

"It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness"

CANDL Light



December
2007
to
February
2008



www.barnardos.org.uk/candl

Church and Neighbourhood Development in London

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CANDL?

Child Poverty In London

The London Child Poverty Commission has published an interim report outlining its key issues for tackling child poverty. The report sets out the challenge facing London and a number of ideas for action to reduce child poverty. The Commission will be consulting on these ideas over the next few months in order to strengthen recommendations for its final report due out in Spring 2008. The report is available to download in both full and summary versions. (<http://213.86.122.139/>)

The commission says "London is a world city and the powerhouse behind one of the world's most successful economies. Yet disadvantage and inequality mean that over half a million of London's children (41 per cent) live in poverty. The London Child Poverty Commission has been established to identify ways to reduce and eventually eliminate child poverty in London."

In a list ranking British boroughs (408 in all) according to percentage of children living on key benefits, Tower Hamlets ranked top, Hackney was 4th, Southwark 7th, Lambeth 11th and Lewisham 22nd. Nearly one in five (20 per cent) of all children across Great Britain in families on key benefits live in London.

We are including in this edition of *CANDL Light* figures for the number of children living in workless families in the wards of Hackney and Tower Hamlets. These are

important figures and should cause us to reflect, and consider how we can respond to the issues raised. But perhaps, also, we should sound a note of warning. An overemphasis on measurable indicators can blind us to some of the real day-to-day issues facing families and children. Surely child well-being is



not just about economic poverty but a whole range of factors of which economics is just one - an overemphasis on the economic can mean that children are disadvantaged in other ways. The obvious one, of course, is that forcing parents to go out to work might improve the financial situation of the family but it might well impoverish children in other ways. Not necessarily, but it may.

These are complex issues and a simplistic approach based simply on what can be measured is not going to produce real progress. In *CANDL* project we are committed to supporting families and children in a holistic way rather than trying to meet targets set by distant bureaucracies, however well-intentioned they might be! See stats on page 4

James Ashdown

London Child Poverty Commission

FINDING

Connecting Communities

Connecting Communities Plus, Community Grants, welcomes applications from small, locally run and managed voluntary and community organisations, often run by volunteers, who want to **improve opportunities for people locally and to improve relations between people of different ethnic and/or faith backgrounds**. This fund is aimed at a local level and CDF believes local communities are in an excellent position to work with others to improve

CANDLLight

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If you would like to submit an article about your church's community initiative, or an issue of importance to you, or you'd like us to include your flyers/information in one of our mailings, please contact us – details above.

The deadline for inclusion with the March issue of *CANDLLight* is
Friday 22nd February

CANDL is a Barnardo's Project committed to supporting church groups of all denominations in their work with children, young people and families. In *CANDL Light* you will find reports on some of our current involvements, together with up-to-date bulletins on other local developments and opportunities for churches.

Barnardo's vision, which succinctly encapsulates CANDL's own, is expressed as...

'..that the lives of all children and young people should be free from poverty, abuse and discrimination'.

their own situations.

The Community Development Foundation is administering **Round 3** of this grants scheme on behalf of the department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), to **increase race equality and community cohesion**.

The Fund has **four key priorities** derived from 'Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society', the Government strategy to increase race equality and community cohesion:

A. Improving the experience of people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds in relation to access to and outcomes from public services - education, employment, health, housing and the Criminal Justice System

B. Increasing the confidence of people from BME backgrounds that public services are delivered in a fair and equitable way

C. Tackling racism and extremism

D. Bringing together communities from different races and faiths, and promoting a shared sense of belonging (community cohesion)

Priorities **B and C** were undersubscribed in the first and second rounds and we are particularly interested to fund projects that contribute to these priorities in the third round.

2007 saw the 200th anniversary of the passage of the 1807 Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. The Race

Equality Unit supported projects in round two which focused on commemorating the bicentenary. In this round, besides the 4 key priorities CDF are looking for projects that will focus on the legacy of the slave trade and how it affects us today. The Government wants to ensure that as well as commemorating the past we learn from the legacy and look forward by focusing on what still needs to happen in order to tackle inequality, poverty and slavery as it exists today.

