

making ourselves HEARD!

Issue 3

July 2008

Welcome to Issue 3 of the *Making Ourselves Heard* newsletter.

It's been a busy few months here at *MOH* headquarters! One of the projects that we've been particularly proud of is our recent work with young people from Generate and 1 Voice in the creation of our Top Tips for Participation poster. This poster shows, in young people's own words, what we can all do to ensure that disabled young people are able to realise their citizenship rights to participate in all decisions and issues that affect them. The poster has been distributed to over 30,000 people – proof, perhaps, that the participation of disabled young people in decisions about their lives is finally getting on people's agendas. See page 5 for details on how you can order the poster.

Over the past couple of months, we have been working closely with the Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) campaign on their new Going Places project. As you may recall, last year EDCM asked their young supporters "If you were Prime Minister for the day and could change one thing, what would it be?" One of the top three things that disabled children and young people wanted to change was 'having more fun things to do and places to go'. So this year EDCM want to find out more about what 'more things to do and places to go' looks like for disabled children and young people locally. We have been helping EDCM by visiting schools and groups of young people to ask them what places they like to go to in their local area, what places they would like to go to but can't, and what they would like to change locally. EDCM will then publish the answers in a booklet that young people can show to their local councillors and local MPs, to help campaign for more things to do and places to go in their local area. EDCM will also use this information to feed into the Government consultation on the Play strategy, and to campaign for the Government's 10-year youth strategy to work for disabled young people. Visit EDCM's website for further information: www.edcm.org.uk

If you would like to register with *Making Ourselves Heard* and to receive future editions of this newsletter; find out more about the project; and to share your examples of participation in practice, then please get in touch!

Victoria Wright
Networks Administrator - Participation and Transition
vwright@ncb.org.uk

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Making Ourselves Heard – The Project

Making Ourselves Heard promotes the active participation of disabled children and young people, with a range of impairments in decisions directly affecting them; in the development of their local communities; in the strategic planning of services and in all aspects of the work of the Council for Disabled Children. The project involves a number of key areas of work, which include:

- The development of a network of young people and organisations that support them to participate in decisions about their lives.
- Extending our work to promote the inclusion of disabled young people in organisations who have a role in promoting the participation of all children and young people. This will include working with them to identify and overcome barriers to ensure disabled children and young people are involved in the wider participation agenda and have a voice within these groups;
- Working in partnership with disabled children and young people to develop a series of positive images in childhood;
- Identifying and participating in initiatives that promote the inclusion and participation of disabled children and young people in the Council for Disabled Children;
- Mapping and disseminating good practice, in addition to developing materials for use by those wishing to improve standards in encouraging and sustaining the participation of disabled children and young people.

Register

Making Ourselves Heard will be of interest to disabled young people and organisations that support them to participate in decisions about their lives, and individuals and professionals who are interested in developing the participation of disabled children and young people.

Registration is free and to support organisations that are involved and those who are looking to further develop the participation of disabled children and young people we will:

- Produce a regular newsletter, which will include regular updates on the project; updates on policy; and examples of good practice
- Maintain a database of participation resources
- Disseminate advice and guidance on the effective participation of disabled children and young people

To register please contact Victoria Wright, Networks Administrator – Participation vwright@ncb.org.uk

Shout About It!

Are you involving disabled children and young people in decisions and issues that affect them?

Then Shout About It!!

Why Shout About it?

By telling us how you're involving disabled children and young people we can...

- Get a clear picture of what is happening across the country
- Find out what works
- Share examples of good practice to inspire others
- Celebrate and showcase the achievements of disabled children and young people
- And most importantly... show that **ALL** children can and do participate!!

What types of involvement do we want you to shout about?

In short... ALL of it!

For example, we really want to know how disabled children and young people are being involved in:

- Decisions affecting their individual lives
- Issues that affect all children and young people

- The development of their local communities
- The strategic planning, delivery or evaluation of services

This could include...

A youth council or forum that is inclusive or for young disabled people only; involving young people in the planning and delivery of services; a school council; a young people's reference group; campaigning; recruitment processes; involvement in reviews, IEP's or transition processes; the development of accessible information for disabled young people on services or issues; or you may have developed a participation strategy, policy, toolkit or resources!

