

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CHILDHOOD IN EUROPE

draft
INVITATION

Working Group on the Quality of Childhood at the European Parliament (QoC)

**MEP Anna Hedh
MEP Kostas Chrysogonos
MEP Deirdre Clune
MEP Arne Gericke
MEP Nathalie Griesbeck
MEP Karin Kadenbach
MEP József Nagy
MEP Evelyn Regner
MEP Julie Ward**

This session will be hosted by:

MEP Julie Ward (Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, UK)

56th session:

'CURIOUS MINDS: THE ENGLISH APPROACH TO OFFER RICH EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMES TO ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'

The presentation will be given by **Derri Burdon**, the Chief Executive of Curious Minds, a charitable company in the North West of England dedicated to helping children and young people achieve their greatest asset: their creative potential.

Time: Tuesday 12 January 2016 from 13.30 until 15.30 hours

Location: European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, Brussels, Altiero Spinelli, Room A5G305

Entrance: We will gather at the Entrance at Place Luxembourg at 13.00 hours and enter together into the building. Please be in time. It is obligatory to take your passport and/or ID Card with you.

1. Introduction

In most societies some children are better off and receive a richer offer of educational and cultural experiences than others, and as a consequence they will also have the benign benefits of this richer cultural environment.

In England the authorities realised that in some areas the cultural education offer to children and young people is excellent, while in other areas there is a real dearth of provision. For this reason the English government asked Darren Henley to investigate this matter, which resulted in the report entitled 'Cultural Education in England, An independent review by Darren Henley for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Education'.

As a response to this report the Arts Council England decided to create a stronger infrastructure to support the cultural and educational sectors to deliver a rich educational and cultural offer that would reach all children. One of the concrete follow up steps was its decision to fund ten regional Bridge organisations (Curious Minds is one of them) to use their expertise and local knowledge to connect children and young people with great arts and culture. Since April 2012, Bridge organisations have come to play a vital role in building local cultural education alliances and bringing in more revenue to support cultural activity in schools and communities across England.

2. The Mission of Curious Minds

The company's mission is to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people by connecting them with high quality cultural and creative learning opportunities. Curious Minds does this by brokering partnerships with and between schools, youth groups, arts and cultural organisations to create a climate where quality and collaboration flourish. By keeping a 'foot in the door' of both the education and cultural sectors, we aim to be expert and honest brokers of multi-stakeholder and cross-artform partnerships.

Curious Minds work is underpinned by a set of **core beliefs**:

- We believe it is everyone's right to have the opportunity to realise their creative potential.
- Cultural education is integral to the happiness of children and their families, to the strength of local communities and to the economic progress of the country.
- We believe schools have a key role to play in enabling children to experience the pleasures, the camaraderie and the life-changing skills that art and culture bring.
- We believe that art, culture and creativity have an extraordinary capability to transform the lives of individuals and communities and that everyone should have access to them from an early age.
- Instead of 'closing the gap', we believe in 'filling the gap' with rich cultural experiences.
- We believe that collaboration and that thinking and action that emerges from partnership working is more powerful than that which any single individual or organisation can produce on their own.
- We believe in dialogue as an essential basis for learning and change.
- We believe in listening to children and young people and in placing their ideas, interests and concerns at the core of our work.
- We believe in generously sharing our knowledge, thinking and learning with others.

3. The Organisation of Curious Minds, its Strategy and its Flagship Programmes

Organisation

Curious Minds is a charitable company with an annual budget of £2m, and 18 employees. Its area of work is the North West of England: Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside and it works with 5770 educational establishments, 1,070,000 children and young people, 13 Music Education Hubs, 75 National Portfolio Organisations, 314 Museums and 440 local libraries.

Strategy

The strategy of Curious Minds is not to deliver itself the educational and cultural services to the children and young people, but instead to build up networks and alliances with and/or between schools, cultural institutions, local authorities etc and to let these organisations provide the services, or in other words, to strengthen the educational and cultural ecology around the child and the young person. The philosophy behind this approach is what the Arts Council England calls 'the Cultural Education Challenge':

A national call to action to give every child and young person the right to:

- Create, compose, perform;
- Visit, experience and participate;
- Know, understand and review.

The Cultural Education Challenge is a direct response to the disparities of opportunity that continue to prevent many children and young people from experiencing the pleasures, the happiness and the life-changing skills that art and culture bring. Children experience a range of barriers to participation, including barriers of: income; class; race and ethnicity; geography, and disability. The Cultural Education Challenge aims to reach children early, at a time when lifelong habits are formed, to build cultural and social capital to 'close the gap'.

