

## Speaking Out project update

### Funding extended for Speaking Out

NCVYS and NCVCCO are delighted to announce that the Office of the Third Sector has confirmed the extension of its strategic funding programme until 2011, which means another two years for the project to raise the voice of the children and young people's voluntary and community sector across key government departments. The Speaking Out project has been working on important issues such as youth justice, rural affairs and community cohesion, and has also helped local organisations raise the voices of children and young people in their communities through the Small Grants Programme and the Placeshaping Video Project.

For more information >> [Strategic Partners Programme](#)

### Mapping research launched

Every Organisation Matters is the first ever mapping of the children and young people's voluntary and community sectors (CYPVCS) and was undertaken by a team from the University of Hull led by Professor Gary Craig as part of the project. The report highlights that the CYPVCS employs one in three of the total voluntary and community sector workforce and generates income in excess of £15 billion a year. The report calls on the government to invest in further research to better understand the changing nature of the CYPVCS, to prioritise support for small organisations who often work with those most in need and to provide sustained investment in workforce development. The full document and executive summary are available to download from the [NCVYS](#) and [NCVCCO](#) websites.

### New briefing papers

Five new Speaking Out briefing papers are now available to download from both the [NCVYS](#) and [NCVCCO](#) websites.

The titles are:

- Briefing No. 7: Placeshaping
- Briefing No. 8: Comprehensive Spending Review
- Briefing No. 9: Rural migrant children, families and young people
- Briefing No. 10: Gang, Gun and Knife Crime: Seeking Solutions - Part 2
- Briefing No. 11: Ministry of Justice Third Sector Strategy

To order free hard copies of all briefings (except the Comprehensive Spending Review briefing which is only available in PDF format), please contact the Policy team at NCVYS on E: [policy@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:policy@ncvys.org.uk) or T: 020 7278 1041. A briefing paper on the Youth Crime Action Plan will be available shortly.

## In the news

### Youth Alcohol Action Plan

In June 2008, the Home Office together with the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health jointly published the Youth Alcohol Action Plan (YAAP), building on last year's *Safe. Sensible. Social strategy*. The YAAP sets out a number of measures including giving police the powers to disperse under-18s who are drinking and behaving anti-socially from any location and extending alcohol arrest-referral pilots so that under-18s arrested for alcohol-related offences benefit from a brief intervention with a trained worker.

For more information >> [Youth Alcohol Action Plan](#)

### Knife crime campaign

In May 2008, the government announced new investment of £3 million in a three year campaign targeting knife crime. As part of this campaign, radio, web and mobile ads have been developed by a group of 18 young people to consider the consequences of violence. The campaign will run simultaneously alongside another series of ads encouraging mothers to talk about knives with their children. Ads can be viewed online and more information is available on the Home Office website.

For more information >> [Bebo - It doesn't have to happen](#)

For more information >> [Home Office Knife Crime Ads](#)

### New police measures on knife crime

In June 2008, the Home Office announced new measures around knife crime, including increased use of searches in targeted and intelligence-led operations; fast-tracking the 'knife referral project' in which all young people convicted of a knife offence are taught about the consequences; and home visits and letters to parents of young people known to carry weapons. The changes mean that anyone - including teenagers over 16 years - caught carrying an illegal knife can face criminal charges, where previously they were given a caution.

For more information >> [New measures on knife crime](#)

### Youth Crime Action Plan

In July 2008, the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Home Office and the Ministry of Justice published their joint *Youth Crime Action Plan* which focuses on enforcement, punishment, prevention and support. Some immediate actions involve: expanding the provision of youth centres at times when young people are likely to offend (Friday and Saturday nights); making permanent exclusion from school an automatic trigger for a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessing the young person's needs; and increasing the proportion of ASBOs accompanied by Parenting Orders. The Speaking Out project will be publishing a briefing paper on the Action Plan shortly – contact the NCVYS policy team on [policy@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:policy@ncvys.org.uk) to pre-order a copy.

For more information >> [Youth Crime Action Plan](#)

### Crime maps

In July 2008, the Home Office announced intentions to use interactive maps on police websites to allow residents to track crime patterns in their communities. Public crime maps are part of the government's commitment to get people more involved with their local police and holding their local police force to account. The issue of crime maps is

being discussed on a blog set up by the Cabinet Office. NCVCCO's Director of Policy and Communications, Joe Levenson, has also written a [comment piece](#) on the issue published on the Guardian website.

For more information >> [Crime maps](#)

To feed in your views >> [Cabinet Office Power of Information Task Force blog](#)

### **Role models**

In July 2008, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Hazel Blears announced the creation of a Black Boys' National Role Model programme as part of a package of measures to help raise the aspirations and attainment of some of today's young Black men. The national role modelling programme will seek to challenge stereotypes and shine a light on positive images of Black male achievement - from businessmen to doctors, lawyers, artists and community workers.

