

Press release – 29.11.2012

## **COMMUNICATION COALITION TO CONTRIBUTE TO *BREAKTHROUGH BRITAIN II***

The Communication Trust, a coalition of nearly 50 voluntary organisations with expertise in speech, language and communication, has welcomed the focus on children and young people not succeeding in school in the new policy enquiry *Breakthrough Britain II*.

The new study, which will run until 2014, will explore the fundamental causes of poverty and social breakdown, which the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) has identified as welfare dependency, family breakdown, educational failure, drug and alcohol addiction and serious personal debt. Trust Professional Director Wendy Lee will be part of the working group on educational failure, which will feed into the overall report.

Wendy Lee said: “The research evidencing the poor language of children living in socially disadvantaged areas is becoming stronger and stronger and we know the massive impact poor language has on educational success, attainment and on long term prospects for children and young people in socially disadvantaged areas. We also know how strong language skills can help children in these areas “buck the trend” and do well in school and beyond.

“We are pleased to be able to feed in the issues for these children and some of the evidenced solutions and our optimistic about the impact the report could have on children’s life chances.”

The CSJ also commissioned a YouGov poll to coincide with the launch of the study aimed at identifying the causes of the serious social problems facing Britain. About 55 per cent of people surveyed said at least one of their local communities features broken families, crime and poor schools.

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### **Notes to editors**

[About The Communication Trust](#)

- The Communication Trust is a coalition of nearly 50 leading voluntary sector organisations, which raises awareness, influences policy, promotes best practice among the children's workforce and commissions work from its members.
- The Trust ran *Hello* the national year of communication – in conjunction with Jean Gross, the Government's Communication Champion for Children to make children's communication a priority in homes and schools across the UK.
- For more information about the Trust visit [www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk)