

## The National Lottery Shares

### Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)

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## A response from the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS)

### August 2010

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 The National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) is the independent voice of the voluntary youth sector in England. A diverse network of over 170 national voluntary youth organisations and regional and local youth networks, NCVYS has been working since 1936 to raise the profile of youth work, share good practice and influence policy that has an impact on young people and the organisations that support them.

1.2 The NCVYS network reflects the diverse range of voluntary organisations working with young people at community, local, regional and national level. Most of our members offer opportunities to engage in challenging activities or develop creative talents. They also support young people to become active in their communities and offer opportunities for their voice to be heard. Some offer interventions to prevent or tackle specific issues such as homelessness or offending behaviour. Others offer counselling, advice, guidance and information. All contribute to young people's personal and social development; some also engage with spiritual development.

Some have already accessed funds from the Lottery and will be interested in the outcome of this consultation and its capacity to influence the funding of services for young people and communities derived from Lottery funds. As such, NCVYS welcomes the opportunity to offer a response on behalf of the NCVYS network.

1.3 For more information on any element of this paper, please contact NCVYS's Director of Policy and Communications, Faiza Chaudary on 020 7278 1041.

#### 2. Continued investment in young people

2.1 The NCVYS network is keen to ensure that changes to current funding arrangements focusing on the charitable causes of arts, sport and heritage continue to protect funding that will be available to the voluntary and community sector and that the promotion of activities to young people are prioritised as an area for investment.

- 2.2 At present the share apportionment for arts, heritage and sport is 16.6% each and the share apportionment for the BIG Lottery Fund is 50%. In 2007/8 the BIG Lottery Fund distributed over £523 to the voluntary and community sector and has supported the sector in key areas such as infrastructure development and a number of projects to support young people's participation and engagement.
- 2.3 If changes to the apportionment of funds to the BIG Lottery Fund are implemented, we would want these to continue to benefit the sector and young people. BIG has funded a wide range of initiatives aimed specifically at young people and their families. Since 2004, it is estimated that this has amounted to over £1.1bn in projects that impact directly on children and young people from strategic programmes alone. These programmes have also worked hard to promote young people's involvement in distribution, planning and delivery of funds. We would like to see this focus on young people's involvement as a continued feature across all bodies distributing lottery funds. With the current economic climate, this focus on young people is now a more crucial form of investment than ever before.
- 2.4 If the share apportionment for arts, heritage and sport is increased this does not have to result in an adverse impact for these groups. For example, NCVYS members such as the National Association of Youth Theatres, National Council for Drama Training and the Sport and Recreational Alliance as well as broader organisations that work to deliver programmes to develop young people through exposure to arts, sports and national heritage activities would still hope to benefit from the shift in apportionment. However, we recommend that steps to ensure funding is accessible to such organisations are made by reaching out to them or working through infrastructure organisations such as those within the NCVYS network to raise awareness of the opportunities available for young people following implementation of the proposed changes to share apportionment.
- 2.5 We would also like to see significant attention given to vulnerable or disadvantaged groups as worthy recipients of funds. For example, distributing bodies will need to ensure that funding opportunities are accessible to all, with particular regard to those facing disadvantage on the grounds of race, gender, disability, age, faith /belief or sexual orientation. NCVYS members work with many young people that fall into these categories as well as others that are coping with a range of other disadvantaging factors. For example, they may be looked after children, may come from an area of multi-deprivation, may be one of the 1 million young people out of education, employment or training or may be involved in the criminal justice system, either as a victim or a perpetrator. Any changes to the apportionment should ensure that these diverse groups of

young people in need are not disadvantaged further by the changes, but continue to be supported through national lottery funding where possible.

### **3. Summary of recommendations**

- 3.1 ***Ensure continued investment for young people and the voluntary and community sector***
- 3.2 ***Work through established infrastructure to ensure awareness of opportunities following apportionment changes if implemented***
- 3.3 ***Continued focus on young people, including those that are disadvantaged as a priority source for investment across all funding streams***