For more information >> [Black Boys' National Role Model programme](#)

### **Restraint rules**

In July 2008, the Court of Appeal upheld the human rights of children in secure training centres by quashing restraint rules introduced by the Government on 6 July 2007. As a consequence of the Court's ruling, neither removal from association nor physical restraint may now be used for the purpose of ensuring good order and discipline. The Youth Justice Board has written to all secure training centres (STCs), informing them of the Court of Appeal decision on STC rules regarding good order and discipline, and will monitor STCs to ensure compliance.

For more information >> [Restraint rules](#)

### **Liberal Democrats outline youth crime proposals**

In August 2008, the Liberal Democrats outlined new plans to stop young people from committing crimes in the document A Life Away From Crime. It highlights how to stop children who have been found guilty of minor offences from committing more serious crimes.

The main proposals include:

- making young people pay back the damage caused to communities without involving the criminal justice system;
- the formation of a Youth Volunteer Force to engage young people in activities that benefit local people;
- running nationwide restorative justice programmes, with a particular emphasis on early intervention in schools and care homes;
- creating a dedicated police community support youth officer in every area to work with teenagers most at risk of offending; and
- targeting guns and knives through intelligence-led stop and search, hot-spot policing and action in schools.

For more information >> [Liberal Democrats youth crime proposals](#)

### **Advocacy services**

In August 2008, the Youth Justice Board awarded contracts to national children's charities Barnardo's and Voice to provide an independent advocacy service to the children and young people in custody. Trained specialists will visit young people on a weekly basis to assist them in accessing available services and more importantly to resolve issues affecting their care or to report and follow up their concerns. The total value of the contracts is £1.6 million, initially for three years.

For more information >> [Advocacy services](#)

### **Communities White Paper**

In July 2008, Communities and Local Government published the Empowerment White Paper – Communities in control: real people, real power. The document looks at who has power, on whose behalf it is exercised, how it is held to account, and how it can be accessed by everyone in local communities. The Paper addresses seven key issues: being active in your community; access to information; having an influence; challenge; redress; standing for office; and ownership and control.

For more information >> [Communities White Paper](#)

### **Third Sector Research Centre**

In July 2008, the Office of the Third Sector announced that Birmingham University will lead the new Third Sector Research Centre. Working in partnership with the University of Southampton, the centre aims to bring about a step change in the quality and quantity of hard evidence available to support the work of third sector organisations.

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

### **Race for Justice**

Race for Justice set up by Clinks and the National Body of Black Prisoner Support Groups, with support from Nacro and a coalition of voluntary sector organisations, is a campaign to tackle the inequalities faced by black and minority ethnic (BME) groups and strengthen the voice and role of the voluntary sector in the criminal justice system. The campaign will engage with policymakers, commissioners, opinion formers and influencers within the criminal justice system and the BME community through a programme of consultation, research and other activity, including events and publications. It will be officially launched in September 2008.

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

### **Violent extremism**

In July 2008, Communities and Local Government has published a review of progress on the Preventing Violent Extremism: Winning Hearts and Minds action plan launched in April 2007. The plan originally set out a range of practical actions to mobilise communities against violent extremists and the review looks at the achievements of local schemes, and sets out priorities for the coming year.

For more information >> [Preventing violent extremism](#)

## **Events**

### **Prospects for Citizenship**

Keele University is organising a conference on 'The Voluntary Sector in Criminal Justice: Prospects for Citizenship' on 16-17 September 2008. The past two decades have witnessed the remarkable rise of the voluntary/third sector as a force in policy making and as a 'partner' with government in delivering criminal justice services. Starting from local bases in community crime prevention and youth justice, the engagement of the sector has gained further momentum with the creation of National and Regional Offender Management Services to co-ordinate statutory and non-

state collaborations in supporting offenders, victims and families. This conference will explore the positive prospects and critical implications of these developments for the voluntary sector, government, statutory criminal justice and welfare services, communities and offenders, and will cover a range of related themes.

For more information >> [Prospects for Citizenship](#)

## Consultations

### Knife crime inquiry

In July 2008, the Home Affairs Committee launched a new inquiry entitled 'Knife Crime'. The Committee will investigate levels and causes of knife crime, profiles and attitudes of offenders, and will assess effective solutions. The Committee is seeking written submissions from interested parties and organisations until Friday 10 October 2008.

For more information >> [Knife crime inquiry](#)

### Public service delivery survey

In August 2008, the Cabinet Office and HM Treasury launched a joint survey of third sector providers to better understand what supports and drives their innovation in public service delivery. This work builds on the publication *Excellence and Fairness: Achieving world class public services*, which details the government's aspirations for the future of public services and is intended for third sector organisations that are currently delivering public services or have been involved in their delivery in the last 12 months. The deadline for responses is 8 September 2008.

