

Speaking Out project update

Joining up the pieces – Speaking Out National Conference

The upcoming Speaking Out national conference '**From 0 to 25: Joining up the cross-government agendas for children and young people**' will take place on Tuesday 9 December 2008 at the Royal Horticultural Halls Conference Centre in London. This event will bring together key players working to improve outcomes for children and young people across England. The conference is aimed at strategic managers, decision makers, researchers and practitioners from statutory, independent and voluntary and community sectors involved in cross-government agendas such as community cohesion, social and criminal justice, active citizenship, empowerment and inclusion. Speakers on the day will include Kevin Brennan MP; David Blunkett MP; Tim Loughton MP; Editor of Children & Young People Now, Ravi Chandiramani; and the National Coordinator of the Children's Rights Alliance for England, Carolyne Willow. Bookings closed on 28 November 2008. A conference report will be available in the new year.

For more information >> [From 0 to 25 - Speaking Out National Conference](#)

New briefing papers and consultation responses

As part of the Speaking Out Briefing series, we have published three new briefing papers:

No. 12: HM Government Youth Crime Action Plan

No. 13: Communities in control: real people, real power

No. 14: 2012 Olympic Legacy

To view the full briefings >> [Speaking Out Policy Briefings](#)

Two further briefings are due to be published in December 2008. Briefing paper No.15 will focus on the Government's ten year drug strategy and briefing No. 16 will focus on Defra's Third Sector Strategy and environmental policy. To order free hard copies of all briefing papers, please contact the NCVYS (E: speakingout@ncvys.org.uk or T: 020 7278 1041) or NCVCCO (E: sophie@childrenengland.org.uk or T: 020 7833 3319).

Children England

On 2 December 2008, NCVCCO will be changing its name to Children England. More information will be available in the next bulletin. Until then please contact Sophie Griffiths with any questions (E: sophie@childrenengland.org.uk).

In the news

Grassroots Grants

In September 2008, the Government launched its £130 million Grassroots Grants scheme, calling on small local voluntary and community groups to apply for funding. Funded by the Office of The Third Sector and administered by the Community Development Foundation, the programme will run from 2008-2011. The scheme is divided into two parts: an £80 million small grants fund for community organisations and a £50 million endowments programme to enable local funders to generate additional donations on a matched basis and invest them in endowments.

For more information >> [Grassroots Grants](#)

Three year funding

In September 2008, the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office published a joint guidance with HM Treasury telling government departments that three-year funding for third sector organisations should become the norm except in instances where shorter-term funding may be more appropriate, for instance if a department is funding one off events or for very specific pilot projects.

For more information >> [Three year funding](#)

New asset transfer unit

In September 2008, the Development Trusts Association was given £1.3 million by Communities and Local Government to administer a new asset transfer unit, which will advise community organisations on how to take over assets from local authorities. The unit is planned to be operational by January 2009.

For more information >> [New asset transfer unit](#)

Participatory budgeting

In September 2008, Communities and Local Government published Giving more people a say in local spending: Participatory Budgeting - a national strategy, which set out an overview of how the government will work towards the ambition for Participatory Budgeting to be used in every local authority area by 2012. CLG also announced twelve 'community kitties' pilot areas, actively engaging with local people in how public money is spent. The pilot areas will work with the help and guidance of the Participatory Budgeting Unit, letting their communities choose from 'dragon's den' style pitches for council cash. Different local groups can make proposals for a portion of public budgets and local people can consider which ones they feel will best meet the area's priorities and needs - such as recycling projects, health projects, local environmental issues or children's services.

For more information >> [Participatory budgeting strategy](#)

For more information >> ['Community kitties' pilots](#)

Empowerment Fund

In October 2008, Communities and Local Government published the Empowerment Fund Prospectus inviting third sector organisations in England working towards empowering people and their local communities to apply for strategic funding. The £7.5 million Fund will run from 2009-2012 and will provide grants of either £250,000 or £500,000 over three years to between 20-25 organisations. The deadline for applications is 6 January 2009.

For more information >> [Empowerment Fund](#)

Social mobility

In November 2008, the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit published Getting On, Getting Ahead - A discussion paper analysing the trends and drivers of social mobility. The paper takes independent academic research and identifies key trends and drivers of social mobility, finding that social mobility has remained broadly stable since 1970. The report identifies four key areas where the Government can have the most significant impact on improving social mobility: early years provision of childcare; education; post-16 education and training; and workplace skills.

For more information >> [Social mobility](#)

Third sector support

In November 2008, Capacitybuilders announced the programmes across England that will receive £2.5 million of grant awards for the modernisation of third sector support. The projects have been put forward by local and regional Consortia from the business plans developed last year. A full list of projects is available. They will also be announcing details of the next phase of investment – with a capital grants programme to improve the facilities available for organisations in third sector resource centres.

For more information >> [Third sector support](#)

Greener Living Fund

In November 2008, the Defra launched its Third Sector Strategy which included a £6 million Greener Living Fund to help charitable and voluntary organisations support and develop environmental projects throughout England. The announcement came two days before NCVYS's annual conference on environmental youth work – 'Green Means Go!' The Strategy also promises to help organisations promote environmental sustainability.

For more information >> [Greener Living Fund](#)

Charitable Giving research centre

The £2 million ESRC Research Centre for Charitable Giving and Philanthropy, funded by the Office of the Third Sector, the Economic and Social Research Council, the Scottish Government and the Carnegie UK Trust, began work on 1 October. The centre will address questions such as: what impact do economic conditions have on donations to charity? What motivates people, including the super-rich, to give to charity? How can good causes use these donations most effectively?

For more information >> [Charitable Giving research centre](#)

Communitybuilders partner

In October 2008, the Office of the Third Sector and Communities and Local Government ran a call for expressions of interest from organisations wishing to become the national partner to deliver the £70 million Communitybuilders programme, to support investment in multi-purpose, inclusive community-led organisations at the neighbourhood level.

For more information >> [Communitybuilders partner](#)

Community Leadership Fund

In October 2008, Communities Secretary Hazel Blears announced the 22 projects that will share in a £1.3 million of the Community Leadership Fund aimed at

supporting Muslim communities to unlock the potential of local people to take a lead on tackling violent extremism. The fund provides grants to projects that have mainly national reach and scope and places a particular emphasis on those activities that are focused on fostering the leadership skills of Muslim women and young people. For more information >> [Community Leadership Fund](#)

Young Muslim Advisory Group

In October 2008, the DCSF and CLG announced the appointment of 22 young advisors that formed the Young Muslim Advisory Group. The Government will consult with the group on a wide range of issues including the development and delivery of faith projects, including addressing issues of theology; work to tackle radicalising material on the internet; and an examination of how best to boost the representation and participation of young Muslims in civic life such as becoming local councillors or school governors.

For more information >> [Young Muslim Advisory Group](#)

Communities youth panel

In October 2008, Communities Secretary Hazel Blears announced the panel of 'youth advisors' that will meet with her every three months to feed into various issues such as youth homelessness, Thames Gateway regeneration to community cohesion and the Olympics legacy. The new 'Young Advisors' panel will be an opportunity to influence or give a young person's perspective on government decisions that affect young people as proposed in the CLG White Paper Communities in Control.

For more information >> [Communities youth panel](#)

New third sector skills body

In October 2008, the OTS and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) announced joint funding of a new skills body with £2.5 million over the next three years. The Third Sector skills body will identify and address skills gaps and shortages for charities, voluntary groups, social enterprises and other third sector organisations. It will pull together the work of the sector skills councils to open up learning opportunities for third sector paid and voluntary staff.

For more information >> [New third sector skills body](#)

Third Sector Research Centre

The Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC) was launched in October 2008 and will be led by the University of Birmingham, in a joint venture with the University of Southampton. The funding of £10.25 million over the next five years will come from the Economic and Social Research Council, Office of the Third Sector and The Barrow Cadbury Trust. The Centre is dedicated to analysing the impact of the sector's activities, to strengthen the evidence base for the third sector, including charities, social enterprises and small community organisations.

For more information >> [Third Sector Research Centre](#)

Funding for tackling youth crime

In September 2008, the Home Office announced £56.5 million to be invested in more after-school patrols and street-based teams to prevent and tackle youth crime in 69 local authority areas across England. The funding was a major milestone in the delivery of the Youth Crime Action Plan. The 69 areas are being offered £700,000 to implement an intensive package of action over the next three years, with an

immediate cash injection of £90,000 available to each local authority this year.

For more information >> [Funding for tackling youth crime](#)

NOMS third sector involvement

In October 2008, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) published a report, which sets out principles for their work with the third sector to reduce reoffending and protect the public. It contains specific commitments and actions to support these principles and to reduce barriers to third sector involvement. This includes targeted activity to support the role of community, black and minority ethnic, faith-based and women's organisations.

For more information >> [NOMS third sector involvement](#)

Transition to Adulthood

In October 2008, the Barrow Cadbury Trust launched a three-year pilot project designed to support young people leaving young offender institutions. The Transition to Adulthood (T2A) project, aimed at 16- to 22-year-olds in Birmingham, London and Worcestershire, aims to provide participants tailored support on issues including employment, relationships and substance misuse. The pilots will start by January 2009.

