

News

Children facing homelessness launch campaign to Change It!



Children's
Rights Alliance
for England

A group of 26 inspirational children and young people aged eight to twenty years old are launching [Change It!](#), a national campaign on children's rights and homelessness.

Change it! is calling on the Government to listen to the voices of children and young people and to stop breaking the law by housing families in Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation for longer than the legal limit of six weeks. Many of the children and young people leading the campaign have experienced homelessness and some of them have spent extended periods growing up in B&Bs, in dirty, cold, damp and unsafe conditions. [More](#).

[The 2017 budget fails children](#)

As councils across the country weigh up how far the £2bn funding announcement might help avert the immediate crisis for adult social care, Philip Hammond's budget offered nothing at all to address the parallel crisis in children's services.

[Read Children England's full response to the Chancellor's budget, announced today.](#)

Summer Funding for holiday projects

WOODWARD CHARITABLE TRUST - SUMMER PLAYSCHEMES

Every year the trust makes small grants for **summer play schemes** taking place during the long summer holidays **for children between the ages of five and 16** who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. The play schemes funded are inclusive and encourage integration both by accepting those of differing abilities as well as those from different social and racial backgrounds. Among the successful applicants are those who encourage past users to come back as volunteers. Trustees only fund programmes that run for a minimum of two weeks or 10 days across the summer holidays.

The grants range from £500 to £1,000 and can only be paid to registered charities whose annual income is £100,000 or less.

The deadline is 7 April 2017 - [visit website](#)

JOHN LYON'S CHARITY

The **School Holiday Activity Fund** is designed to enable organisations to deliver fun and accessible activities for children and young people during the school holidays. This includes all half-term breaks, Easter, Christmas and the summer holiday. You may apply to the School Holiday Activity Fund once a year for a maximum of three consecutive years.

The Fund will pay for the running costs of holiday programmes that provide young people with activities in supportive and accessible environments. Up to £5,000 is available.

Organisations that are currently in receipt of a grant from John Lyon's Charity for core services are also eligible to apply to this Fund as long as funds from the Charity are not already being used for holiday activities. More information – [visit website](#)

More news and info

MyTime Active – workforce training free for Westminster CYP practitioners

We train front line staff to identify people who are, or are at risk of becoming, overweight or obese. Staff learn to offer information in a sensitive manner and signpost to the appropriate services, ensuring clear and consistent information is given to children and parents.



More information [here](#)

Rise in calls to Childline for mental health issues

Charities are calling for [improved mental health provision](#) in schools as new figures reveal more than 50,000 children and young people contacted Childline last year seeking help for serious mental health problems. The helpline has seen a 36% rise over four years in youngsters needing help for depression and other disorders, while there was also a rise in the number of youngsters feeling suicidal.

Charities' vital role in supporting children's mental health [Working with younger children](#) - an article by *Catherine Roche, the chief executive of Place2Be*, helps you understand how important it is to address wellbeing in primary schools and alleviate pressure on struggling NHS services.

SRE to be made compulsory Sex and relationships education is to be made compulsory in all schools in England, the government has announced: read the minister's statement [here](#)

[Sex and Relationships Education in Schools \(England\) - Parliament researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06103/SN06103.pdf](#)

Training events & funding info

A reminder that the One Westminster has regular updates about funding opportunities [here](#), external training events [here](#) ... and training events provided by One Westminster [here](#)

Please get in touch with Emma if you would like any help with organisation issues or funding bids:
Emma Plouviez - Organisations Support Officer – e.plouviez@onewestminster.org.uk

CYP Network meetings

1. **Wednesday 19th April, 10 – 12.00 at Paddington Arts**
 - a. *Mousetrap will talk about organising their Youth Conference*
 - b. *Incredible Brilliant Youth will talk about their work*
 - c. *Janese Samuels from WCC will introduce and help with FIS entries and updating:*
<http://localoffer.westminster.gov.uk/kb5/westminster/fis/home.page>
 - d. *Update on Young Westminster Foundation*