Whatever the way... we want to hear from you!

How do you Shout About it?

You can download a template from the 'Latest' our website www.ncb.org.uk/cdc or email kmartin@ncb.org.uk

How are we involving disabled children and young people in the work of the Council for Disabled Children?

One of the most important roles of *Making Ourselves Heard* is involving disabled children and young people in the work of the Council for Disabled Children. Here's just some of the ways we have been doing this....

Local Authority Participation Seminars

Making Ourselves Heard will be working with a number of Local Authorities during 2008, to support them to further develop the participation of disabled children and young people; highlight what works; and identify and overcome barriers.

Part of this will be through facilitating a full day seminar followed up by a ½ day seminar for key figures, with each participating Local Authority, which will draw together both mainstream participation and youth services with services for disabled children and young people, to develop an agenda for change.

We will then draw together the information; key issues and challenges; and examples of good practice from the seminars and produce a report for each Local Authority, in addition to feeding this into our national work.

For more information, contact Kate Martin on kmartin@ncb.org.uk

This guide is part of a series of downloadable booklets from Participation Works that provide practical information, useful tips and case studies of good participation practice. Each one provides an introduction to a different element of participation to enable organisations to enhance their work with children and young people.

Participation Works is a consortium of six leading children and young people's organisations that provides expert advice to anyone wanting to give a voice to children and young people. Visit the online Gateway at <http://www.participationworks.org.uk> to access comprehensive information on policy, practice, training and innovative ideas.

Download the guide:

http://www.ncb.org.uk/dotpdf/open_access_2/how_to_involve_children_and_young_people_with_communication_impairments_in_decision_making.pdf

Contact Participation Works to order a hard copy:

enquiries@participationworks.org.uk

Tel: 0845 603 6725

Linking Up Aiming High

“One quarter of young people do not participate in any positive activities. This group disproportionately includes those at risk of the poorest outcomes including...disabled young people” (*Aiming High for Young People*)

CDC has been awarded funding through the Children, Young People and Families grant scheme from DCSF to support a year-long project to maximise the impact of the Aiming High agenda through promoting its implementation. We will work with four Local Authorities and their partner agencies and networks, to raise understanding of the three Aiming High strands: Aiming High for Disabled Children, Aiming High for Young People, and Aiming High for Children: Supporting Families. Links to all three of these strands are at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_review/spend_csr07/reviews/cyp_review/cypreview_in dex.cfm

The project will attempt to ensure that disabled children and young people gain maximum benefit from each strand. We will focus on participation, positive activities and family support, exploring effective mechanisms for delivery through key services such as extended schools, children's and youth centres. The project will also seek to develop a bank of positive stories and images of disabled children, young people and their families.

For more information contact Helen Wheatley at hwheatley@ncb.org.uk

Policy Update

Aiming high for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities: implementation plan

This paper sets out progress so far and key actions to be taken over the next 12 months to implement the 55 commitments in *Aiming High for Young People*, published in July last year.

Key actions are aimed at:

- rebalancing the public view of young people with youth-led celebration event pilots and exploring the benefits of a 'national youth week';
- empowering young people through the continuation of the Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds, gathering and disseminating evidence of good practice in involving young people in local decision-making and budgeting and creating a national body for youth leadership;
- ensuring young people have places to go through an open competitive process where projects can bid for a proportion of the DCSF investment announced in Aiming High, investing unclaimed assets in young people's projects; and
- removing barriers and supporting access through targeted activity programmes for the most disengaged young people, a residential activity provision scheme, piloting different ways of subsidising positive activities for young people facing financial barriers, working with the Department for Transport to improve guidance, support and challenge to Children's Trusts and transport planners to improve transport provision.

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/Aiming%20High%20Implementation%20Plan%20March%202008.doc>

The Children's Plan

The Every Disabled Child Matter's website includes a section with an analysis of the government's Children's Plan. The specific needs of disabled children are addressed in proposals relating to housing, poverty, bullying, play, sport, extended schools, school exclusion, childcare, staying safe and positive activities for young people.

http://www.edcm.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_3078tb_62173855801639m43u_200712125624d

Consultations - Have Your Say!