Further information on the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade can be found on the websites: www.communities.gov.uk www.directgov.uk/slavery www.setallfree.net

Guidance notes and application forms are available to download at www.cdf.org.uk

If you would like to talk to CDF about this fund please ring 01223 400343 or email them at ccplus@cdf.org.uk.

CDF are happy to provide feedback on draft applications which are received before 11 December 2007.

Closing date for applications is 8th January 2008.

Please note: organisations who have been successful in round one or two cannot apply again in round three. Organisations can only receive one Connecting Communities Plus, Community Grant. However, organisations that applied but were unsuccessful in rounds one or two can apply in round three. □

FUNDING

Getting a head start with a good fundraising letter!

To start with, here are five simple writing techniques that can help anyone who wants to get their message over more effectively.

1. Make your sentences short with an average of 16 words. No sentence should be longer than 32 words. The easiest sentence to read is 8 words long.
2. Make your paragraphs short, particularly the first. Have one thought in each paragraph.
3. Words should be short and lively, not long and dull. i.e. 'Love' not 'affection', 'buy' not 'purchase', 'free' not 'complimentary'.
4. Cut out needless words because they slow down reading. E.g. "miss out on" to "miss", "crisis situation" to "crisis", and "for free" to "free"
5. Beware of stale expressions. E.g. 'At the end of the day', 'to be honest with you', 'frankly' and 'when push comes to shove'. These phrases slow down reading and usually add nothing to the meaning of a sentence.



Now on to the fundraising letter itself. These are the bones, but the full content can be found at: http://www.flyingkite.co.uk/latest_tips_and_tricks.html

1. **Give priority to the headline** – don't underestimate its power! Consider what would draw the eyes of the reader, what they'd be interested in and if it's easy to read.
2. **Make the first paragraph fantastic!** Too often, the first sentence and first paragraphs in fundraising letters are badly designed. Think about people's emotional response to your words. People relate to people. Write in a simple conversational style.
3. **Keep sentences short and leave plenty of white space.** Most people feel overwhelmed

by big chunks of text on a page. The average person prefers white space and short sentences. So use big borders, nice paragraph returns, and "easy-to-read" sentences.

4. **Use quotations.** People like quotes. Not necessarily long quotes, but just enough speech to add colour. Quotations will help keep your letter personal and human. You could even consider using quotation marks in your headline.
5. **Count the number of times you say "You".** See if you can turn these words around into "You", and "Your" sentences. For example: "We want to provide aid to people suffering in Basingstoke." Could be changed to: "You can help us provide aid to the people suffering in Basingstoke." Or: "Will you help provide aid to people suffering in Basingstoke?"
6. **Consider using testimonials.** Why not use more testimonials in your copy? It's such a simple and effective way to improve your credibility. Just make sure you get full permission before you print the quotes.
7. **Try to be specific rather than vague.** Being more specific adds to your writing credibility. Writing in vague terms usually happens because the writer doesn't know much about the subject they're talking about.
8. **Emphasise words** – but do it carefully. **Bold**, underlining, *italics* and **CAPITALS** – can all aid the role of communication. Use these techniques carefully. By picking out the words we naturally stress in conversation, it can make the text appear more interesting to read.
9. **Re-write your work as many times as you can.** No-one writes perfectly the first time. 99.9% of people will see things they can improve when they re-read their own copy. So re-write your own material again ...and again ... and again.
10. **Get someone else to read your work.** Always take the time to get your copy double-checked, but don't be surprised when others suggest changes that you don't agree with! Take criticism kindly but remember you don't have to change everything you're told to – especially if there is no logical reason behind the alteration.

