

Media Release

Embargoed until 00.01 hours Saturday 16 June 2007

Spending on truancy charities can save taxpayers' money

Failure to tackle truancy is costing the economy £800 million each year but one third of this could easily be saved, according to a new report from New Philanthropy Capital.

The report, *Misspent Youth**, calculates that each of the UK's 200,000 persistent truants costs £44,468 over their lifetime in lost earnings, lower tax receipts, higher crime, increased pressure on health services and benefits. For all persistent truants, this amounts to £8.8bn, or £800m each year.

The report also highlights the burden exclusions from school place on the economy. Each of the 10,000 exclusions a year costs £63,851.

However, NPC, an independent, non-profit making organisation which advises charitable donors, shows how the methods used by two small charities has dramatically cut the numbers of truants and exclusions in their areas.

The Learning Challenge, which operates in the North East, runs intensive classes for truants to address their behavioural problems and has a proven record in increasing school attendance. School-Home Support operates in London and York and deals with school problems that originate in the family. Each charity succeeds in tackling the underlying problems, and reducing truancy or preventing exclusions, in up to a third of cases.

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

"Children who truant waste their potential, which is itself a tragedy. But truancy also wastes a massive amount of taxpayers' money.

"Reducing truancy by one third would pay for an extra teacher in every secondary school. Cutting the number of exclusions by one quarter would pay for a doubling of spending on books. There are fantastic returns from investing in charities that bring a fresh approach to the problem."



New
Philanthropy
Capital

The report presents detailed calculations and sources for all data used in order to demonstrate the high returns for both private donors as well as government in supporting charities such as The Learning Challenge and School-Home Support. For instance, NPC calculates that each £1 spent by The Learning Challenge produces £11.60 in savings.

NPC recommends the setting up of a wider Results Library of the costs of a range of social problems, such as truancy, and the returns for charities which address them. It advocates an investment approach to charitable giving, seeking the highest returns for donors.

-Ends-

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

Sue Wixley, New Philanthropy Capital
Tel: 020 7785 6317
Or 079 32688 431

Claire Kearney, Quiller Consultants
Peter Wilson-Smith, Quiller Consultants
Tel : 020 7233-9444

Registered
charity
No 1091450

Philanthropy Capital, 3 Downstream, 1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9BG
Tel 020 7785 6300 Fax 020 7785 6301 Email info@philanthropycapital.org Website
www.philanthropycapital.org

A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 4244715. Registered address as above.

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 NPC's research and some of its recommendations at no cost on NPC's website.