

**Notes on the CCEN Seminar:  
Routes to the LSP - Children & Young People's Services  
Tuesday 16 February 2010**

Mohamed Hussein – Camden Children & Families Network Development Worker began the meeting with a presentation on the structure of the partnership arrangements involved in Children and Young People's service delivery in Camden and how the voluntary and community sector (VCS) are engaged.

He explained that the new Children's Trust Partnership Board (CTPB) which has replaced the Children & Young People's Partnership Board (CYPPB) had an expanded membership. Representatives from Colleges, Job Centre Plus, GPs, Housing and Adult Social Care and Culture and Environment now sit on the board along with existing members Camden Council, Metropolitan Police, Learning & Skills Council, Connexions, Schools and the VCS. The Children's Trust Management Board replaces the Joint Commissioning Planning Group of the CYPPB.

**Involvement of the Voluntary and Community Sector**

The Children & Young People's Partnership Board had strong governance arrangements and a multi agency working group which included the Children and Families Network. Representatives from the VCS sat on all the working groups involved in the planning and delivery of the Children & Young People's 3 year Plan. The number of working groups has been reduced from 5: Being Healthy, Staying safe, Making a Positive Contribution, Enjoying and Achieving and Achieving Economic Wellbeing and Quality of Life to three in the new Children's Trust Board : Health, Safe and Enjoy & Achieve/Economic Wellbeing.

MH went on to explain that there was a real willingness to work in partnership with the VCS to deliver services. VCS organisations are reimbursed for the time their representatives are at board meetings and this has made a significant difference.

**Involvement of Young People**

There were a number of questions around the issue of young people themselves being involved in the CTPB and its sub groups – and there was a general discussion about the difficulty in engaging young people in decision making even in their own environment which makes it even more difficult to engage them in decisions around services for people elsewhere.

**Impact of VCS Engagement**

There was some discussion on what (if any) was the impact of VCS engagement has had on the lives of young people and how this could be measured. Young people do not like filling in questionnaires and it is difficult to get them to attend meetings if the issues under discussion are not what they want to talk about.

The youth service is being reviewed at present and will shape services for the future – one stage of this review has been about talking to young people about what they would like to see provided. Other stages of the review include having a clear understanding of the needs of the youth and how these can be translated into services. There was concern about how these decisions would be fed back to the youth as quite often youth are consulted but don't get to hear what has happened to their input.

Funding was an issue and SH explained that the council had recognised that the move away from grant aid to contracts was not helpful to small organisations and there is discussion about having a mixed economy of funding ranging from grant aid agreements through to full contracts.

### Has VCS engagement made a difference?

MH spoke about the difference the Children and Families Network engagement has made over the last year – there has been a workshop on this and the feedback from both the VCS and the LA was positive.

<b>Attendance List</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
✓ Sandy Wynn	Corams Fields
✓ Neil Smith	Voluntary Action Camden
✓ Charlie Legg	Maiden Lane Community Centre
✓ Barbara O'Brien	Roundhouse
✓ Anju Bhatt	CBMEA
✓ Mary Fee	LETSlink London
✓ Alexander Schmidt	St Pancras Community Association
✓ Rosalind Juma	Chances for Children
✓ A Ashkir	SOCRA
✓ Stella Hamada	New Horizons Youth Centre
✓ Kanza Koyi	African Physical Training Association
Simone Hensby	Voluntary Action Camden
✓ Pat Ridpath	Family Alcohol Service
✓ A. E Mordant	JMT
✓ Ignatious Hango	SACFWA