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MEDIA RELEASE

NPC calls for more preventative measures to tackle child abuse

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Eradicating child abuse can only be achieved by focusing more on preventative measures and supporting charities who take this approach, according to a new report.

The report, *Not seen and not heard*, by New Philanthropy Capital (NPC) says that although the government spends an estimated £1.8 billion a year tackling child abuse, most of the focus is on child protection, not preventing abuse or dealing with its long-term effects. NPC estimates that at least 80,000 children in the UK are abused every year.

NPC, an independent, non-profit making organisation which advises charitable donors, calls for a multi-faceted approach to deal effectively with the problem and says that charities can play a crucial role in addressing the causes, as well as the effects of abuse.

NPC says effective work with perpetrators of child sexual abuse is crucial in order to tackle the problem. The majority of sexual abusers are unknown to the police, and therefore have no access to services that may prevent them from harming children. One of the charities NPC recommends is the Lucy Faithfull Foundation. It started the Stop it Now! programme in 2002 offering advice to individuals concerned about their own behaviour, the behaviour of a family member or friends, and parents and carers concerned about the behaviour of a child. Contrary to paedophile stereotypes, most sexual abuse is carried out by someone known to the victim and between one quarter and one third of sexual abuse is perpetrated by under 18s.

By offering advice, the Stop it Now! programme can help to identify and prevent abuse. Since the help-line's launch, the number of callers has grown steadily with 150 calls a month in 2005/2006.

Martin Brookes, NPC's director of Research, said:

"If we want to prevent abuse, we need to raise awareness and provide advice both to potential victims and abusers to reduce the risk of offending. NPC strongly supports the work of charities such as the Lucy Faithfull Foundation and Eighteen and Under, because the problem of child abuse will only be dealt with effectively by doing everything we can to stop abuse happening in the first place."

Another charity recommended is Dundee-based Eighteen and Under, which runs the 'Violence Is Preventable' programme. Through the use of videos, discussion and interactive games, children are encouraged to recognise unsafe or uncomfortable situations and are taught simple messages to keep them safe, while also offering

training to parents, teachers and youth workers. Its work also leads to children reporting abuse that has happened to them—this is striking because the majority of abused children tell no-one at the time.

The report estimates that there could be as many as 5.5 million adult survivors of child abuse in the UK alone, most of whom did not report abuse when it took place and fell through the net of the child protection system.

NPC says there is also a serious lack of funding for charities working with the survivors but it highlights the work of The Survivors Trust, an umbrella body that aims to coordinate local survivors' charities in an effort to raise the profile and resources of this area.

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For further information about NPC, its research reports and charity recommendations, or to arrange an interview please contact:

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Notes to Editors

1. New Philanthropy Capital advises all types of donors on how to give more effectively. It identifies examples of charities with highly effective approaches to tackling problems in the sector. By recommending these charities to potential donors, NPC aims to increase the quantity and quality of resources available to the charitable sector.
2. NPC focuses on human welfare, including problems in communities and families, education, and health and disability in the UK. NPC has published research on sectors ranging from cancer to older people, and domestic violence to special educational needs.
3. NPC develops a detailed understanding of social problems by talking to policy-makers, practitioners, academics and other experts. Its charity recommendations are arrived at after visiting and analysing charities across the sector. Assessments are made of the achievements, the need for additional funding, the financial structure and fundraising potential, as well as the risks.
4. NPC uses its research and experience to help donors ensure they have high impact and a rewarding experience. This can involve developing a tailored giving strategy to meet specific goals, selecting which charities to support and reporting on impact. Donors can also access all of NPC's research and charity recommendations at no cost on NPC's website.
5. This report, *Not seen and not heard*, is based on 18 months of research, including interviews with 50 leading experts in the field, visits to and detailed analysis of more than 30 projects across the UK, and consultation with government, local authorities, police, charities, academics, trusts and foundations.
6. NPC recommends eight effective charities and projects in the field of child abuse:
 - Barnardo's Sexual Exploitation Services
 - Children's Rights Alliance for England
 - Community Service Volunteers' Volunteers in Child Protection programme
 - Eighteen and Under
 - Lucy Faithfull Foundation
 - NSPCC's ChildLine and there4me services
 - Survivors Trust
 - Wave (Worldwide Alternatives to Violence) Trust