Government Consultations

Fair play: a consultation on the play strategy

Proposals in the strategy aim to create strong communities which have a variety of places for children to play and in which they have a stake through their active involvement in **design and decision making**. The Play Strategy proposes to make public space more child-friendly through a variety of actions including placing a stronger focus on spaces for play in the planning system; training for people who design and manage public space; supporting local community ownership of space suitable for play; and supporting more positive relationships between adults and children in public space. The Government's aim is that "play places are attractive, welcoming, engaging and accessible for all local children and young people, including **disabled children**, children of both genders, and children from minority groups in the community". By publishing the strategy, DCSF want to raise awareness of how we can all help children and young people to play. The strategy document sets out the questions DCSF would like you to respond to. This is an open consultation and all your views are welcome.

Closing Date: 18 July 2008

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1543>

Good Practice

Bridges Short Break and Family Support Service

Bridges provides a range of short break and family support services for disabled children and young people with a range of impairments, including those with complex needs and communication impairments. Disabled children and young people are involved in and influence all aspects of the services they receive and service development, based firmly on the commitment to the rights of individuals to have control in all decisions made about them.

This has been achieved in a number of ways:

- **Developing a Participation Statement of shared values:** This ethos across Bridges enables and encourages full involvement of disabled children and young people in decisions affecting them on a day-to-day basis, specific matters and service development.
- **Keeping participation on the agenda:** Participation is integral to everyone's role and is strongly supported by management. In addition, staff attend regular monthly participation forums, where all in attendance update one another regarding developments and ideas concerning participation and consultation for the children/young people they support.
- **Involving children and young people in a range of different ways:** Bridges involve children and young people in a range of ways, adapted to their individual needs. This has included: involving children and young people in the recruitment and selection of staff; creative ways of involving children and young people in the review process; supported to be involved in projects, such as making their own Drama DVD, Music C.D. and attending prize ceremonies by way of special invitation; written and published a book containing stories of their experiences; and supported to access the Youth opportunity Fund.

Great efforts are made by Bridges staff to encourage communication, through both verbal and non-verbal means, to ensure that all children and young people are fully involved.

For more information, contact Sally Hemsall: sally.hemsall@bolton.gov.uk

Did you know about...?

Opportunities for young people

Wanted - disabled models for Photosymbols

Photosymbols are working with Making Ourselves Heard and CDC to build up a bank of pictures of disabled children, disabled young people and their families. Photosymbols are pictures used by people with learning disabilities. They help make written information easier to understand.

They are looking for parents, children and young people who would like to be models. **If you are interested, please get in touch with Photosymbols.**

Phone: Pete Le Grys on 0117 959 4424 or 07976 740977

Email: pete@photosymbols.com

Photosymbols Ltd, The Greenway Centre, Doncaster Road, Bristol BS10 5PY
You can find out more about photosymbols at <http://www.photosymbols.com>

Youth Media Fund

Minister for Children, Young People and Families Beverley Hughes has announced £9 million over the next three years for youth-led media projects giving young people experience of creative youth-led projects including film making, designing computer games, and online and print news. The money will be available over the next three years and will help young people get hands-on experience in one of the country's growing industries. It will build on the £6 million Youth Media Fund, now in its second and final year, which is managed by the Mediabox consortium. Mediabox will distribute the first £2 million of funding during 2008-09 and a tendering exercise will be held to identify a managing agent for the remaining £7 million for 2009-11. Further information is available from the Mediabox website: www.media-box.co.uk

Vcashpoint

Vcashpoint is offering grants of up to £2,500 to young people aged 16 to 25 in England who want to set up their own volunteering project in their community, creating at least three new opportunities for young people to volunteer. A total of £1 million is available. Deadline for applications: **18 July 2008**.

