AGM & Young People and the Voluntary Sector – 8th July 2014

Speakers:

- Jennie Butterworth – Chief Executive, Envision
- Matt Hyde – Chief Executive, the Scouts Association
- Nick Hurd MP – Minister for Civil Society

Jennie Butterworth, Envision

- Envision are also a founding member of Generation Change, a consortium of 20 youth and social action organisations [www.generationchange.org.uk/](http://www.generationchange.org.uk/).
- We need to embed social action into the school and education journey. It really helps young people to develop themselves.
- It is important that the sector works very closely with education.
- We need meaningful corporate engagement, it can help cement young people’s learning. We need to look at ways of leveraging money out of the corporate sector. Match funding is one option.
- Empathy is important and we must not forget about it. There is a lot of talk about the value of social action but does it pass the Hitler test? Can be good at employability skills but did they use them for good?
- Facilitating the meeting of people who would not necessarily meet is another aspect of empathy. It allows people to step into someone else’s shoes.

Matt Hyde, Scouts Association

- It is a really exciting time for the youth sector – there is a lot of optimism. Programmes such as Generation Change, Step up to Serve and the National Citizen Service are all playing a part in that. As is the Minister for Civil Society whose energy and commitment has been excellent. So we are stating from a good place.
- Despite that a recent report from Demos ([www.demos.co.uk/publications/generationcitizen](http://www.demos.co.uk/publications/generationcitizen)) does show that young people are still concerned about employment.
- We need to recognise the power of non-formal education. Research shows that you are less likely to drop out of university if you are involved in extra-curricular activity and you are more likely to do extra-curricular activities if you have done them before university. The earlier you can make interventions the better and we need to embed non-formal learning.
- We need to build on the work the government has been doing on innovation.
- How can we stimulate more volunteering opportunities? The Scouts have 40,000 people on their waiting lists and they need more volunteers. Funding is an issue, more money would mean more volunteers. But with the employment rights act and flexible working etc. is there a way we can extend that to volunteers?

Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society

- There is a fundamental connection between the voluntary sector and young people.
- How we prepare young people for life and work is crucial. Skills that they need now are different to what they were even ten years ago.
- Employers are saying that life skills are fundamental and they can be developed. We want them to develop these soft skills in good quality settings.
- This isn’t an issue for government alone, it is also in the interest of employers. It is beginning to happen.
- On a positive note we are proud of the National Citizen Service, it is one ship in a fleet of important vessels sailing in the right direction.
All Party Parliamentary Group on Civil Society and Volunteering

- Businesses are very engaged with this, for example Barclays, HSBC, O2. There is a lot of ambition there.
- On a negative note a lot of money is coming out of the system at a local authority level. Many are finding it too easy to cut budgets. No government is going to tell a local authority what to do and not everything that is being cut is necessarily worth keeping.
- We are beginning to see innovative work and we need to pull together resources across the country. We need to involve the voluntary sector and the corporate sector.
- It is a challenging time but we are seeing improvements.

About the APPG on Civil Society

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Civil Society and Volunteering exists to provide a forum for discussing issues affecting the voluntary and community sector with Parliamentarians from across the political spectrum.

How to get involved?

- **Come to a meeting** (details below)
- **Join the group** - APPG members get advance notice of all of our sessions as well as an invitation to our Christmas Parliamentary Reception. Email for details
- **Give us a call, visit our website or follow us on twitter**

Web: [www.ncvo.org.uk/appg](http://www.ncvo.org.uk/appg)  
E mail: [civilsocietyappg@ncvo.org.uk](mailto:civilsocietyappg@ncvo.org.uk)  
Phone: 020 7520 2473  
Twitter: #appgcs

Future Meetings

- **Tuesday 14th October 2014**
- **Tuesday 18th November 2014**
- **Tuesday 9th December 2014 – Christmas Reception**

Please RSVP to Pauleen Colligan-Genova on [civilsocietyappg@ncvo.org.uk](mailto:civilsocietyappg@ncvo.org.uk) or telephone 020 7520 2473.