

END CHILD POVERTY once and for all

Charity No. 1099008

November 2005

Party Conferences

ECP continued its presence at all three Party Conferences this year with a mixture of events and exhibitions.

At the Liberal Democrats, a healthy audience came to hear Treasury shadow Susan Kramer MP deliver the keynote speech, followed by Chair of the Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors Cllr Sarah Boad alongside representatives of ECP, Our Chair, Caroline Abrahams and Director Jonathan Stearn. This event was held with Child Poverty Action Group and SMF.



Susan, Caroline & Sarah in action

Our Chair, Caroline Abrahams and Director Jonathan Stearn. This event was held with Child Poverty Action Group and SMF.

We once again had a stand at the Labour Party conference and made a great number of individual contacts – usefully meeting interesting new colleagues across the sectors, as well as seeing and being seen by activists, MPs, ministers etc.

We held two fringes at the Labour conference: the first fringe "What impoverishes Children?", chaired by Polly Toynbee, attracted a large audience.



A wide range of organisations advertised their fringe meetings under the ECP Banner



ECP Fringe with Rt Hon David Blunkett MP, Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP and representatives from Fun in Action mentoring scheme in Brighton

It was a fairly unusual event with the then work and pensions secretary, David Blunkett and Children's Minister Beverley Hughes listening and responding to young people, parents and befrienders experiencing poverty in the Brighton area.

The second fringe was held jointly with ECP, ippr, Channel 4 and the Disability Rights Commission, entitled *Social Justice*. This was an extremely popular event and there were a number of high profile speakers including:

Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP, Ed Milliband MP, Prof. David Miller of Oxford University and Nick Pearce Director ippr.



Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP

Finally, we held a fringe at the Conservative Party Conference *Ending Child Poverty – a conservative priority* – this was another joint event with CPAG and also the Centre for Social Justice. This became a very useful roundtable discussion including Shadow minister for work & pensions Paul Goodman MP, and Andrew Selous MP, the Opposition whip.



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Make UK Poverty History – UN Day of Poverty eradication

Working in collaboration with the Unemployed Workers Centres, Bond, Oxfam UKPP and the TUC, ECP pulled together an insightful conference on Monday 17th October that helped unpack some of the campaign lessons of make poverty history and identify what elements can be applied to UK poverty campaigning.

Speaking to a full house Ed Balls MP opened the conference, calling for a barricade of buggies outside the Treasury and David Blunkett closed the day using it as an opportunity to reflect on the 7th *Opportunity for All* report - released the same day. There was urgent discussion of the poverty issues facing the UK today and messages the future. For copies of the pamphlet produced for the event please contact our Partnership Development Officer, Alifia@ecpc.org.uk

The media response to this coalition-building event was good and added to the coverage of the UN Day of Poverty Eradication. Anti-poverty networks were active country-wide with events including held by CPAG and Children in Wales in Cardiff and the EU Social Inclusion roundtable in Glasgow.

Childrens' Forum, Nottingham – Good practice in action

As part of Local Democracy Week, the Children's Forum in Nottingham, run by the Partnership Council, brought children and service providers together, to develop plans to implement children's ideas to address some of the difficulties that they encounter locally.

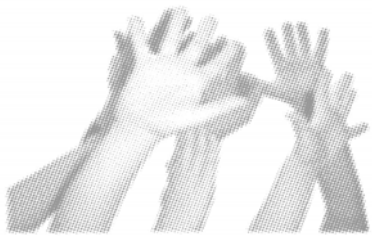
11 out of the 12 local primary schools, within their area worked with the children to discuss and select an issue by a vote to take part in this project. It was child poverty that children selected to discuss and address.

On the 19th October, the Children's Forum brought children together to explore and develop their ideas on how they would like to address child poverty. 20 children took part representing their schools, they worked

fabulously hard, having been placed in a new environment, with new people, and generated many, many ideas in just two short hours together on a range of issues including health, housing and safety.

At a second meeting, on 21st October, children and service providers were brought together, and after presentations by the children on the ideas they had formed, the group created a plan for some of the children's solutions to be implemented. There will be a follow up meeting to show what progress has been made early next year.

If you have an example of good practice you would like included then please contact us at info@ecpc.org.uk

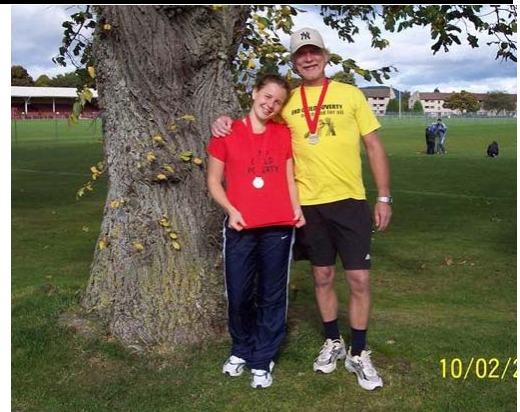


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Congratulations due!

A big thank you from all at ECP goes to Carly Raby, Managing Director of Luna Training a children's consultation and participation organisation and Rick Hosburn, her father, who have together raised £1,000 for ECP. They ran the Lochness 10K in October and here you can see them proudly displaying the medals they received for completing this challenging event. We are very grateful for their tremendous efforts.



End Child Poverty joins the campaign for Winter fuel payments for vulnerable households

National Energy Action has been pushing for Winter Fuel Payments which are currently made to all households over 60 to be extended to families with children who are on benefits and currently only eligible for Cold Weather Payments in severe cold snaps. We are urging our members to get behind this campaign and work with MPs to get them to sign Early Day Motion 809 in support of this issue as well.

Children Write

Schoolchildren across the country are currently taking part in a project jointly run by Shelter and End Child Poverty, to write poetry about poverty, homelessness and bad housing in Britain.

Schools will hold poetry writing sessions with local poets, and many of the poems will be published in an anthology in the New Year, which will raise awareness of how these issues affect children.

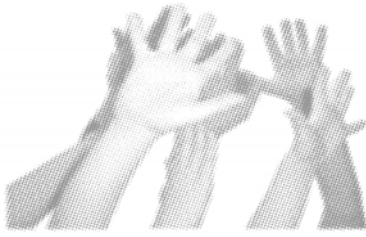
Jonathan Stearn, Director of End Child Poverty, said: "We want children's voices to be heard... poverty and bad housing is affecting the lives of millions of children".

Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion, who is supporting the Children Write scheme, said: "This is a wonderful scheme – imaginative and useful at the same time. It deserves to be widely and warmly supported."

"It's a great opportunity for children to write about their experience or thoughts on poverty and bad housing while learning about these issues in a creative and fun way." adds Adam Sampson, Director of Shelter

Anyone interested in participating in this project can contact: sophie@ecpc.org.uk 0207 843 1916. Shelter and End Child Poverty will accept poetry submissions up to the end of November.

Shelter



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Poverty Consultations

Early in the new year ECP will be arranging three regional consultations as part of a larger nationwide project - in association with Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Church Action on Poverty, Poverty Alliance, Children in Wales and the NI Anti Poverty Network.

We're currently at the planning stages and hope to be contacting projects in the South West, South East and in London soon. If you know of anyone who may want to be involved, we would be very happy to hear from interested parties in the regions surrounding Brighton, Exeter and London.

Recent publications of interest:

Family Policy Alliance *Parent Participation: Improving services for children and families*

A new toolkit has been developed by the Family Policy Alliance (FPA), which represents the three national charities, Family Welfare Association, Family Rights Group and Parentline Plus that provide a range of services to families, and have a wealth of experience in working with families in extremely challenging circumstances.

It is an easily accessible resource which breaks down why you should consult with parents, who to involve, and looking at the principles and practicalities of involving parents.

All the information in the toolkit is based on the FPA's experience and expertise of engaging with parents who use their services. The toolkit was developed through consultation with parents to find out the range of services that parents feel would be helpful to them.

To order please call 0207 284 5500
Cost £10.00 per toolkit, £3.00 p&p

Forthcoming events:

November

- 14-15 CAP conf, Debt on our doorstep responsible lender conference, London
Info at: www.debt-on-our-doorstep.com/conference
- 15 *Building Bridges*, Autism & ethnicity conference in Bradford, National Autistic Society
- 16 - 17 Championing Children - Participation matters conference. University of Liverpool, The Children's Society & Government Office North West
- 17 *Building Bridges*, Birmingham, as above.
- 18 Positive approaches to communication for CYP with severe & profound multiple learning difficulties. Birmingham, BILD & Mencap Contact: 01562 723 025
- 18 BBC *Children in need*
- 23 'Poverty & Social inclusion: A UK Showcase' European Anti-poverty network AGM, and UKCAP AGM Liverpool. Contact 0151 258 1454
- 23 NCVO AGM & Hinton lecture, London
- 24 National Children's Bureau AGM
Young People Now annual conference, Aston Villa Football Club
- 28-29 European Conf on early childhood intervention, ICC Birmingham
www.sunfield-school.org.uk/eci/conference.htm
- 30 CPAG AGM and 40th Anniversary reception, London

December

- 5 Vulnerable Families - Vulnerable Children? Exploring Intensive family services. National Children's Bureau
- 6 NCVO political conference
- 7 Primary Care Trust Child Health Network, Conference 'Cross-sector partnership working'
- 7 *Building Bridges*, Autism & ethnicity conference in Cardiff, National Autistic Society
- 8 Routes to posterity: paths out of poverty Conference, Southwark Council with JRF
- 9 www.bigsing.com
- 20 House of commons rises
- 21 Launch of Children's Society Disability Advocacy Project, London. For info email elp@childrenssociety.org.uk