



hitting new heights

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Despite a tough financial year, at Chance UK we've hit new heights making ourselves even better known among families and partner organisations. Take a look at our achievements and where they'll take us in the year ahead.

Breaking new ground

Reaching more locations

Our new programmes in Enfield and Waltham Forest have hit the ground running – the first matches were made in January 2013 following an intense period of mentor recruitment, training and selection, alongside setting up the child referral processes. Support and funding has come from Realising Ambition (part of the Big Lottery). As part of the funding package we also get additional support from The Young Foundation and Dartington Social Research Unit.

Making the news

The *Saturday Telegraph* magazine ran a six-page feature on the first anniversary of the London riots in August 2012, entitled 'Chance UK: bringing hope to vulnerable children'. Journalist Gavin Knight (author of *Hood Rat*) worked with us over a long period to meet those involved in the programme. Not only did we achieve our biggest media coverage to-date, but also this was a chance for a new audience to hear about our work in-depth.

Our CEO was also interviewed by London Real TV, a weekly one-hour video podcast. Given the length of the interview and its focus, it was a rare chance for the public to begin to understand what 'mentoring' really means.

One of our mentored children, nine-year-old D, interviewed our CEO when he took on the role of journalist for the day in a work experience session, a goal he'd set with his mentor. His questions were some of the most interesting our CEO has ever been asked ranging from how she got to be the boss to what super power she would have. We also captured the interest of high-profile journalists by asking them to critique the interview for D. It seems he's a cross between Jon Snow and David Frost!

With our increased focus on social media we're able to publicise our work through free channels including online blogs, facebook and twitter, reaching over 5,000 followers.

“Chance UK has taken giant steps in all areas – we've reached more children and parents than ever before, gained more exposure and secured further partnerships”



“We’ve welcomed more staff to make our programmes bigger and better”

Looking ahead

New faces to increase our influence

We’ve welcomed more staff to make our programmes bigger and better. For Enfield and Waltham Forest they include the new Senior Programme Manager, Caroline, promoted from her role as Programme Manager in Lambeth. It has been a great year for Caroline as she also carried the Olympic Torch in Lambeth as part of the build-up to London 2012. We also appointed two new Programme Managers, Chris and Samsam (both former volunteer mentors with Chance UK), as well as our first ParentPlus Programme Manager, Emma, to ensure the families we work with receive essential support.

Programme and partnership progress

Looking forward to next year Chance UK has been selected for a Randomized Control Trial (RCT) to be carried out by Dartington Social Research Unit. The work begins in February 2014 and is funded by Realising Ambition at the Big Lottery. In the lead up to the RCT, Dartington is developing our theory of change, which will help us map our programme outcomes to different parts of the mentoring year. The exciting project will be led by our new Quality and Evaluation Manager, Christine, who has worked for us for nine years as a Programme Manager in Islington.

Reaching specific groups

The first graduations from the Girls Programme took place in summer 2012. The pilot is having a significant impact on girls whose behavioural difficulties manifest themselves differently to those of children in our core programme. This work will be developed further when the CAMHS assessments on the programme provide their first results – and we’ll share the findings with local partners and national agencies.

Upping our game

Here at Chance UK we’ll focus on mentor recruitment and start work with education professionals, helped by Enjoy Education, a consultancy providing tutors and home education. We’re also working in all our boroughs to recruit more police personnel as mentors. Our particular focus for 2013/14 is to continue to improve the quality and strengthen the outcomes of the service we deliver for children and the support we give to their parents – and our new research work will help make this happen. We have a very exciting year ahead and I look forward to sharing news of more success next year.

We’ve also had great success at reaching dads and have started running specific Fathers’ Groups. The organisation Working with Men has been sharing their advice on engaging and supporting dads while organisation Wednesday’s Child funds this work.

Gracia McGrath OBE
Chief Executive