



Get Heard Locally!

Use the Get Heard report to Get Active

The Get Heard project will end in September 2006, so our most important priority now is to make sure that all the groups who held a Get Heard workshop get a copy of the report, and some ideas to help you use the report to campaign.

Some groups are already moving forward with new activities:

- « Migrants' groups in London are publishing a report of their workshops to help raise issues important to migrants. They have also set up a media monitoring group.
- « A group of older people in Norfolk is making links with developers in their area to ensure that developers planning new sheltered housing get input from older people about the kind of sheltered housing they want.
- « A group of families in London meet regularly as "Voices for Action" and are now undertaking a peer research project to find out what people living on local estates think of the services they use.
- « Members of a Get Heard workshop in Scotland spoke to a committee at the Scottish Parliament about the important issues in their communities, and how people experiencing poverty must be involved in government decision-making.
- « People from Get Heard workshops travelled to the European Commission in Belgium to talk about their workshops and the issues that were raised in their discussions.

Here are a few ideas of ways you can use the report to campaign on issues that were raised in your Get Heard workshop:

Talk to the decision makers

Contact your local Councillor

Councillors can listen to problems with locally provided services, such as housing, waste and recycling, and transport. To find your local council on the internet, type [www.\[yourcouncil\].gov.uk](http://www.[yourcouncil].gov.uk) e.g. www.sheffield.gov.uk. To find out who your local councillor is, check www.writetothem.com or ask at your town hall or local library.

Write to your MP or MEP

You can write to your Member of Parliament about any concerns you have about national government policy – from benefits or employment rights, to crime or health services. MPs hold regular 'surgeries' (meeting times) in each constituency where you can speak face to face with your MP.

Check your local library for information, or telephone the MP's office. To find out who your local MP is, check out www.writetothem.com.

Speak out!

Write to your local paper

This can be a very simple way to get your issues and concerns out in the open. Write a letter from your workshop group to the local paper.

To get the best chance of being published you will need to keep your letter short and to the point, try to put in

a good 'hook' – such as a true life story. And don't forget to check the spelling before you post your letter! You can get more tips from the website www.campaignon.com - click on the link "writing to the press" on the left side bar. You can also write to the NCVO (National Council of Voluntary Organisations) and ask for their JustASK leaflet on campaigning and using the media: Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints St, London. N1 9RL. Tel: 020 7713 6161.

Network

Join your regional UK anti-poverty network ...

... and be part of other national and regional projects like Get Heard. The anti-poverty networks in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are all part of the Get Heard project.

European Anti Poverty Network in England (EAPN-E)

114 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HL

Tel: 0115 911 0455

Email: eapn@cefet.org.uk

Poverty Alliance (in Scotland)

162 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LL

Tel: 0141 353 0440

Email: admin@povertyalliance.org

Northern Ireland Anti Poverty Network (NIAPN)

58 Howard Street, Belfast BT1 6PJ

Tel: 0845 120 3771 or 028 9024 4525

Email: info@niapn.org

Anti Poverty Network Cymru (APNC)

Flat 3, Winchfawr House, Landsbury Road, Gellideg, Merthyr Tydfil CF8 1HA

Tel: Mon, Wed, Fri: 01685 383 929

Tues, Thurs: 029 203 34500

SO NOW WHAT?

Now it's up to you! This is your project, and your words are in the Get Heard report. If you want to take this further, then get involved, and carry on Getting Heard!

After September 2006

You can get more information about Get Heard, and find out about future activities, from your regional anti-poverty network (see contacts on this page), or from

UK Coalition Against Poverty

1-27 Bridport Street

Liverpool

L3 5QF

Tel: 0151 709 3008

Email: ukcap@ukcap.org

Good Luck!

