

## **Introduction**

Every Child and Young Person Matters (ECYPM) is a network of voluntary sector providers of services to children, young people and their families in Dundee. Currently committee members, staff and volunteers provide services to children, young people and families in Dundee. There are 47 organisations, with 87 individual practitioners on the mailing list, as of 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009. ECYPM is facilitated by Dundee Voluntary Action and operates as a network rather than a separate entity.

## **History**

In 2001, after consultation with the sector, Dundee Voluntary Action invited voluntary organisations working with children to come together around Early years Partnership representation and involvement in Changing Children's Services. Every Child Matters was established in 2002. The same invitation went out to voluntary organisations working with young people and the Cracking Youth Work network was established in 2004. Over the last few years both networks have been facilitated by DVA, sharing information, training, and events as well as providing the route for voluntary sector representation within the Community Planning structure.

Gradually the overlaps between the two networks, particularly around child protection, brought about joint meetings during 2008. In 2009, after a series of development days the two networks came together as one, Every Child and Young Person Matters. Participants agreed the:

- Shared vision
- Mission
- Priorities
- New structure to meet strategic role, voluntary sector representation and support to practitioners.
- Action plan for the next year