Gleaned from www.flyingkite.co.uk □

Child Poverty in Hackney and Tower Hamlets — the stats

Ward Code	Ward Name	Children dependent on workless benefits - Aged 0-15	Children on Child Benefit 0-15	% 0-15 dependent on Worklessness
Hackney North and Stoke Newington		171215	370755	46.2%
00AMGA	Brownswood	890	1910	46.6%
00AMGH	Hackney Downs	1140	2560	44.5%
00AMGM	Leabridge	800	2315	34.6%
00AMGS	Stoke Newington Central	710	2110	33.6%
00AMGD	Clissold	695	2310	30.1%
00AMGP	New River	1010	3465	29.1%
00AMGR	Springfield	1175	4070	28.9%
00AMGN	Lordship	910	3370	27.0%
00AMGB	Cazenove	835	3535	23.6%
Hackney South and Shoreditch		81525	172555	47.2%
00AMGL	King's Park	1310	2595	50.5%
00AMGC	Chatham	1425	2850	50.0%
00AMGK	Hoxton	1110	2225	49.9%
00AMGT	Victoria	1440	2890	49.8%
00AMGU	Wick	1250	2570	48.6%
00AMGJ	Haggerston	1150	2480	46.4%
00AMGQ	Queensbridge	1140	2475	46.1%
00AMGF	De Beauvoir	975	2150	45.3%
00AMGG	Hackney Central	1045	2375	44.0%
00AMGE	Dalston	970	2285	42.5%
Poplar and Canning Town		34855	73830	47.2%
00BGCC	East India and Lansbury	1925	3585	53.7%
00BGGF	Mile End East	1585	3095	51.2%
00BGGD	Limehouse	1650	3340	49.4%
00BGFY	Blackwall and Cubitt Town	1315	2690	48.9%
00BGGB	Bromley-by-Bow	1845	3815	48.4%
00BGGK	Shadwell	1445	3030	47.7%
00BGGG	Millwall	1020	2255	45.2%
Bethnal Green and Bow		12035	26010	46.3%
00BGFZ	Bow East	960	1845	52.0%
00BGGH	St Dunstan's and Stepney Green	2090	4090	51.1%
00BGGE	Mile End and Globe Town	1360	2805	48.5%
00BGFV	Bethnal Green North	1295	2755	47.0%
00BGGM	Weavers	1140	2490	45.8%
00BGFY	Bethnal Green South	1545	3385	45.6%
00BGGN	Whitechapel	1155	2590	44.6%
00BGGA	Bow West	990	2280	43.4%
00BGGJ	Spitalfields and Banglatown	805	1960	41.1%
00BGGK	St Katherine's and Wapping	695	1810	38.4%

To Smack or Not to Smack

It's the age-old question, isn't it. Smacking children as a form of punishment has been around since the cave man and woman wanted their children to behave acceptably. Many of us, if we are honest, have 'tapped' our children at some point; it's a release for frustration, and something we do when we really can't think of anything else.

But some forms of smacking are against the law. In 2005, a new smacking law came into force, which means that parents in England and Wales who smack children so hard that it leaves a mark could face up to five years in prison. Mild smacking is allowed and is defined as 'reasonable chastisement', but any punishment which causes visible bruising, grazes, scratches, minor swellings or cuts is against the law. It is also illegal to hit a child with an 'instrument' – a belt, for example.

At the time this law was brought in, there was considerable outcry from those opposed to any kind of smacking, and the government promised to look at

the subject again in the future. This has been done over the summer, and in October the findings were published. Having surveyed parents and children, the Government has ruled out a complete ban on smacking on the grounds that the majority of parents oppose such a move. The law will stay as it is, and the Government will encourage parents to look at other ways of disciplining their children.

Many organisations, including Barnardo's belong to the Children are Unbeatable Alliance, which opposes smacking in any shape or form. The Alliance has campaigned for a total ban for several years, and will continue to do so. Here at CANDL our parenting Programme, 'Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities', offers parents many alternatives to smacking, whilst acknowledging that for a small minority of parents it is a last resort. It is worth remembering though, that children are the only section of the population whom it is legal to assault; is that really what we want for families in the 21st century? □

Safeguarding Children and Young People

The CANDL team supports church groups with implementing safe practices for the work they do with children and families. We offer advice and consultancy to church groups who may need help in developing their child protection policies and can provide safeguarding training for staff and volunteers. We have resources in safeguarding children and young people and can provide information on organisations providing a Criminal Records Bureau processing service, one of which is Child Protection Advisory Service - www.ccpas.co.uk.