Flagship Programmes

Curious Minds has two flagship programmes:

1. Strategic Cultural Education Partnerships
2. Local Cultural Education Partnerships

Strategic Cultural Education Partnerships

Strategic Cultural Education Partnerships function at a regional level to influence policy and practice across a thematic area or embed cultural partnerships within an existing network or programme of work. Under this umbrella Curious Minds developed a focused programme, which they call SLiCE. It stands for Specialist Leaders in Cultural Education. SLiCE facilitates the connection between Teaching Schools with the rich cultural resources on their doorstep.

Local Cultural Education Partnerships

A key aspect of Curious Minds role as Bridge organisation is to mobilise and galvanize multi-stakeholder partnerships across a specific geographic footprint, usually a local authority area. By 2018, Curious Minds will be supporting at least 18 such partnerships across the North West of England.

4. Our questions to Derri Burdon:

- can you give us an insight about the landscape in which Curious Minds operates?
- can you explain to us the organisational framework of which Curious Minds is a part and the underlying philosophy thereof?
- can you tell us about the programmes that Curious Minds is running and share with us why they are so successful?
- how are the cultural activities in general integrated in the school day?
- To what extent can the programmes of Curious Minds be replicated in other countries?

5. Overall objectives of the QoC Talks:

- To gain a better understanding of the Quality of Childhood in the EU Member States. This time we will focus on 'Curious Minds: The English approach to offer rich educational and cultural programmes to all children and young people'.
- To reflect on the role that the European institutions can play to improve the situation.
- To get to grips with the values, principles and approaches that could lead to improvements for children both in Europe and around the world.
- To form an effective working group and to get a sense of how to move on.

We take pleasure in inviting you for the 56th session on 12 January 2016. We believe that we as members of the European Parliament working together with like-minded public interest advocacy groups and committed individuals can and should play an important role in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Hedh
 Kostas Chrysogonos
 Deirdre Clune
 Arne Gericke
 Nathalie Griesbeck
 Karin Kadenbach
 József Nagy
 Evelyn Regner
 Julie Ward
 Members of the European Parliament

Programme Outline for Tuesday 12 January 2016

Time	Subject	Speaker / facilitator
13.30	Opening	MEP Julie Ward
13.40	Reflections regarding the topic from the point of view of the Alliance for Childhood	Christopher Clouder, one of the co-founders of the Alliance for Childhood
13.50	Curious Minds: The English approach to offer rich educational and cultural programmes to all children and young people	Derri Burdon, Chief Executive of Curious Minds
15.40	Discussion	Michiel Matthes, Chairman of the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group
15.20-15.30	Closing remarks	MEP Julie Ward

Disclaimer:

The organisers organise this session on a best effort basis. However changes in parts of the programme or in the entire programme may occur due to unforeseen circumstances and the organisers cannot be held liable for that.

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With the support of the following organisations:



For background information please visit our respective websites:

www.allianceforchildhood.eu

www.learningforwellbeing.org

This programme was developed in cooperation with the **Alliance for Childhood European Network Group**, whose members are:

Alliance ELIANT, Brussels
 ARGE-Erziehungsberatung, Austria
 Beweeg.nl
 Centre for Relational Competence, Denmark
 Christopher Clouder, UK

Michaela Sieh
 Dr. Martina Leibovici
 Elise Sijthoff
 Claes Solborg Pedersen
 Founding Member of the Alliance for
 Childhood

Paulina Dabrowska, Luxembourg
 Dr. René Diekstra, The Netherlands
 European Council for Steiner
 Waldorf Education
 European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants
 (EFCNI)

Dr. Richard Landl and Rosmarie Bluder

EPA (European Parents Association)
 Experiential Education Project, Belgium
 Familylab International, Switzerland
 Familienforum Havelhöhe GmbH
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 Professor Dr. Lea Pulkkinen
 Dr. Hans van Crombrugge

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 Björn Accoe
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 Theo Cappon and Helma Brouwers
 Marie-Nicole Rubio

Maria Nordström
 Professor Dr. Luc Stevens / Nickel van
 der Vorm

Dr. Jean-Pierre Rossie

Saharan & North African Toy and Play Cultures,
 Belgium
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 Stichting Universele Ontwikkeling (NL)
 Universal Education Foundation, Brussels
 Briony Vanden Bussche, Belgium
 Dr. Jan van Gils, Belgium
 Verein mit Kindern Wachsen, Germany

