



from strength to strength

ANNUAL REVIEW 11/12

“It’s been another great year at Chance UK.”

Here at Chance UK we’re going from strength to strength and 2011-12 has been a turning point in our development. Below are our key activities and successes from the past financial year.

New projects

Girls Programme

In the summer of 2011 we identified funding for the Girls Programme, which matches volunteer mentors with girls aged 5-11 from gang-involved and vulnerable families in Hackney and Islington. The three-year pilot has been developed with the Police, Children’s Services and Gangs teams from both boroughs. Funding is coming from Sofronie Foundation, Future and Garfield Weston. We’re delighted to say that the Programme is already having a positive impact, aided by support from the Home Office, the Met, and the Children’s Commissioner’s inquiry into child sexual exploitation in gangs.

Westminster to Wolverhampton

Chance UK has also opened a new mentoring programme in Westminster commissioned by Action for Children. The programme got off the ground very quickly and is already delivering services to a full complement of children. January also saw us open our biggest social franchise yet, with Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council, and is set to work with 200 children over the next four years.

Raising our profile

In national and local government

We’ve been lobbying hard this year and I’ve personally been involved with:

- the Centre for Social Justice on its Next Steps for Early Intervention and its report on exclusions, ‘No Excuses’
- the Breaking the Cycle Commission, which looked at preventing the cycle of addiction in the children of substance misusing parents
- the Children’s Commissioner’s report on illegal exclusion.

Chance UK has also been working with the Riots Panel and the Social Justice Committee promoting the needs of the most excluded families in our society.

In social media

We’ve been harnessing the power of social media by promoting our work on Twitter, Facebook and on various blogs... and it’s been working: we were quoted in the House of Commons by Nick De Bois MP during the riots debate in October last year.



On the podium

Chance UK was delighted to be awarded ‘Most Innovative Charity’ at Britain’s Most Admired Charity Awards.

Focused on funding

Given the UK’s financial climate we have been focusing on expanding the breadth and scale of our funding options for core and new programmes. Highlights of the year include:

- a Radio 4 charity appeal by the actor Christopher Eccleston which raised nearly £12,000
- a climb of Mount Kilimanjaro led by clothes designer Julien Macdonald raised over £33,000.

Current and ex-mentors and supporters have been extremely active on our behalf too, running marathons and getting friends and family to donate in place of wedding and birthday presents.

What’s more, the year ended with the best possible financial news that we have been awarded almost £1m by Realising Ambitions (a Lottery funding stream). This new funding will enable us to open new programmes in Enfield and Waltham Forest in 2012/13 and work with 200 disadvantaged children.

“Next year is set to be one of our most exciting yet in terms of expansion.”

Chance UK may be growing but we stay focused on minimising the impact of the economic environment on our funding base. One answer is to continue to extend our influence: I recently joined the Trustee Board of the Henry Smith Charity, which makes millions of pounds worth of grants available annually to UK projects addressing economic disadvantage.

Ultimately, everything we do centres around improving the future of children in need. So we will continue to make the most of every opportunity we have to reach them, from working with partners around the 120,000 most troubled families, to ensuring we’re at the heart of every Government initiative relating to children and families.

Gracia McGrath OBE, Chief Executive