At CANDL our main focus is to support churches in implementing a comprehensive child protection policy as well as keeping up to date with government guidance and legislation such as the Every Child Matters 5 outcomes:

- ◆ Be Healthy

- ◆ Stay safe
- ◆ Enjoy and achieve
- ◆ Make a positive contribution
- ◆ Achieve economic well-being

The government's aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to achieve the above outcomes. We encourage churches to explore the 'Safe from Harm' Code of Practice which is well presented for churches at www.watton.org/abuse/safe

CANDL will support churches in creating safe environments within their church worship times as well as their wider community programmes. We recognise that many churches already address these outcomes within their ser-



vices. Our safeguarding training aims to equip churches with tools that will identify any gaps and train youth leaders, volunteers and staff in having an awareness of the different signs of abuse and the procedures which should be in place.

If you would like us to work with you in providing a safe environment or would like training in safeguarding children and young people, please contact us at www.CANDL@barnardos.org.uk tel: 0207 729 9701. □

Stories...

from P A C E
Parent And Community Education

As you'll gather from the accompanying issue of *PACEsetter*, or from articles in previous *CANDL Lights*, our *Strengthening families, Strengthening Communities* programmes have been something of a runaway success. Over 120 parents have now completed the 13-week programme, and we are developing more formal partnerships with churches who host them and work with us.

The stories flow in after each programme from parents who tell us their family relationships have been dramatically improved: young dads engaging with fatherhood, children no longer needing 'special attention' at school, parents learning to deal with their own anger and frustration, mums learning to care for themselves as well as their children, parents finding new support networks, becoming school governors or getting themselves onto train-

ing courses or back into employment, and some becoming trained as facilitators to run future SFSC programmes themselves.

We have collected a few of the parents' stories in a small booklet 'Stories from PACE' which we will be using to attract host organisations, sponsors, and funders in the coming year. If you would like a copy please contact Margaret at CANDL. □



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Get Networked!

Sharing information and experiences with other churches and groups doing work in your field can be enormously helpful in keeping up your morale, and in spotting opportunities for resources or joint working.

Two such networks focus on London churches and the agencies that work alongside them, and meet approximately quarterly:

The **London Churches Poverty Network** meets next from 11-1 on Tuesday 16th January at PECAN, 121a Peckham High Street, SE15 (bring your own lunch); and the **London Churches Refugee Network** meets from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday 24th January at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1 (refreshments provided from 5:30-6)

Further details about either network from
Chris Brice - 020 7932 1121
chris.brice@london.anglican.org

The **CANDL** team
wishes you a
joyful and holy
Christmas,
and a blessed,
energetic and
inspired start
to the
New Year!

Peter's Café

A new community cafe - called "Peter's Cafe" - opened in June! They are open Mon - Weds 12noon- 7pm, in the crypt of St Peter de Beauvoir Church, on the corner of Northchurch Terrace and De Beauvoir Road, just south of Dalston. The cafe is run by the London Catholic Worker group, which also runs a house of hospitality for refugees and a Sunday afternoon drop-in in Lower Clapton.

They welcome all sections of the local community, and especially people who are on low incomes, isolated or struggling to cope in any way, and hope the cafe will be a place people can go to find a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, a place where they can meet people from other parts of the local community they might not otherwise meet: A kind of cross between a cafe and an informal centre for the local community.

Prices are low: for example tea 20p, coffee 25p, toast 20p. Currently we do hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and rolls, jacket potatoes and home made soup, but hope to expand our range as we get busier. The café is non-profit and run by volunteers, and may be able to offer some food for free, depending on circumstances.

As well as wanting to encourage more people to come as visitors / customers, the group also needs more volunteers.

Contact LCW on 020 7249 0041 or at www.londoncatholicworker.org □



Sponsor CANDL Light?

Do you value receiving CANDL Light? We send around 550 copies, four times a year, to church leaders across east and south London. We know from the feedback we get that it is well-received and, indeed, helps churches develop their work with children and young people.

Many other newsletters have shifted to e-mail only versions, but we know that for many churches this does not work very well so for now we're sticking to paper!

We are looking for sponsors to help us keep up this good work. We need around £1000 per issue to cover all the costs involved. Would your church or organisation like to sponsor or part-sponsor an issue, and have a recognition of this in that issue? Call Simon on 020 7729 9701 to start the ball rolling! □

Facing the Unthinkable Child Abuse and the Church

A specially designed seminar run by the **Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service** for all those working with children in churches and other organisations.



