



end child poverty

Child Poverty in the News

Brown restates his commitment to the child poverty targets:

The new administration and subsequent reshuffle has brought the Government's targets on child poverty to the fore once again. Gordon Brown in his first speech as Labour leader on 24 June showed his commitment when he said *"To address this poverty of income and to address also the poverty of aspirations by better parenting, better schools and more one-to-one support, I want to bring together all the forces of compassion - charities, voluntary sector, local councils so that at the heart of building a better Britain is the cause of ending child poverty."* Then as Prime Minister he has created a cabinet member with responsibility for working with other departments on child poverty. Brown promoted Ed Balls, to the position, who has worked closely with the voluntary sector on this issue.

Balls has been widely welcomed by the voluntary sector in his new role as Secretary of State for Children, Families and

Schools and has, himself, made clear his passion for the task ahead. For examples of coverage see: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/06/25/nbrown225.xml#form> and <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/publicservices/story/0,,2117412,00.html> or <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/economics/story/0,,2114536,00.html>

New Reports

Earlier in June, members of the Campaign, Save the Children, made headlines by publishing a new briefing, *Living under the Radar*, on those children living in severe poverty in the UK, families surviving on just £7,000 a year, compared to a national average of £19,000. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/24720416-1e03-11dc-89f7-000b5df10621.html> and just a week or so before that another leading member of the Campaign, Barnardo's, also garnered significant coverage for child poverty by publishing a report entitled *'It doesn't happen here'*. Constructed around interviews with families living on a low income and packed with useful facts about groups most at risk of child poverty and possible solutions, this report serves

as a very timely reminder to us all of the scandal of child poverty in the UK today.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6682029.stm>

Hbai figures

According to the latest figures in the annual Households Below Average Income (HBAI) report the Government is still not on track to reach the 2010 target of halving child poverty. The number of children in poverty was thought to have increased by 100,000 according to the 2005/06 HBAI figures released in March, but a revised version states that this is a statistical error. The proportion of children experiencing poverty in the UK however, remains 30%, almost one child in every three.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/6584569.stm>

This shocking figure raises serious concerns about the Government's ability to reach the 2010 target of halving child poverty and captured much media attention, following as it did hot on the heels from the earlier UNICEF report, covered in the last newsletter. www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/news



end child poverty

Child Poverty in the News cont.

IN GOVERNMENT:

Disabled Children

One of the Campaign members, Every Disabled Child Matters, has been lobbying to get rights and justice for disabled children, young people and their families and for mainstreaming and roll-out of Early Support across England, so they welcomed the recent Ministerial commitments.

The Government published the report of the disabled children's review on 21 May, *Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families* which contained a funding package of £340 million for the period from 2008 – 10. Key elements of the package include:

* a specific grant of **£280m** to deliver a step change in the provision of **short breaks** and **£35m** to pilot accessible **childcare**
For more information, visit www.edcm.org.uk

21 March 2007 Budget

While the child & family focus of the budget was welcomed by the children's sector there were widespread concerns that it did not sufficiently address

the problems of child poverty in the UK.

Following the Chancellor's Budget Hilary Fisher Director of the Campaign to End Child Poverty recognised the significant investment that the Government has made but added "we are concerned this Budget won't be enough to reach the 2010 target of halving child poverty and are calling on the Government to make further steps towards the necessary extra investment or risk missing the target altogether."

Treasury Select Committee

MPs put pressure on Brown, then the Chancellor, to spell out how he is going to end child poverty in their report published in April.

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/politics/article2481036.ece>

Iain Duncan Smith's Social Justice Commission

has released its proposals to mend our 'broken society' for consideration by the Conservative Party. Martin Narey, as Chair of the Campaign and Chief Executive of Barnardo's said "I welcome the priority the Conservative Party is giving to social policy issues and

the eradication of poverty. However this is a complex issue and by focussing on the importance of marriage the Social Justice Commission does not take account of the very real challenges families on low incomes face.

Children should not be discriminated against on the basis of whether or not their parents are married. We need to get all children out of poverty and we would hope the Conservative Party would bear this in mind when reviewing these recommendations.

Reaching the 2010 target of halving child poverty requires investment of approximately £4 billion, a figure the Conservative Party has yet to commit to."

COMING UP

• **Party Conference Season is not far away, members of the Campaign are holding receptions and fringes at each of the main party conferences; if you are planning to go then please do get in touch and we can give you full details of the exciting range of events.**

end child poverty

Campaign Activities

FIRST 100 DAYS – Call to GB
To kick off our latest project we have launched an e-action on our website, where supporters can send a message to the new Prime Minister, asking him to seize this unmissable opportunity to change millions of children's lives for the better, and lead the Government in its efforts to end child poverty. **Have you sent yours yet? If not, go to www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/Gordon - now!**

To welcome in the new PM and his administration we have brought together campaign and policy experts from within our membership to work on our four main policy themes during the Government's first hundred days. Policy briefings will be prepared and events held to engage new Ministers on Employment and childcare; Income; Education and Housing.

MONTH OF ACTION

It will soon be that time of year again when members of the Campaign to End Child Poverty get involved across the country in

awareness raising activities and events – **so do join us!** This year we will be asking members to go and see their MPs to discuss child poverty in their area, in a series of visits to run alongside meetings and seminars held by members and a new set of child poverty champions to be named in the House of Commons.

DEPUTY LEADERSHIP

HUSTINGS: CPAG joined with the Campaign to End Child Poverty and invited all the candidates for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party to a hustings on child poverty, held at Westminster. This well attended event covered a wide variety of topics but showed a commitment to the issue from every candidate.

DARE to CARE: Make time to help end child poverty.

Martin Narey, Chair, ECP
Dame Elisabeth Hoodless, CSV, and David Miliband MP, Minister for the third sector launched this amazing volunteering drive to be run by ECP and CSV with support from the Office for the Third sector.



Launch at Rochelle School

The aim is to show how volunteers can make a direct difference in helping to tackle child poverty. For more information visit <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/index.php?id=68>

LONDON MARATHON

Chris Pond, Director of One Parent Families, took his commitment to the Campaign a few steps further this year by running on our behalf. *"When you find that someone dressed as a Rhino is still ahead of you at 20 miles, you know you haven't done enough training...but the prospect that - although this wasn't the long-run solution to child poverty - it might at least raise some much-needed funds for ECP kept me going to the end".* A huge thanks to Chris and his sponsors; If you would like to support his fabulous efforts then please send a cheque to End Child Poverty at the Campaign Office.



end child poverty

Campaign Activities cont.

ECP MEMBERS:

SCHOOL COSTS: Citizens Advice have launched a survey on their public website AdviceGuide on the costs of education, this survey gives you the opportunity to contribute to the school costs coalition, of which Citizens Advice and End Child Poverty are members, by telling us about the costs you face in sending your child to school. It will ask about your school's uniforms policy, school trips, and other costs. We would be grateful if you could spend just a few minutes completing this short survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=nYxKZKsNSpnr12Q4kZwGvA%3d%3d>

Your responses to this survey will help the Coalition to ensure that schools are complying with official guidance to make sure that their school uniforms, PE kits and school trips are affordable for everyone.

VULNERABLE WORKERS:

The TUC has set up a new Commission to look into the issues surrounding vulnerable employment. The 16 Commission members are drawn from

employer, academic, trade union and civil society backgrounds, bringing with them a wealth of different experiences and perspectives.

The Commission will be producing its final report during 2008. Over future months it will be meeting with people who are in vulnerable work, running a public consultation and undertaking new research. Its recommendations will consider how government, civil society organisations, employers and trade unions can work together to improve the lives of Britain's most vulnerable workers.

The CoVE website is www.vulnerableworkers.org.uk

INTEGRATING CHILDREN'S PERSPECTIVES IN POLICY MAKING

Single Parent Action Network (SPAN) and Lincoln University have been conducting research with children in the South West and North East of England and comparing and integrating outcomes with researchers interviewing children in Cyprus and Greece.

