from *Partnership in Public Services: An action plan for third sector involvement* (HM Government, 2006). Available to download via:  
[http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/public\\_services/~/\\_media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third\\_sector/psd\\_action\\_plan%20pdf.ashx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/public_services/~/_media/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/psd_action_plan%20pdf.ashx)

## 7. Other briefings

- Briefing 1** Knife, gun and gang crime
- Briefing 2** The Government's Social Exclusion Agenda
- Briefing 3** Access to Services in Rural Areas
- Briefing 4** Public Service Delivery
- Briefing 5** Community Cohesion
- Briefing 6** Local Government Reform
- Briefing 7** Placeshaping
- Briefing 8** The Comprehensive Spending Review
- Briefing 9** Rural migrant children, families and young people
- Briefing 10** Gang, Gun and Knife Crime: Seeking Solutions (Part 2)
- Briefing 11** Ministry of Justice Third Sector Strategy
- Briefing 12** HM Government Youth Crime Action Plan
- Briefing 13** Communities in control: real people, real power
- Briefing 14** 2012 Olympic legacy
- Briefing 15** The 2008 Drug Strategy

All the briefings are available at [www.childrenengland.org.uk](http://www.childrenengland.org.uk) or [www.ncvys.org.uk](http://www.ncvys.org.uk)

Free hard copies are also available to order. Please contact Ilona Pinter, NCVYS's Information and Website Officer on 020 7278 1041 or email [speakingout@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:speakingout@ncvys.org.uk), or Sophie Griffiths, Children England's Policy and Information Officer on 020 7833 3319 or email [sophie@childrenengland.org.uk](mailto:sophie@childrenengland.org.uk).