For more information >> [Transition to Adulthood](#)

Support for young victims

During 'Inside Justice Week' in October 2008, the Government announced the five pilot sites to test new support services for young victims of crime. These will be in Derby, Lambeth, Norfolk, Lewisham and Oxfordshire, and will share nearly half a million pounds.

For more information >> [Support for young victims](#)

Tackling knife crime

In October 2008, an extra £3 million has been allocated to keep children and young people safe in the ten Tackling Knives Action Programme police forces, as part of the Government's wider action on youth crime. This money will go towards rolling out after-school patrols; Safer School Partnerships; and Operation Staysafe.

For more information >> [Tackling knife crime](#)

Billboards campaign

As part of the Government's £3 million national marketing campaign, It Doesn't Have to Happen launched in May 2008, the Home Office launched a three-month billboard campaign in November to run in urban areas. Children and young people are encouraged to add their own anti-knife photo pledges to the Bebo website. Their images will be included on later versions of the posters to be revealed next month.

For more information >> [Billboards campaign](#)

Consultations

Time-off entitlements

In September 2008, Communities and Local Government published a consultation on time off entitlements as part of the Empowerment White Paper. The consultation, running until 19 December 2008, is seeking views on extending the right to time

off to people serving in a wider range of civic roles with a view to implementation by secondary legislation in April 2009. It also considers non-regulatory ways to encourage people to take on roles in third sector organisations, including extending time off entitlement to those who want to help young offenders, and get involved in local courts and probation services. To input into NCVYS's response on behalf of the voluntary youth sector, please send any comments to Hannah Dobbin at NCVYS at hannah@ncvys.org.uk.

For more information >> [Time-off entitlements](#)

Rural housing

In October 2008, Communities and Local Government launched two consultations aimed at providing affordable housing for rural communities. Under the proposed new powers, rural communities with severe housing shortages could be designated as protected areas ensuring affordable housing is retained for local families. Proposals also include expanding Community Land Trusts.

For more information >> [Rural housing](#)

Voting at 16?

The Governance of Britain Green Paper published last year by the Ministry of Justice highlighted the importance of engaging young people as citizens and an active part in society. The Youth Citizenship Commission, established to consider ways of reengaging young people in the political process, has published a consultation paper seeking views, on whether the voting age should be lowered to 16. Responses are due by 20 January 2009 and NCVYS is preparing a response for the voluntary youth sector.

For more information >> [Voting at 16?](#)

Information resources

Child policy

In September 2008, Action for Children, formerly NCH, published an overview of child policy development over the last 21 years. *As Long As It Takes: a New Politics for Children* shows that during the lifetime of a 21-year-old there has been 400 major government announcements relating to children and young people, 98 separate acts of parliament across the UK, 82 different strategies, 77 initiatives and over 50 new funding streams. The report also analyses four key policy areas: the care system, family support, disabled children and youth support.

For more information >> [Child policy](#)

Local Area Agreements

The Commission for Rural Communities has been working with Essex, Cumbria and Devon county councils to analyse the extent to which the National Indicator set can, in a practical way, be disaggregated to below the Local Area Agreement (LAA) geography level. This will enable local authorities and their partners to monitor and performance manage delivery within their areas to ensure that all localities and communities are served proportionately and fairly.

For more information >> [Local Area Agreements](#)

Rural communities

In September 2008, the Commission for Rural Communities published a series of publications looking at rural issues including Piloting Participation Budgeting in Rural Communities and Thinking about rural transport: The Contribution of transport to sustainable rural communities.

For more information >> [Rural communities](#)

Summary Justice: Fast – but Fair?

In August 2008, the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies published a report by the former chair of the Youth Justice Board, Rod Morgan, claiming that summary justice criminalises young people. Summary Justice: Fast - but Fair? argues that government policies aimed at keeping minor offences out of court have led to police widening their net and “the too ready criminalisation of children and young people”.

For more information >> [Summary Justice: Fast - but Fair?](#)

Gangs: You and Your Child

In September 2008, the Home Office published new advice for parents on preventing their children from becoming involved in gangs. The booklet details practical steps parents and carers can take if they suspect their child may be involved with gangs and who to contact for help and support.

For more information >> [Gangs: You and Your Child](#)

Guide on drugs and alcohol misuse

In October 2008, with support from the BRIT Trust and the DCSF, DrugScope published The Essential Guide to Working with Young People about Drugs and Alcohol, aimed at a broad range of professionals who work with young people who are misusing or are at risk of doing so, including teachers, youth workers, drug treatment workers, Youth Offending Teams and Connexions personal advisors.

For more information >> [Guide on drugs and alcohol misuse](#)

Justice system

In October 2008, with support from the Barrow Cadbury Trust, King's College London and Transition to Adulthood, Rob Allen from the International Centre for Prison Studies published Lost in Transition: Three Years On. The report looks at developments in policy and practice with young adult offenders since the original report, Lost in Transition, was published in 2005. The report also looks at the challenges that lie in the way of better policies on young adult offenders in the future.

For more information >> [Justice system](#)

Factors linked to reoffending

In October 2008, the Ministry of Justice published research on Factors linked to reoffending. The study took the results from three resettlement surveys of prisoners, conducted in 2001, 2003 and 2004 shortly before release from prison, and combined them with criminal history and re-offending information from the Police National Computer to look at the association between resettlement factors – such as having accommodation and obtaining education, training and employment – and one-year reconviction rates.

For more information >> [Factors linked to reoffending](#)

Race for Justice

In November 2008, the Race for Justice campaign published a report entitled *Less Equal than Others – ethnic minorities and the criminal justice system*. Whilst BME groups account for 9% of the overall population of England and Wales, they make up 26% of the prison population, and are over-represented throughout the whole of the criminal justice system. Set up by a coalition of voluntary sector organisations, the campaign aims to challenge the inequalities faced by BME individuals within the criminal justice system.

For more information >> [Race for Justice](#)

First-time entrants

In November 2008, the Youth Justice Board published figures showing that the numbers of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system, aged between 10 and 17, have fallen by 6.8% since last year. YJB has attributed the drop to successful joint partnership working between the police, youth offending teams and agencies based in local authorities and, in Wales, also between the YJB and Welsh Assembly Government. Local prevention programmes are beginning to have impact and last year, 25,287 young people were reached by some kind of positive intervention.

For more information >> [First-time entrants](#)

Territoriality in Britain

In October 2008, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation published research looking at young people and territoriality in British cities. This study, conducted by the University of Glasgow, looked at territorial behaviour by young people to see whether this imposes significant constraints on their lives, and to consider the implications of this kind of behaviour for communities.

For more information >> [Territoriality in Britain](#)

Cohesion website

With support from Communities and Local Government, the Institute of Community Cohesion (iCoCo) launched an interactive website in October 2008, to bring together a range of practical advice and support on how to promote cohesion and integration, drawing on good practice case studies from across the country. Aimed at practitioners, policy-makers and other organisations from a whole range of sectors, the website will provide a continuously updated bank of cohesion resources, including toolkits, links and briefings on key issues.

For more information >> [Cohesion website](#)

Combined responsibilities

In October 2008, the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) published a report entitled *Think Family, Think Community: the role of directors with combined responsibilities*. Currently, around 10% of councils have chosen to combine the roles of director of children's services and director for adult social services, and the report sets out some of the emerging challenges and opportunities of that joint role.

For more information >> [Combined responsibility](#)

Planning for play

Over the next three years, the government is making an unprecedented investment in children's play: £235m to upgrade 3,500 playgrounds. But too many local authorities are relying on an identical KFC (kit, fence and carpet) approach to design and

over-sensitivity to risk is blocking the creation of rich and stimulating play spaces. In October 2008, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment published a report *Designing and planning for play* to provoke a different approach to playground design which uses natural element, landforms and vegetation. For more information >> [Planning for play](#)

Knife crime film

In November 2008, the London Action Trust (LAT) and the Community Safety Advisory Service (CSAS) released a five minute film showcasing its work around reducing knife crime in the capital. The film is viewable online, via the Local Government Channel. The film features brief interviews with LAT Director, John Trainor, CSAS Development Manager Vicky Torrance and Cllr Merrick Cockell, Chair of London Councils, alongside beneficiaries of LAT and CSAS services, including Lynne Booker, founder of the Terry Booker Foundation, whose son Terry was murdered through knife crime in 2000. The film was shown as an example of best practice at this year's LGA Safer Communities conference. For more information >> [Knife crime film](#)

YOT inspection reports

This page lists all inspection reports of youth offending teams in England and Wales carried out in 2008 >> [YOT inspection reports](#)

This bulletin is prepared by Ilona Pinter under the Speaking Out project, which is a partnership between Children England (formerly the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations) and the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS). As a strategic partner funded by the Office of the Third Sector, Cabinet Office, the project seeks to build a voice for the children and young people's voluntary and community sector across Government.

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