

## New research finds one in three of voluntary sector staff work for children and young people's organisations

The children and young people's voluntary and community sector employs one in three of the total voluntary and community sector workforce and generates income in excess of £1.5 billion a year, according to new research published today by the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations (NCVCCO) and the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS).

*Every Organisation Matters* is the first ever mapping of the children and young people's voluntary and community sectors and was undertaken by a team from the University of Hull led by Professor Gary Craig as part of NCVCCO and NCVYS' Speaking Out programme, which aims to get the contribution of the children and young people's voluntary and community sectors recognised across government.

Amongst the report's key findings are:

- The children and young people's voluntary and community sector employs over 160,000 people in England – as many as 1 in 3 of all those employed by voluntary and community organisations - and generates income in excess of £15 billion a year.
- Small organisations, many of whom work with highly vulnerable children and young people, are under threat because of the government's shift towards commissioning services.
- Children aged 7-13 appear to be poorly provided for, with an emphasis on early years provision and a growing government agenda around services for young people leading to this transitional age group missing out.
- Effective understanding of the children and young people's voluntary and community sector is currently hindered by poor quality data.
- Voluntary and community sector organisations need to be doing more to measure the long-term impact of their work.

The report calls on the Government to invest in further research to better understand the changing nature of the children and young people's voluntary and community sector, to prioritise support for small organisations who often work with those most in need and to provide sustained investment in workforce development.

Speaking today, Minister for the Third Sector Phil Hope said

"It is great to see such committed support for young people in the third sector. I would like to highlight the Government's support for small organisations that often work with those most in need and provide sustained investment in workforce development.

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We are investing £130 million in a new Grassroots Grants fund for small organisations and developing subcontracting models while encouraging consortia bidding for public service contracts to create more opportunities for small organisations.

This research is a good contribution to the debate on the changing nature of the voluntary and community sector and I look forward to learning the impact of recent policy developments.”

Maggie Jones, Chief Executive of the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations (NCVCCO) said that:

“The voluntary and community sector makes a real difference to the lives of many millions of children and young people, and the Government has recognised how central the sector is in achieving the aims of the Children’s Plan and the broader agenda of community empowerment. But without robust data how will we know the impact of these policies on the sector itself?

If the Government is serious about reaching out to the most disadvantaged it needs to build on this research, take a long hard look at implementation on the ground, and develop a far more detailed understanding about the size, scope and nature of the children and young people’s voluntary and community sector.”

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

“The mapping research is a good start in providing some baseline data on the sectors but we need to invest more in finding out precisely what’s out there and making that information publically available. How can government know what to support and develop without knowing what’s out there in the first place? Guidestar was a project which promised to do this but our research highlights the discrepancies, and small organisations who contribute a huge amount are being missed out of the equation.”

### **Notes to editors**

1. *Every Organisation Matters*, by Professor Gary Craig, Helen Gibson, Neil Perkins, Dr Mick Wilkinson and Dr Jane Wray is available to download at [www.ncvcco.org](http://www.ncvcco.org) and [www.ncvys.org.uk](http://www.ncvys.org.uk).
2. Speaking Out is a partnership between the National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations (NCVCCO) and the National Council of Voluntary Youth Services), 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.
3. The research focused on voluntary and community organisations that have children, young people and families as the main focus of their work. However, a much larger number of voluntary and community organisations, excluded from this study, provide services to this client group as part of their work rather than as the main focus. The study is therefore likely to underestimate the size of the sector. The voluntary sector is defined as consisting of charitable non-statutory bodies employing paid staff as well as volunteers, funded from central or local government sources. The community sector is defined as local representative bodies, typically operating without substantial funds or paid staff.