

4in10 Launches Newham Campaign

Following many months of consultation with our supporters in the borough, our Newham campaign launched in October 2009. We are calling for:



Kit for Kids

The cost of school clothing cuts deep into the budgets of Newham families, leaving many children without a winter coat or a decent pair of winter shoes. A survey conducted by Save the Children and Family Action revealed that 67% of London parents questioned earning under £12,000 said they would not be able to afford everything their children need. We are therefore calling for Newham Council to provide a **school clothing grant of £50** per year to all children in workless households in the borough. 43% of the UK's local authorities, Newham excluded, currently provide school clothing grants.



A Fair Deal for Newham Children

Schools in Hackney and Tower Hamlets presently receive over £1,000 more per child per year in their funding from central government than their counterparts in Newham. We know Newham teachers and other school staff are doing their absolute best with the resources they have, and this is reflected in the borough's levels of educational attainment at age 16. But with the funding its schools deserve, Newham children could have the resources to achieve even more. This is why, with a review of schools funding already underway, we are asking the government to allocate **£1,000 more funding per child per year** to bring Newham's school's funding more in line with that of Hackney and Tower Hamlets.



Better Homes for Newham Families

Newham currently has approximately 6,600 children growing up in temporary accommodation. With Newham Council owning just 100 of these temporary homes, thousands of Newham families are now living in properties owned and managed by private landlords. 4in10 has found many of these landlords are neglecting their basic responsibilities to their tenants, providing substandard homes and failing to carry out basic repairs. Research shows that bad housing damages children's lives and can impact on everything from their health to their educational attainment. We are therefore working to **name and shame these private management agents** in the hope that we can get them to sign up to a **decent homes charter**.

We need your support! Please take a few minutes to sign our petitions and email a local decision maker by visiting www.4in10.org.uk/takeaction, or call the campaigns team on 020 7278 6676 to find out how you can get involved.

Unemployment Creates New Child Poverty Crisis

“We couldn’t let the banks fail; now we mustn’t fail our children”

On Tuesday 3rd November 2009, the End Child Poverty national campaign launched the report ‘**Through Thick and Thin: Tackling Child Poverty in Hard times**’. This report, by leading social policy researcher Donald Hirsh, shows that a staggering **two million British children now have no parent in work** and the number of children in families having to survive on benefits has jumped by 170,000 in just twelve months.



The situation in London is bleak

Four London constituencies are in the top twelve nationwide for numbers of JSA claimants. These constituencies are Bethnal Green and Bow, Poplar and Canning Town, Tottenham and Hackney South and Shoreditch, all of which have more than 5,000 people claiming unemployment benefit. After housing costs, an unemployed couple with two small children are left with £225 a week for everything, which puts them £115 below the poverty line.

Kate Green, Chair of End Child Poverty and Chief Executive of the Child Poverty Action Group, said, “This shows that more investment is needed as families feel the effects of the recession.”

“The Government must provide additional financial support for families on benefits and tax credits in the Pre-Budget Report in December. We also need a wider recession recovery package that improves access to the Social Fund, increases childcare, helps parents to work part time without losing benefits and meets extra school costs.”

Hirsch’s report provides strong evidence for the government to implement End Child Poverty’s **Recession Recovery Package**. In this we call on the government to:

1. Invest in **benefits and tax credits**
2. **Increase funding and access** to the **social fund** and extend eligibility to those families on working tax credit
3. Increase **support** for **childcare costs**
4. Enable parents to work in **‘mini’ jobs**
5. Help parents to meet the **costs of school**

We are asking our supporters to join us in calling on the government to invest in families in the Pre-Budget Report, to be announced December 9th 2009.

To add your voice to the campaign, please take our two minute email action and write to your MP by visiting our website:

www.endchildpoverty.org.uk

Members’ Spotlight

A very warm welcome to all of our new members, four of whom are:



Those of you who haven’t yet completed your registration questionnaires please do so and email them to either liz@ecpc.org.uk or natasha@ecpc.org.uk. If you have any questions please do contact us.

Making Child Poverty Everybody's Business

'My View of the Day' by London Project Intern Sarah Barber

In order to do just this, End Child Poverty organised an event with partners **VCS Engage**, **Government Office for London** and **London Councils**, bringing together practitioners from the voluntary sector and local authorities across the city. An event to remember, the conference highlighted the dynamic and integral nature of third sector work and the often complex relationship the sector has with local authorities.

A Challenging Partnership

As the speeches began, it quickly became clear that the relationship between local authorities (represented by Nick Stanton, Leader of Southwark Council and Martin Ballie, Income Maximisation Manager, Islington Council) and senior practitioners from the voluntary sector (represented by Annie Doubledee, Islington Childcare Trust), was a unique one. Rather than presenting conflict, it seemed that both

sides were promoting working in partnership towards their shared ends – namely the desire to eradicate child poverty. This said, practitioners acknowledged the challenges faced by voluntary and statutory practitioners when working in partnership, but concluded that the end result would be worth it.

Tackling Child Poverty 'On the Ground'

After the speeches a variety of workshops took place, offering people a time for discussion about what they felt the barriers were in tackling child poverty on the ground, and the sometimes challenging relationship between the voluntary and the statutory sector. Each of the workshops which took place was focused on a different subject, including parental support (emotional and financial), health & well-being, housing and issues around worklessness (skills and unemployment and education).

The Beginning

This event marked the start of a collaboration between End Child Poverty and the other organisers, and the issues raised during the day will be taken forward to inform future work. For information or updates please contact:

Liz Thorne, London Development Manager:
liz@ecpc.org.uk

London Child Poverty Awards 2009 – The First Ever

4in10: The End Child Poverty London Project was proud to sponsor the award for Outstanding Practitioner. The evening, co-ordinated by the Child Poverty Unit, was truly inspirational. It showcased a variety of amazing initiatives aimed at tackling child poverty in their communities. The 4in10 team would like to congratulate all nominees who were shortlisted for their tireless efforts to improve the lives of low income families. The challenge to panellists to pick winners in each category was apparent from the quality of all nominees, but final winners selected were:

Child Poverty Champion: Annie Doubledee, Director Islington Childcare Trust

Annie has been working with economically deprived families in Islington for 20 years and was a key player in bringing child poverty to the attention of Islington Strategic Partnership.

Outstanding Practitioner: Marie Hanson, Founder of STORM

Having experienced domestic violence herself, Marie set up STORM. Originally a self help group for single mothers, it now also works to steer young people away from guns, gangs and knives.

Inspirational Parent: Falis Farah

Having fled a both civil war in her own country and domestic violence, Falis has devoted herself to her children whilst running a homework club, working as a teaching assistant and as a school governor.

Superb Service: Shelter, Keys to the Future Project

This excellent project lessens the negative impact of child poverty on children living in temporary accommodation by providing them with one-to-one intensive support and running other group sessions.

Corporate Commitment: London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Local partners in Tower Hamlets have a target of lifting more than 1,000 children out of poverty by March 2011, and NEETs in the borough have already dropped from 13.5% to 6.7%.

Exemplary Employer: Asda, Old Kent Road

The store has demonstrated flexibility and innovation with their recruitment processes which have resulted in numerous parents moving into sustainable employment.

For a full list of runners up and other nominees please visit: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_106_09.htm 3