A Conference was held on the 27th June which

highlighted the outcomes of this significant EU funded research project integrating children's perspectives into policy making to combat poverty and social exclusion in one parent families. There were some striking findings, if you would like to find out more please contact info@span.org.uk

INDEPENDENT ASYLUM COMMISSION DATES FOR FUTURE HEARINGS

This team of commissioners is conducting an independent review of the UK asylum system, from beginning to end.

After eighteen months of gathering evidence they will produce a report in 2008 making recommendations for reform that are fair as well as forceful, and realistic as well as humane.

The next opportunities for you to get involved are:

1. Asylum Appeals, Leeds, 20th September 2007
2. Asylum Support and Destitution, Manchester, 17th October 2007
3. Final Hearing, London, 29th November 2007

Please contact chris@cof.org.uk for more information.

end child poverty

ECP Members' Comment

MORE THAN ONE RUNG

YWCA England & Wales recently launched its 'More than one rung' campaign which is about giving young women from disadvantaged backgrounds the skills they need to climb off the bottom rung of the career ladder and work towards a better future. YWCA is concerned that thousands of disadvantaged young women have the potential to achieve so much, but instead face a lifetime of poorly-paid, low skilled jobs. For them there is only one rung on the career ladder, and it's the bottom one.

The facts speak for themselves:

- Twice as many young women as young men who were poor in childhood were still poor at the age of 30ⁱ
- Young female apprentices get an average £40 less a week than young men – a 26% differenceⁱⁱ
- A typical woman who left school with no qualifications will lose out on £197,000 in earnings over her lifetime, compared to her male-counterpart, even if she has no childrenⁱⁱⁱ
- 75% of working women are still found in just five types of occupational groups; jobs like caterer, carer, cleaner, cashier or clerical assistant –and they are the lowest paid^{iv}

YWCA spent six months carrying out research with young women in Wolverhampton to understand what was holding them back in

their work choices and to ask them what extra support they felt they needed.^v The problems identified included:

- Not being listened to and being steered into, rather than choosing jobs which are right for them, is a common problem
- Training courses are often determined by what is available not what they want or need
- Confidence and self-esteem are a major factor in narrowing their horizons
- Community and peer pressure are a strong influence and often stereotypical attitudes encourage young women towards low-paid, low-skilled jobs



Pat McFadden, Social Exclusion Minister climbing the ladder of opportunity at YWCA Wolverhampton.

YWCA is calling for the Government to look at the careers advice, work experience and training needs of disadvantaged young women and to provide them with the knowledge, confidence and skills to get jobs that can lift them out of poverty.

YWCA is also taking a close look at apprenticeships and calling

for the government to carry out an inquiry to look at the gender pay gap in apprenticeships and the barriers to disadvantaged young women's participation in them. Many of the young women YWCA works with have had to drop out of their programmes of training because of financial hardship.

YWCA has produced a number of briefings and research reports for the campaign including, 'No frills: young women and poverty' and 'Making work work for girls' which looks at why apprenticeships are not working for disadvantaged young women.

By Louisa Darian, Young Women's Poverty Officer

For more information about the campaign and to pledge your support visit

www.morethanonerung.org

ⁱ 'Bucking the Trend – what enables those who are disadvantaged in childhood to succeed in later life?'

Blanden, J., Working Paper 31, Department for Work and Pensions, London HMSO (2006)

ⁱⁱ 'Apprenticeship Pay: A Survey of Earnings by Sector', DfES Research Report RR674 Ullman, A. and Deakin, U. (2005)

ⁱⁱⁱ 'Women's Incomes over the Lifetime', Stationary Office, Rake, K (eds) (2000)

^{iv} 'Consultation response: Low Pay Commission' EOC (2005)

^v 'Young People's Reflections on Work Choices and Support Key Issues, Messages and Actions' Development Focus Trust and SOLAC Action Research Centre, YWCA (May 2007)