For more information >> [Public service delivery survey](#)

### National third sector survey

In August 2008, the Office of The Third Sector announced a new National Survey of Third Sector Organisations, which will go out to the leaders of 97,000 randomly chosen third sector organisations in September 2008 to measure local statutory bodies' progress against one of the targets in the new local government performance framework - N17: An environment for a thriving Third Sector. The results of the survey will be kept anonymous and made publicly available early next year.

For more information >> [National third sector survey](#)

### Citizen engagement

In July 2008, the Ministry of Justice launched *A national framework for greater citizen engagement: A discussion paper*, following on from the 2007 Governance of Britain Green Paper. The discussion paper sets out a proposed framework for greater citizen engagement, using innovative methods such as citizens' summits and juries to inform national policy-making. The deadline for responses is 1 October 2008.

For more information >> [Citizen Engagement](#)

### Building democracy grants

In July 2008, the Ministry of Justice announced funding through the Innovation Fund to support projects developing new ways to help people participate in public discussions and influence government policy. Fresh ideas for encouraging people to become involved in democracy will be rewarded with grants under a £150,000

government scheme aimed at charities, community groups and non-government organisations. Previous winners have included Speakers' Corner Trust and the FixMyStreet website. Applications close on 26 September 2008. Decisions will be announced in October.

For more information >> [Building Democracy](#)

### Third sector's strategic voice

In July 2008, Communities and Local Government launched the *Third Sector Partnership Board: Consultation Paper on the third sector's strategic voice within Communities and Local Government*. The consultation aims to gather views on proposals to enhance the Communities and Local Government Third Sector Partnership Board covering its future role and remit, membership and way of working. The deadline for responses is 30 September 2008. Speaking Out will be responding to this consultation and any feedback can be directed to Hannah Dobbin ([hannah@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:hannah@ncvys.org.uk)) or Sophie Griffiths ([sophie@ncvcco.org](mailto:sophie@ncvcco.org)).

For more information >> [Third sector's strategic voice consultation](#)

### Empowerment Fund

In July 2008, Communities and Local Government launched *The Empowerment Fund: Consultation on proposals for funding third sector organisations to empower communities across England*. CLG is seeking views on a draft of the Empowerment Fund Prospectus which the government intends to issue. The fund will provide support for existing national third sector organisations operating across England to help local communities turn key proposals into practical action on the ground. The deadline for responses is 30 September 2008. Speaking Out will also be responding to this consultation so if you'd like to feed in your views, please contact Hannah Dobbin ([hannah@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:hannah@ncvys.org.uk)) or Sophie Griffiths ([sophie@ncvcco.org](mailto:sophie@ncvcco.org)).

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

### Compact powers reviewed

In July 2008, Phil Hope, Minister for the Third Sector, asked the Compact Commissioner Sir Bert Massie to lead a debate on whether the Compact should be supported by statutory powers. A three-month debate is underway, led by the Commission in close co-operation with the Office of the Third Sector and Compact Voice. Input is invited from all bodies that use or are affected by the Compact and will be accepted until 10 November 2008. NCVYS and NCVCCO will be responding to the consultation so please contact Hannah Dobbin ([hannah@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:hannah@ncvys.org.uk)) or Sophie Griffiths ([sophie@ncvcco.org](mailto:sophie@ncvcco.org)) respectively to feed in your views and experience.

For more information >> [Future of the Compact debate](#)

## Information resources

### Public engagement

To coincide with the publication of government's Empowerment White Paper in July 2008, Involve and the National Consumer Council have published *Deliberative public engagement: nine principles*. The paper sets out the key principles for effective and high-quality deliberative public engagement.

For more information >> [Public engagement](#)

## Law in the Making

In July 2008, the Hansard Society has published research which analyses the influences and elements that come together in making an act of Parliament. Funded by the Nuffield Foundation, the study *Law in the Making: Influence and Change in the Legislative Process* looks at the role of external actors, such as the media, voluntary organisations, governmental bodies, professional associations and businesses, in the process of making the law.

For more information >> [Law in the Making](#)

## State of the Countryside 2008

In July 2008, Rural Communities published a report providing a definitive picture of rural England and an analysis of how it is changing. It highlights a rise in households living in poverty in rural England and a growing inequality between remote rural areas and other parts of the countryside. It also looks forward to what the future might hold for rural communities.

