



Government education specialist joins KPMG Foundation

London, 26 September, 2005: Jean Gross, previously a senior director for the Government's Primary National Strategy unit, has joined the KPMG Foundation as programme director for the new 'Every Child a Reader' initiative.

Announced by Ruth Kelly in July this year, 'Every Child a Reader' is a £10 million initiative aimed at helping children with literacy difficulties in primary schools across the UK through Reading Recovery programmes.

The KPMG Foundation is working to deliver the programme nationally, as part of an innovative partnership between the DfES, the Institute of Education, the KPMG Foundation and other charitable organisations including the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Indigo Trust, the JJ Charitable Trust and the Shine Trust.

Jean is a national expert in children's special educational needs and behavioural issues. Her background is that of teacher, educational psychologist university lecturer and writer. She became responsible in 2003 for special educational needs within the Government's National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies and for the last two years has been Senior Director in the Primary National Strategy, leading its work on inclusion - overcoming the barriers to achievement for children at risk of underachievement.

Mike Rake, KPMG UK senior partner and chairman of the KPMG Foundation said: "I am delighted Jean has joined the KPMG Foundation to help deliver this very important project alongside the DfES, the Institute of Education and our other charitable partners. The 'Every Child a Reader' initiative goes to the heart of the Foundation's objective of improving education opportunities for disadvantaged young people.

“I believe that businesses have a responsibility to work with government to ensure young people have the necessary skills for the modern workplace. Helping children to read from an early age is one of the best investments business and the government can make.”

Jean Gross, Director, Every Child a Reader: “I have spent much of my professional life working with young people whose lives have been blighted by their literacy difficulties. The ‘Every Child A Reader’ enterprise represents a real chance to improve the future for these children.”

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The KPMG Foundation was launched in 2001. The focus of the Foundation is on investing in educational programmes which can help tackle social disadvantage. The Foundation focuses on four key groups - young people with literacy difficulties; young refugees; young offenders and young people in care. In addition, KPMG have some significant award winning CSR programmes which support staff volunteering in schools, on homeless projects and environmental programmes. Some 25 per cent of KPMG staff and partners spend time volunteering in work time.