Marijke Sluijter
 Daniel Kropf

Lienhard Valentin/Sabine Heggemann

The sessions held / to be held by the Working Group on the Quality of Childhood at the European Parliament in the period 2006-2016:

5 December 2006	1. 'The Toxic Childhood Syndrome and the Quality of Childhood' with Christopher Clouder (UK) and Professor Hans van Crombrugge (Belgium). Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
9 January 2007	2. 'Really Improving the Education in the European Union requires Systemic Changes' with professor Luc Stevens (Netherlands) and Professor Ferre Laevers (Belgium). Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
6 March 2007	3. 'The Quality of Child-Adult Relationships in Families and School' with Jesper Juul (Denmark). Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
15 May 2007	4. 'The Child: his/her Networks and Neighbourhood' with René Diekstra. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
September 20 2007	5. 'How can we improve in the European Union the Early Childhood Educational Systems' with John Bennett, the author of the OECD Study Starting Strong. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
November 6 2007	6. 'How to let children and adolescents acquire key competences for the world of the 21st century?' with Dr. Martina Leibovici-Mühlberger from Austria and Geseke Lundgren from Sweden. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits
January 8, 2008	7. 'Attachment, what it is, why it is important and what we can do about it to help young children acquire a secure attachment?' with Sir Richard Bowlby. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
March 4, 2008	8. 'A vision on children and childhood in the European Union' by Michiel Matthes. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
May 14, 2008	9. Professor René Diekstra about 'The Changing Face of Adolescence. Accounting for changes in adolescent development and their effects on education and social policies'. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
July 1, 2008	10. Professor Steen Hildebrandt (University of Aarhus, Denmark) about the 'Multiple intelligences in the knowledge-based society'. Host: MEP Rovana Plumb.
September 16, 2008	11. Presentation of the report of the Fundación Marcelino Botín entitled 'Social and Emotional Education, An International Analysis' by Christopher Clouder and Fátima Sánchez Santiago. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
November 12, 2008	12. Professor Boris Cyrulnik from France: 'What measures can we take to improve the quality of childhood in the European Union?' Host: MEP Rovana Plumb.
November 17, 2008	13. Organisation of a Symposium in Bucharest, Romania at the request of MEP Mrs Rovana Plumb: 'A European Policy Agenda for the Quality of Childhood with special emphasis on the case of the children of Romanian migrant workers'.
January 27, 2009	14. Dr. Michel Vandenbroeck (University of Ghent, Belgium) about 'Diversity and Equity in Early Childhood Services'. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
March 3, 2009	15. 'Taking stock of what has been achieved with the Working Group since December 2006 and looking forward' with Michiel Matthes, Secretary-General of the Alliance for Childhood European Network. Host: MEP Karin Resetarits.
April 28, 2009	16. Professor Peter Moss (University of London) about young children and their services: developing a European approach. Host: MEP Rovana Plumb.