<http://www.vinspired.com/vbuzz/campaigns/171/>

Young people's own channel - how to get involved

Chew TV is a pioneering IPTV channel run by and for young people. As well as being the place for hot new talent in digital media, Chew TV gives a voice to young people and provides a unique platform and network for young people to connect, share ideas and develop campaigns. The Chew TV Content Crew will be a team of young, passionate film enthusiasts. They will be the ones who'll be looking at films and deciding whether they've got what it takes to make it onto Chew TV and beyond. The Content Crew's decisions rule and once the panel has spoken, the films that get the green light will then be placed onto the site for thousands of people to see. Simple as that! So we're on the hunt for a team of 14-25 year old film and media enthusiasts to become part of the Chew TV and join the Content Crew. If you want to be part of this creative global team, email lashana@chewtv.com for an application form or visit www.chewtv.com

The British Youth Council seek trustees

The British Youth Council, the UK's national youth council is seeking trustees aged 18 to 25 who can commit one or two years to contribute to BYC's strategic direction. BYC seeks to promote the active citizenship of young people and develop their abilities to participate in decision-making and controlling resources, encouraging them to work together to take collective action.

Web: www.byc.org.uk

Young People's Fund Programme

On 19 May 2008, the Big Lottery Fund launched the second round of the Young People's Fund programme. Up to £38 million is available over the next two years to support projects across England where young people lead from start to finish.

They want to fund projects where young people are fully involved and improvements are made to young people's services. They also want to support work to increase understanding of young people's needs and create further opportunities for involvement in things that affect young people's lives.

The project must help you and other young people:

- be more mentally and physically healthy
- stay safe from harm
- enjoy life and get things done
- make a positive difference to the people around you
- be better off by having enough money to be independent, by improving your skills, reducing your debts, or getting a job.

The programme is open to voluntary and community sector organisations. It will offer grants of between £10,000 and £500,000 to support activities and services lasting between 1 and 5 years. Organisations can apply for up to £50,000 to develop land or buildings. The land and building developments should cost no more than £200,000 in total.

Further information can be found on their website:
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/ypf2local

The deadline for outline proposals is 16 October 2008.

Trainee Associate - Participation Works

Participation Works runs a national programme of training for organisations working with children and young people. Two of their one-day courses, Ready Steady Change and Building a Culture of Participation are delivered by a team of Associate Trainers (some of these Associates are young people).

Participation Works is offering this opportunity to enable **young people** with potential to develop the skills and confidence to join the Associate Trainers in delivering the training courses.

They will be **recruiting young people** to join the team initially as trainees, who will take part in a comprehensive learning programme. This programme will give trainees access to accredited learning, development opportunities and ongoing support. Travel costs will be paid during training, and once trainees are delivering training they will be paid up to £120 a day.

What skills and experience do I need?

You will need to be aged 16-24. You don't need to have experience in training others, but you will need to demonstrate....

- Enthusiasm and commitment
- Being keen to learn and develop training skills to a high level
- Being happy to travel around England
- Ability to work with others
- Some knowledge of community, voluntary or faith sector organisations
- Passion for children and young people's involvement in decision making
- Awareness/ brief understanding of ICT
- And finally, free time to get involved – We anticipate this will be about 10 days over 6 months (including 2 residential weekends and 6 days – some weekdays, some weekends).

What do I need to do to apply?

Download the application pack from the website: www.participationworks.org.uk

The application form must be sent to Jo Denoris, Training and Consultancy Coordinator for Participation Works **by noon on Monday 21st July.**

Email: jo@participationworks.org.uk

Post Jo Denoris, Participation Works, 8 Wakley St, London, EC1V 7QE.

Young Volunteer Leadership Programme

Young Volunteer Leadership Programme is a unique programme funded by v, in which young people will identify, design and deliver a local project of their choice. It will target 3 government regions per year, with 4 volunteer leaders aged 16/17 years and with 4 impact volunteers assisting. A yearly celebration event, OCN accreditation and V50 awards will acknowledge achievement. The programme is open to young people aged 16 - 17, and up to 25 for those who have disabilities.

To learn more about the programme and what is involved contact:

Geraldine Lowe (020 7833 6830 glowe@ncb.org.uk) or Mena Wright (020 7833 6029 mwright@ncb.org.uk) at the National Children's Bureau.

Campaigns

Every Disabled Child Matters - campaign update

Every Disabled Child Matters (EDCM) is a campaign by four national organisations working with disabled children – Contact a Family, the Council for Disabled Children, Mencap and the Special Education Consortium. Our aim is to get rights and justice for every disabled child.