For more information >> [State of the Countryside 2008](#)

## Rural Financial Poverty

In July 2008, Rural Communities also published the report on *Rural Financial Poverty: Priorities for action* showing that the proportion of rural households in relative poverty rose from 16% to 19% between 2004 and 2007 - the equivalent of 1.6 million people in 2007. Around 20% of children and pensioners in rural areas were living in poverty in 2007, as well as one in six working-age adults. The increasing proportion of children living in poor working households and the dramatic rise in the proportion of pensioners living in poverty are particularly striking.

The companion paper *Rural Financial Poverty: Good practice* describes how an increasing number of people living in rural communities are working with local and regional partners to develop innovative solutions to address poverty in rural England.

For more information >> [Rural Financial Poverty](#)

## Cohesion delivery

In July 2008, Communities and Local Government published a *Cohesion Delivery Framework*, containing advice for local cohesion practitioners to help them understand the concept of cohesion. The document helps practitioners map their local communities to identify possible cohesion issues and develop action plans to address those challenges, and identifies other available resources.

For more information >> [Cohesion Delivery Framework](#)

## Safer communities

In June 2008, Crime Concern published six ways to cut crime and create safer neighbourhoods in a new report: *The Way Forward*. Early intervention, youth participation and closing the gap between offenders and their communities are among the recommendations.

For more information >> [The Way Forward](#)

## NOMS framework document

In July 2008, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) published its Framework Document which outlines the Service's obligations, what it is responsible for delivering and how it should operate. NOMS is central to the Ministry of Justice's work to improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, and is commissioned

by other organisations, in particular by the Youth Justice Board to provide secure accommodation places and attendance centres for young people.

For more information >> [NOMS Framework Document](#)

### Review of Criminality Information

In July 2008, Sir Ian Magee published his *Review of Criminality Information*, examining the way in which criminality information is shared between agencies and services both within the UK and internationally to protect the public. The Review was commissioned by the Home Secretary following an inquiry into the handling of notifications by other European countries, of criminal convictions for UK citizens.

For more information >> [Review of Criminality Information](#)

### Votes and Voices

As part of an ongoing collaboration with the Local Government Association, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) has published a collection of essays: *Votes and Voices; the complementary nature of representative and participative democracy* in July 2008. The publication brings together a wide range of views and perspectives on local democracy from across local government, the voluntary sector and academia, and examines how participative democracy can help to strengthen representative democracy and accountability.

For more information >> [Votes and Voices](#)

### Youth offending statistics

In July 2008, the Home Office published headline findings from the *2006 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey* into levels and trends in youth offending, anti-social behaviour and victimisation among young people. Research showed that 78% of young people aged between 10 and 25 had not committed any of the core 20 offences covered by the survey in the last 12 months while 22% of young people had engaged in at least one of the four anti-social behaviours measured by the survey. Half of those who had committed an offence had also been victims of crime. Only 3% reported carrying a knife with them in the previous 12 months.

For more information >> [Offending Survey](#)

### Youth Gangs

In July 2008, a research team, led by Dr Judith Aldridge at the University of Manchester, published findings in a study entitled *Youth Gangs in an English City*. Based on two years' work with members of six gangs in an English city, the research finds that in reality, gangs are loose, messy, changing friendship networks - less organised and criminally active than widely believed - with shifting and unstable leadership. To access the report contact research team member, Robert Ralphs:

[robert.ralphs@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:robert.ralphs@manchester.ac.uk)

### Money matters

In June 2008, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) launched a new website designed to be a one-stop-money-information-shop for young adults as part of the National Strategy for Financial Capability. With FSA research showing that more than two-thirds of young people are not planning ahead and external findings revealing that 80% of young people are in debt by the age of 21, the FSA's new website - [www.whataboutmoney.info](http://www.whataboutmoney.info) - has been developed to guide and inform as well as

an aid to breaking down the barriers which may be preventing young adults from considering and learning more about money matters. The FSA has also published a resource - *Parent's Guide to Money* - aimed both at expectant and new parents as well as for professionals working with families.

For more information >> [Parent's Guide to Money](#)

### **Unaccompanied asylum seekers**

In August 2008, the Thomas Coram Research Unit at the Institute of Education in London published findings from an 18-month, in-depth research project on the social functioning, emotional wellbeing and mental health of unaccompanied young people seeking asylum in the UK. With funding from the Department of Health, the research entitled *The Emotional Wellbeing of Unaccompanied Young People Seeking Asylum in the UK*, has implications for professional practice with this group of young people as well as related policy areas.

For more information >> [Unaccompanied asylum seekers](#)

#### **Further information**

*This free quarterly bulletin is prepared by Ilona Pinter as part of Speaking Out, a partnership project between the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations (NCVCCO) and the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS). As a strategic partnership 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.*

*If you forward the bulletin to other people or use information from it in your own publications, please make sure to credit the Speaking Out project. Please email [ilona@ncvys.org.uk](mailto:ilona@ncvys.org.uk) for further details.*

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