September 8, 2009	17. 'Continuing to work on improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union during the present economic downturn' with Professor Emeritus Richard Wilkinson, co-author of the book 'The Spirit Level, Why More Equal Societies Almost Always do Better'. Host: MEP Rovana Plumb.
November 17, 2009	18. The Technical University of Dortmund won the tender issued by the European Commission to execute a Research Project to identify the key research questions regarding families and family policies. The leader of this project, Professor Dr. Uwe Uhlendorff gave a briefing on this Project and spoke about 'Developing a European Research Agenda for Families and Family Policies'. Host: MEP Livia Járóka.
December 8, 2009	19. Why Love Matters: How Affection Shapes a Baby's Brain, and the policy requirements in this respect with Sue Gerhardt, author of the book with the similar title. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
January 12, 2010	20. The PISA Study and lessons learned regarding the Quality of Childhood with Andreas Schleicher, Head of the Indicators and Analysis Division of the OECD Directorate for Education. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
March 2, 2010	21. 'Improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union: the Case of Roma Children' with Ivan Ivanov, Executive Director of the European Roma Information Office (ERIO) and Bernard Rorke, Director of the Roma Initiative Programs of the Open Society Institute (OSI). Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
April 13, 2010	22. Improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union: the Aspect of Parental Leave Policies by Professor Peter Moss of the Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
June 8, 2010	23. 'The City for the Children'. Key-note speaker: Vanessa Pallucchi, Director for Education of Legambiente, Rome, Italy. Host: MEP Vittorio Prodi and MEP Karin Kadenbach.
August 31, 2010	24. 'The impact of television and screen media on the Quality of Childhood and what are good policies in this respect on the level of the family, on the level of the country and on the EU level?' with Dr. Aric Sigman, author of the book 'Remotely controlled, how television is damaging our lives'. Host: MEP Karin Kadenbach.
November 17, 2010	25. 'The proposed research agenda for the European Commission re families and family policies' with Professor Dr. Uwe Uhlendorff of the Technical University Dortmund, Germany. Host: MEP Mr Gerald Häfner
January 11, 2011	26. 'The Quality of the Physical Environment of the Child, the Current Problems in this area, and what needs to be done?' together with the Health and Environment Alliance and the INCHES Network. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
March 1, 2011	27. 'Educating the Art of Life: Resilience and Creativity in Contemporary Education' with David Brierley, Associate Professor at the Rudolf Steiner University College, Oslo Norway. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
March 29, 2011	28. 'A reflection on the European Commission's High Level Group on Literacy' with emeritus Professor Margaret Clark from the UK. Host: MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij.
May 31, 2011	29. 'Learning to move and moving to learn. Why physical development in the early years supports later learning, behaviour and achievement' with Sally Goddard Blythe, Director of The Institute for Neuro-Physiological

	Psychology in the UK. Hosted by MEP Edward McMillan-Scott.
September 6, 2011	30. Presentation of the report 'Learning for Well-being: a Policy Priority for Children and Youth in Europe, A Movement for Change' by Professor Ilona Kickbusch, Director of the Global Health Programme at the Graduate Institute of International Development Studies in Geneva. Host: MEP Karin Kadenbach.
November 8, 2011	31. Alcohol Nation, How to protect our children from today's drinking culture' with Dr. Aric Sigman. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
January 10, 2012	32. Presentation of a Proposal to set up a European Academy for Complementary Pedagogy by Jesper Juul. Host: MEP Judith Merkies.
March 6, 2012	33. 'What Contribution can the Digital Environment make to the Improvement of the Quality of Childhood?' with Professor Martine Delfos from the Netherlands and Thibaut Kleiner of the Cabinet of Euro-commissioner Neelie Kroes. Host: MEP Evelyn Regner.
April 11, 2012	34. 'Improving the Quality of Childhood as a challenge to European institutions: Reflections from the Ombudsmen for Children' with Maria Kaisa Aula, the Finnish Ombudsman for Children. Host: MEP Liisa Jaakonsaari.
5 June 2012	35. The State of Affairs of the Child in the City, and What Needs To Be Done? with Dr. Jan van Gils, President and founder of the European Network of Child Friendly Cities and President of the International Council for Children's Play. Host: MEP Karin Kadenbach
4 September 2012	36. '500,000 Preterm Births in Europe Each Year. What are the Dangers, and What are the Main Components of a Successful Strategy to Address this Challenge?' with Professor Luc Zimmermann (Belgium / Netherlands), Professor Dominique Haumont (Belgium) and Silke Mader (Germany), all working with the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants (EFCNI). Host: MEP Peter Liese.
13 November 2012	37. 'How can we help children to reach their unique potential and how can we support the parents, caregivers and teachers in their role vis-à-vis children' with Dr. Gordon Neufeld from Vancouver, Canada. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
9 January 2013	38. 'Children and their connection with nature: why it is important and how can it be stimulated?' with Tim Gill from the UK. Host: MEP Judith Merkies and MEP Gerald Häfner.
5 March 2013	39. 'IFFD's Family Enrichment Courses: the Case Study Method applied to Family Settings. What it is and how to provide it to more families?' with Marina Robben, President of the International Federation For Family Development (IFFD). Host: MEP Anneli Jäätteenmäki and MEP Anna Záborská.
9 April 2013	40. Finland has the best literacy score in the European Union. What are the main elements of its strategy and to what extent can it be copied by other countries? with Professor Heikki Lyytinen. Host: MEP Liisa Jaakonsaari.
4 June 2013	41. 'The commercialisation of childhood in the USA: what is the current situation, to what extent is it harmful for children, what needs to be done and what are the lessons for the European Union?' with Susan Linn, Founder and Director of the 'Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood'. Host: MEP Anna Záborská.
3 September 2013	42. 'The Human Biotechnology Revolution is opening the door to the creation of genetically modified 'designer babies': what is the current situation?, what

