

Quarterly project update February 2010

Dear colleague

Children England and NCVYS jointly run the Speaking Out project which seeks to ensure that the voice of the children and young people's voluntary and community sector is heard in key policy debates. During 2009/10 we are working on six policy priority areas. These are: **community empowerment, health and wellbeing, housing and homelessness, youth justice, employment, education and training, and financial capability.**

Speaking Out's National Conference - **Government and charities – a civil partnership?** – took place on 9 December 2009 in London. The conference brought together key players working to improve outcomes for children and young people across England, and looked at how partnership working between government and charities can be further improved. The event offered an interesting line-up of speakers including: Hilary Armstrong MP (Chair of the Labour Party Children's Manifesto Group) and Peter Wanless (Chief Executive of the Big Lottery Fund). A conference report including key messages from speakers and workshops will be available shortly.

In January 2010, the Speaking Out project published its latest briefing on **housing and homelessness** relating to children and young people. The briefing sets out the current policy and legal context surrounding children, young people and homelessness. It also provides a series of good practice case studies currently taking place and considers possible implications for the children and young people's voluntary sector. The briefing is available to download from www.ncvys.org.uk or www.childrenengland.org.uk

On 19 January, the Speaking Out project a **policy roundtable** event exploring the issue of housing in relation to children and young people. The event included a range of speakers from organisations such as the Coalition for Rural Children and Young People, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) and Planning Aid for London. A summary report of the event will be published shortly and will feed into our ongoing work on housing and homelessness.

The Speaking Out project has also run a third round of the **Small Grants Programme** for 2010. 20 grants of up to £1,000 are aimed at enabling voluntary and community organisations working with children and young people (aged 0 to 25) in England to deliver one-off projects or activities in their local communities, covering Speaking Out's six policy priorities. Details of the grant recipients for 2010 will be announced shortly.

For further information about any aspect of the Speaking Out project please contact Faiza Chaudary (NCVYS's Head of Policy and Communications) on 020 7278 1041 or email faiza@ncvys.org.uk, or Sophie Griffiths (Children England's Policy and Information Officer) on 020 7833 3319 or email sophie@childrenengland.org.uk.

Best wishes, The Speaking Out team



Charities working for children and families

Registered charity no. 1044239
Registered company no. 3011053



CabinetOffice
Office of the **Third Sector**



Registered charity no. 1093386
Registered company no. 4385383