

£27MILLION FUNDING BOOST FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE

Ed Balls and Beverley Hughes today presented disadvantaged and vulnerable young people with a boost as they announced a package of over £27million of funding and business support for five major charities.

The money will help Kids Company, Speaking Up, Fairbridge, UK Youth and Leap expand the innovative work they do in helping young people who face difficult issues such as substance misuse, teenage pregnancy, coping with disability and homelessness, and will ensure that thousands more vulnerable young people have access to support when they need it most.

Children's Secretary Ed Balls said:

"I am delighted that we are able to provide support - not just in terms of funding to assist these organisations in the short term, but also through professional business advice that will help secure their future in the longer term.

"Each of these organisations provides a unique and invaluable service to young people, helping them overcome difficult issues such as drug and alcohol abuse and becoming homeless. Today's announcement will help ensure this crucial support is available for every young person that needs it."

Minister for Children, Young People and Families, Beverley Hughes said:

"All five of these organisations provide a lifeline to some of society's most vulnerable and deprived young people, providing emotional and practical support to thousands each year.

"The money we are announcing today will enable them to significantly expand and improve their services so that even more children and young people have access to the help and advice that can be so important in getting their lives back on track.

"The third sector has a crucial role to play in helping our most vulnerable young people and the Government is fully committed to supporting these vital services."

As well as financial help, the Youth Sector Development Fund (YSDF) ensures that each of the five organisations receive tailored business advice to help them secure a healthy future. The five charities were chosen from over 90 expressions of interest received by the Department.

Each organisation will receive the following amounts over the next three years:

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| • Kids Company | £12,723,336 |
| • UK Youth | £4,092,956 |
| • Fairbridge | £3,798,051 |
| • Speaking Up | £3,209,347 |
| • LEAP | £3,288,970 |

The money is the latest round of funding to be distributed as part of Aiming High, the Government's Ten Year Youth Strategy. Aiming High and a corresponding £679million was announced in July 2007, to help young people, particularly those in

deprived areas, take part in positive activities to develop new skills and raise aspirations.

Notes to editors

1. Through the new Youth Sector Development Fund, the DCSF is leading delivery of an integrated investment approach for good third sector organisations, focusing on enabling providers to sustain and expand their provision. Initially, five pathfinders will receive funding and business support from April 2008 to help achieve long term sustainability. Expressions of interest were invited from organisations who work with the most disadvantaged young people that were willing to significantly develop and expand existing projects and develop sustainable approaches to the delivery of services. Later in the year, the YSDF will become fully operational, and over the next three years **up to £100m will be made available** including strategic growth funding for organisations seeking to expand cutting edge services, and funding for smaller local organisations to develop sustainable approaches to working with disadvantaged young people.

2. **Kids Company** - provides young people, who have often slipped through the net and whose parents are often unable to look after them properly, with somewhere to go for emotional and practical support. Based in South London, the charity has developed a way of working which is centred on the needs of the individual child. The charity's workers act like quasi parents, arranging everything from a visit to a dentist, or a new pair of shoes, to the longer-term needs of the young person such as ongoing therapy.

The YSDF funding will help Kids Company become a centre of excellence, enabling them to disseminate informed educational packages for service users and providers, and continue with their successful direct wrap around delivery to young people. The organisation will develop work with the media on improving the societal attitudes to vulnerable young people

3. **UK Youth** - runs courses and programmes that offer accredited learning outcomes for young people that are disengaged from mainstream education. The organisation aims to build skills that will remain useful throughout the lives of the young people they work with.

They will use the YSDF funding to set up 10 Youth Achievement Foundations which will provide non formal alternative learning and support services, based on UK Youth's established curriculum, putting young people at risk from exclusion or are NEET back on the path to success.

4. **Fairbridge** – engages with young people who face barriers to engagement with mainstream services, such as mental emotional health issues, substance misuse problems homelessness, enabling them to think differently. They offer a tailor-made action plan for each young person, in a safe environment that challenges negative behaviour and recognises achievement.

The YSDF will fund expansion across Fairbridge regional teams to achieve optimum operating capacity and delivery in their 11 offices, which will enhance and develop the quality of support to young people, enabling them to raise their aspirations and change their lives for the better. Fairbridge will also develop a tracking model to map long term outcomes for young people.

- 5. Speaking Up** - helps create positive choices for disabled people, by helping other organisations to understand their needs and representing their views or supporting them to speak up for themselves.

The YSDF will fund the organisation to help 7,000 (by 2011) disabled young people make the transition into adulthood with the confidence skills and independence to achieve in life, through replicating and growing existing services, disseminating toolkits and applying proven methodologies..

- 6. Leap** - Raises awareness of conflicts facing young people in the community and helps young people to find possible solutions to the issues they face. They also train adults who work with young people to confront conflict. Leap's vision is that conflict resolution and mediation should lie at the heart of all personal and social education programmes for young people.

The YSDF funding will grow the organisation's impact regionally and nationally by replicating successful programmes with proven outcomes, working with disadvantaged young people. Leap will also tackle rising youth conflict, crime and violence by developing more skilled young leaders who have conflict management skills (from target groups) who can contribute positively to their communities, building a legacy of prevention for the future.