Saturday 16th February
9.00am - 1.30pm
Sittingbourne, Kent

Saturday 1st March
9.00am - 1.30pm
Stanmore, London

The cost is **£17.50** (including a workbook, value £5.00) with 1 free place for every 5 booked. If you can't manage the full fee CCPAS will accept whatever you can afford.

Send your booking fee, giving the date you want to attend, your name, address and telephone number to **CCPAS, Box 133 Swanley, Kent, BR8 7UQ**

If your church/organisation would like a seminar all of its own, this can also be arranged.

For more info

tel. **0845 120 45 50** or email info@ccpas.co.uk

CCPAS also has an excellent booklet '**Safe and Secure: ensuring the well-being of children and young people within the church community**' which you can download free from their website www.ccpas.co.uk

If your church project would like to explore how you can make children safer within your community work **CANDL** could also facilitate a training session for you (see p.5) Give us a call on 020 7729 9701

What can CANDL do for you?

Are you interested in developing the work of your church with children, young people and families in the community? CANDL is a Barnardo's project committed to supporting churches of all denominations in such work.

We work from the understanding that

- everyone is of unique value to God, and should be treated as such
- God's design for all people is that they realise their full potential
- churches have a major role to play in actively striving for equality, justice and peace across society as a whole and, specifically within their local communities.

CANDL is here to work alongside churches and church organisations.

We won't do the work for you, but we will work with you in establishing, running, and developing community initiatives or campaigns which benefit children,

young people and families. We can help you through advice/information, group consultancy, individual mentoring (or non-managerial supervision), training, networking opportunities, help with team building, safeguarding children policies/procedures, recruiting or supporting volunteers, developing your structures (Governance), community profiling and other research, improving your fundraising, and evaluation.

Our remit means that initiatives we work with MUST:

- benefit children, young people or families, and be church-originated or related
- be in Hackney or Tower Hamlets, or be connected with a BME Church in east or south London
- aim to be a group's rather than an individual's project, and to meet community needs
- be able to work within CANDL's basis and values and policies.

Initiatives we are particularly keen to work with MIGHT:

- ? aim to provide safe environments for children's care, play or learning
- ? raise awareness of, or respond to health needs, especially regarding emotional well-being/mental health or substance misuse
- ? come from a BME Church with limited wider denominational resources
- ? involve supporting family life or parenting, especially through parenting education
- ? involve meeting BME children or young people's educational needs or wider participation in society, especially through the creative arts
- ? involve the inclusion of disabled children or young people

If you think we might be able to help your church community initiative... get in touch (contact details on p.2).

Work with CANDL?

CANDL has a core team of staff (see p.2) and early in 2008 we'll be advertising a **30 hours/week Project Worker** post, with a particular emphasis on developing our **creative arts youth work** programmes in partnership with Solid As A Rock (see accompanying Solid News). If you might be interested, let us know so we can ensure you get the application pack. We also aim to maintain a small "pool" of paid Project workers on which we can draw on an "**as and when**" basis - when we have short-term pieces of work which require additional hours.

We are looking for people with **church-related community work** experience who have skills in one or more of the following areas: working with BME (or "Black Majority") churches, community profiling or research, project evaluation, community project management, training groups, or creative arts work with young people. The work could involve anything from 2 to 20 hours a week, occasionally in the evening or at weekends, usually in short-term stretches of a few weeks or months. We wouldn't be able to guarantee any specific amount of work and, likewise, people in the pool are not obliged to take up pieces of work if they don't want to - e.g. if they have home or other work commitments that make it difficult. Pay is around £12.50 an hour.

If you (or a member of your congregation or organisation) are interested and would like an **informal chat** to explore this opportunity further, please call Simon at CANDL.

Thought for the Quarter

"Children need more time: time to grow, time to play, time to discover themselves.

They need space for the imagination.

They don't need to be protected, supervised and muffled at every turn.

Otherwise they end up very pale spiritually and physically."

Archbishop Rowan Williams