

## **PRESS RELEASE**

5 February 2008

### **GOVERNMENT MUST START TO HEAL DAMAGED ADULT- CHILD RELATIONSHIP IN UK, SAYS CCPAS**

The Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) today warned that a strong lead is needed by government and organisations serving children to start to heal damaged adult-child relationship in the UK. The rise of the compensation culture, a fear of getting involved in even obvious cases where children are in danger, such as bullying in the street, and a general culture in which children are kept at arms length from adults are examples, says CCPAS, of situations that have led to a general distancing between children and adults that has never been greater.

CCPAS, one of the UK's leading experts in advising places of worship and organisations in safeguarding children, welcomed the government's emphasis on improving safety on the road, at home and in addressing the very real dangers posed to children through the internet and use of mobile phones. The lessening of bureaucracy to encourage more school trips is also good news for children and teachers.

However, Executive Director of CCPAS David Pearson warned that education authorities and some other institutions need also to address fundamental attitudes that have become part of the problem and which have done little to address children's real needs. He commented: "This has led to such absurdities as banning conkers and egg and spoon races, calling in a parent to remove a bee sting from a child's arm at school or put a plaster on, prohibiting teachers from holding the hand of an upset five year old in the playground or applying sunscreen on a hot day".

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

CCPAS has issued guidance to children's workers as a response to the government 'Saying Safe' consultation – see <http://www.ccpas.co.uk/Documents/Help%20-%20work%20safeley.pdf>

CCPAS is an independent Christian charity providing professional child protection advice and support across church denominations and organisations throughout the UK.

CCPAS was established in 1977. It assists churches, organisations, social services and other child care agencies as well as individual children and families by:

- helping churches and other organisations adopt safe practice in order to protect children from abuse – and youth workers from the possibility of false allegations
- advising on individual cases, giving ongoing help to leaders and others.
- training across the UK and providing “in-house” training and other resources
- acting as external consultants to denominational/organisational child protection advisors
- counselling individual adults or children about past or present abuse.

For more information, please see [www.ccpas.co.uk](http://www.ccpas.co.uk)