EDCM is currently:

- asking all our supporters to **make disabled children matter in their local area**. We want to see every local authority and Primary Care Trust (PCT) make a clear commitment to improving services for disabled children and their families by signing up to our Charters. To find out more - and take action - please go to <http://www.edcm.org.uk/localaction>
- celebrating the announcement of **a new law on short breaks**, created by an amendment to the Children and Young Person's Bill. The amendment resulted in a new duty on local authorities to provide short breaks to families to help them care for their disabled children. To find out more please go to <http://www.edcm.org.uk/righttobreaks>
- lobbying government to **end child poverty for families with disabled children**, particularly by promoting take-up of Disability Living Allowance and extending winter fuel payments currently made to older people to families with disabled children. To find out more – and email your MP - please go to <http://www.edcm.org.uk/childpoverty>

Get involved!

If you haven't already done so, please sign up to support the campaign now at www.edcm.org.uk and find out how to get involved at www.edcm.org.uk/getinvolved You can contact us on 020 7843 6318 or at info@edcm.org.uk.

New resources and publications

Listen and Change: A Guide to Children and Young People's Participation Rights

This guide aims to increase understanding of children and young people's participation rights and how they can be realised in local authority and third sector settings. It suggests ways to effectively listen to children and young people in order to create change with them and for them.

Available from: <http://www.participationworks.org.uk>

Disability Toolkit (www.disabilitytoolkit.org.uk)

Are you looking for extra support and guidance when involving disabled children and young people in participation and decision-making activities? If you are, then the *Disability Toolkit* is for you

The Disability Toolkit is a one-stop information hub, providing essential resources, information and support that are needed by professionals supporting disabled children in decision-making and participation activities. The website provides resources (many of them are free!), practice examples and ideas to help your direct work with disabled young people. You can share your own resources and practice using the simple online forms. Help others to improve and share practice and work together to ensure more disabled children and young people participate in decision-making. For more information visit:

www.disabilitytoolkit.org.uk

The New Speech, Language and Communication Framework

March saw the launch of the Speech, Language and Communication Framework (SLCF) from The Communication Trust. After the interim findings on John Bercow's Review of Services for Children and Young People with Speech, Language and Communication Needs called for a skilling-up of the wider children's workforce, this competency based framework has been designed to support everyone who works with children or young people. By mapping skills and existing competencies, users of this free, online tool will be able to evaluate their current knowledge and identify training routes to support in areas where they aren't confident. There is also an enquiry service to handle any specific questions.

Anita Kerwin-Nye, Director of The Communication Trust, says "The evidence collected during the Bercow review consultation clearly states that the wider children's workforce needs and wants further training and knowledge when it comes to addressing the speech language and communication needs (SLCN) of the children they work with every day."

Log onto: www.communicationhelppoint.org.uk

Inclusion by Design – A guide to creating accessible play and childcare environments

This new KIDS publication is a guide to creating accessible play and childcare environments focusing on six principles of inclusive design and the key features of the process which underpins their implementation. It begins with a brief exploration of the wider policy context of inclusive play and touches on some important elements of general inclusive management. By way of photos and case studies, it then explores each of the inclusive design principles and demonstrates how they have been applied within a range of play and childcare settings.

Packed with stunning photographs, this publication is a must for all early years, play and childcare providers who want to produce aesthetically pleasing, functional environments that provide choice and opportunity for all.

For further information or to register your interest email:

publications.ndd@kids.org.uk

Aiming Higher for Inclusive Play

KIDS have also produced a new Briefing '**Aiming Higher for Inclusive play**' The briefing has been written particularly for those who commission services for disabled children; those who work in play and other universal children's services; and families with disabled children. It considers the responsibilities we all share in the light of recent government initiatives and it gives a taste of the successful work already being undertaken in different parts of the country to include disabled children in ordinary play services.

For further information and/or to order copies of the Briefing please contact KIDS National Development Department.

Tel 0207 359 3073 or email: publications.ndd@kids.org.uk

Talk about Change

'talk about change' is a film based on conversations with children and young people with life threatening conditions, made at their homes and in children's hospices. It features their own video diaries that give real insight into their lives.

'talk about change' is an essential dvd resource for children, young people, carers and families and everyone involved in palliative care. It has been designed to stimulate discussion, communicate what young people really think and want, and to help professionals develop appropriate services and responses as children begin to make the leap from children's palliative care into adult services.

The 'talk about change' dvd is now available, price £10 inc. p+p.

To order a copy send your contact details to:

info@thekosh.com or write to The Kosh, 59 Stapleton Hall Road, London N4 3QF.

Children's views on advocacy

A report by the Children's Rights Director for England

This report, published by Ofsted, sets out children's own views on what advocacy is (and isn't); what makes a good advocate; how a child or young person gets an advocate when they need one; and how well advocates do at speaking up for children.

www.ofsted.gov.uk/assets/Internet_Content/Shared_Content/Files/2008/may/chldnsviewsonad.pdf

Young Mencap

Mencap have launched a new website for young people with a learning disability called Young Mencap. It has sections on leisure and play, learning and work. It also has a survey asking young people to vote on issues that are important to them and has a Your Say section where young people can share pictures, upload videos and leave comments.

Visit: <http://www.mencap.org.uk/youngmencap>

Mencap have also rebranded their main website, logo and strapline. Their new strapline is **The voice of learning disability.**

The full resource list is available to download from
www.ncb.org.uk/cdc_moh

To keep this list up to date we would welcome any additions or alterations to this resources list you may have. Please contact Victoria Wright on vwright@ncb.org.uk.

The Council for Disabled Children takes no responsibility for the conduct of, or information given by, other organisations.

Conferences, training and events

Involving disabled children in planning and reviews

12 November (Bristol) 2008

Involving Disabled Children in Planning and Reviews has been designed to address the communication barriers faced by practitioners and managers, across agencies, when trying to engage disabled children. This one-day training course looks at various forms of communication from verbal to emotional, with a view to improving participants engagement with the disabled children with whom they work.

For more information about the above course, or to book a place, please contact NCB training on 020 7843 6084 or email training@ncb.org.uk

KIDS 'Inclusion into Practice'

18 September 2008, London

This conference is aimed at heads of services, lead officers and key decision makers, presenting current thinking on good practice in inclusion and will provide opportunities for both statutory and voluntary sectors to further develop their practice towards inclusive play, childcare, youth and leisure.

Major themes of this conference are the participation of Disabled Children and Young People, workforce development, delivery of the Play agenda and exploring Disabled Young People's experiences of youth and leisure services.

The day promises to deliver informative and engaging presentations from the DCSF, Council for Disabled Children, Play England and young people from the YP-in (Young People's Inclusion Network) project amongst others. We will also be running workshops throughout the day.

Contact Carly Brown, YP-in Coordinator, Young People's Inclusion Network, for a flyer and booking form. Email: carly.brown@kids.org.uk Web: <http://www.kids-online.org.uk/>

Funding

Young people to have a 'MyPlace' to call their own

The government has launched a multi million pound government programme called myplace, which aims to deliver world class places for young people to go. myplace will support the Children's Plan pledge to provide exciting and safe places for all young people, and where young people can engage in a wide range of positive activities such as sport, dance and music. The BIG Lottery Fund has been appointed to administer the scheme and award grants of between £1m and £5m to enable the transformation of local services. Young people have a crucial part to play in this process and funding will only be allocated where there is evidence of real participation from young people in the development, design and future running of projects. myplace opens for applications on 6 May with the first investment decisions expected to be made by the end of October 2008. For further details: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

CWDC's Participation Fund : Involving children, young people and families in local and regional workforce development and reform

CWDC's Participation Fund seeks to support creative and innovative ways of involving children and young people in all parts of workforce development - selection and recruitment, induction, training and appraisal.

CWDC is inviting tenders from individual organisations or partnerships who can:

- Demonstrate engagement and involvement of children, young people and their families in the development or reform of the children's workforce
- Demonstrate engagement of children, young people and their families in the review and development of local workforce strategies; and/or
- Support workers to share information, good practice, experience and knowledge to assist participation in workforce development or reform.

An allocation of up to £30,000 is available for one project in each Government Office region in England to support existing, or to develop new initiatives to ensure the participation of children, young people and their families in local workforce development and reform.

To request an application pack or for more information please visit: www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/news/tenders or e-mail: tenders@cwdcouncil.org.uk with the title EN0801/001/AB in the e-mail subject line.