



Wednesday March 19th 2008 - immediate

**BUSINESS WELCOMES WILLIAMS REVIEW SUPPORT
FOR EVERY CHILD COUNTS CAMPAIGN**

The City-led Every Child a Chance charity today welcomed the support of the government-commissioned Williams' Review's for a national programme to tackle innumeracy.

John Griffith-Jones, Chairman, said: "We are delighted to be working closely with the review group. Like Sir Peter, we are convinced that the problem of adult innumeracy should be tackled by a partnership between the private and public sectors – and that the best solution is the help for young children that we are providing".

Jean Gross, Director of Every Child a Chance, added: "We are very pleased that Sir Peter and his group have focused in their report on how to help the lowest-achieving children. We are particularly delighted that he confirms our view that the children with the greatest difficulties need our most qualified and skilled adults working with them. This is not currently the case in many schools. Early evidence shows that one to one help in maths from specialist teachers at the age of seven means that children can achieve and surpass the national level of numeracy for their age.

There is also evidence that, if they don't get the right help, these children carry high costs to society later on. Sir Peter has raised the question of whether the country can afford to give them one-to-one help. We will show that it cannot afford not to.'

The Every Child a Chance charity has raised nearly £5 million for the Every Child Counts programme from KPMG, Deutsche Bank, Lehman Bros, Charles Dunstone Trust, Man Group and other organisations. The programme will provide specialist help to help 30,000 children aged 7 who are having the greatest difficulties in maths.

Notes for Editors

1) Every Child Counts was announced last year to develop a numeracy intervention scheme for children aged seven who have the greatest difficulties in

mathematics, using highly trained teachers to teach children on a one to one basis for around 12 weeks. The programme is currently in a research and development phase and aims to reach 30,000 a year in 2010-11 when ECC begins to roll out nationally.

2) It is backed by an unusual combination of charitable trusts, the business sector and the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF). Business and charitable sponsors include KPMG Foundation, Eureka Foundation, Lehman Brothers Europe Foundation, SHINE, Man Group Charitable Trust, Deutsche Bank and the Charles Dunstone Trust.

**Further information from Tim Devlin, Press Officer, Every Child Counts
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