	is at stake at the moment?, what needs to be done?, and what role could the European Union play in this respect?' with Enola Aird, Founder and Director of 'Mothers for a Human Future'. Host: MEP Anna Záborská.
12 November 2013	43. 'Positive human development: a spontaneous or guided process? 45 years of experience with longitudinal research and the policy lessons that can be drawn from it' with Professor Lea Pulkkinen. Host: MEP Anneli Jäätteenmäki.
7 January 2014	44. 'Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Systems in Europe: what are the current trends and what needs to be done?' with Professor Dr. Mathias Urban, Professor of Early Childhood and Director of the Early Childhood Research Centre, University of Roehampton, London, Great Britain. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
4 March 2014	45. Parents' partnership stability and quality as a context for child development. What are the challenges, and what policies and programmes are in place? Some insights from Germany' with Professor Dr. Sabine Walper, Research Director of the German Youth Institute in Munich, Germany. Host: MEP Jürgen Klute.
18 June 2014	46. 'Make the European Parliament a global Child Rights Champion'. The presentations will be given by members of the Child Rights Action Group (CRAG) a.o. Jana Hainsworth of Eurochild, Deirdre de Burca of World Vision and Lilana Keith of PICUM. Host: MEP Gerald Häfner.
8 July 2014	47. 'Youth employment in the EU member states: what is the current situation?, and what is the role of the European Commission in the domain of the Youth Initiative and the Youth Guarantee? Discussion of the Commission's Country Specific Recommendations' with Jeroen Jutte of the European Commission, Head of Unit, DG EMPL, Unit C1 European Employment Strategy and Governance. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
9 September 2014	48. 'Developing inclusive systems across Education, Health and Social sectors for early school leaving prevention' with Dr. Paul Downes of Saint Patrick's College, Dublin City University. Host: MEP Julie Ward.
18 November 2014	49. 'The Mental Health Situation of Children and Young People in the European Union: What is the Current Situation and What could be done?' with Professor Ulrike Ravens-Sieberer and Dr. Veronika Ottova-Jordan. Host: MEP Anna Hedh.
6 January 2015	50. 'The effect of the Great Recession on Southern European Children's and Adolescents' Adaptation and Wellbeing: Risks and Resilience Processes. What is necessary at this moment?' with Professor Frosso Motti-Stefanidi, PhD. Host: MEP Kostas Chrysogonos.
3 March 2015	51. '4000 City Councils for Children in France: how do they operate and what makes them successful?' with Jonathan Lévy. Host: MEP József Nagy.
13 May 2015	52. 'Children's Well-Being Indicators: a Powerful Tool to Improve the Well-Being of Children. Launch of the European Report of Children's Worlds' with Professor Ferran Casas, Professor Sabine Andresen and Professor Jonathan Bradshaw. Host: MEP Nathalie Griesbeck
2 June 2015	53. 'Health Assets for Young People's Health and Well-being. A New Basis for a set of Indicators for Policy and Practice?' with Dr Antony Morgan from the Glasgow Caledonian University, London Campus, UK Host: MEP Marie Arena and MEP Jana Zitnanska

1 September 2015	54. 'Elham Palestine: a multisector national partnership towards making schools more conducive to children's well-being. What is the philosophy and approach of Elham? What positive outcomes have resulted? In which way can we apply the same approach in a European context?' with Professor Dr. Marwan Awartani. Host: Julie Ward.
17 November 2015	55. 'Prosperity without growth: a vision of a lasting prosperity for all' with Professor dr. Tim Jackson from the University of Surrey, UK. Host: MEP Younous Omarjee, MEP Molly Scott Cato and MEP Jean Lambert.
12 January 2016	56. 'Curious Minds: The English approach to offer rich educational and cultural programmes to all children and young people' with Derri Burdon. Host: MEP Julie Ward.

Five yearbooks were published with the reports of these sessions:

session 1-16: Improving the Quality of Childhood in the European Union: Current Perspectives.

session 17-23: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2011, Volume 2.

session 24-30: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2012, Volume 3.

session 31-37: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2013, Volume 4.

session 28-44: Improving the Quality of Childhood in Europe 2014, Volume 5.

All books can be downloaded free of charge from: www.allianceforchildhood.eu/publications and ordered at www.amazon.co.uk.