



## Realising Ambition Programme Closing Event Our ambition, our journey, our legacy

House of Commons 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017

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The Parliamentary reception hosted by Rushanara Ali MP celebrated the achievements of Realising Ambition organisations during the course of the programme.

The event also launched Realising Ambition's legacy resource, [The Confidence Framework](#), an on-line tool designed to help service providers, commissioners and funders determine the relative strengths and development needs of services and the organisations that provide them. The Confidence Framework is designed to provide a basis for improving. The event also released Programme Insight 10 [An Ambition Realised?](#) which summaries the programme's key learning points.

As well as featuring guest speakers Rushanara Ali MP, Dawn Austwick, BIG Lottery Fund's Chief Executive, and Chris Wright, Catch22's Chief Executive, we also heard about achievements of young people engaged by Realising Ambition services and were provided with a powerful self-choreographed dance from the children of Grove Primary School, Southwark.

### ***Chris Wright, Chief Executive, Catch22***

Chris opened the event, and thanked Rushanara Ali for her sponsorship. Chris highlighted that as a result of National Lottery funding Realising Ambition has supported organisations to replicate successful programmes across all areas of the UK and has contributed to building the UK evidence base of 'what works'. Once we understand what works we should celebrate it and make sure that those interventions are replicated or translated, and able to benefit as many children and young people as possible. Importantly, Realising Ambition has shown us that evidence is used best when it helps to improve the quality of the work of organisations, to support organisations on their journey and is not limited to trying to prove their impact.

### ***Rushanara Ali, MP***

Rushanara Ali MP spoke about her motivation to improve outcomes for all in society, and in particular acting early to address the life chances of those less advantaged. Rushanara observed the crucial role played by organisations, foundations and charities such as Catch22, DSRU, Substance and The Young Foundation. Rushanara highlighted the importance of mentoring and shared her drive to create "One Million Mentors" to help young people achieve their potential.



***Dawn Austwick, Chief Executive, BIG Lottery Fund***

Dawn provided an overview of how Realising Ambition was developed and evolved during the 5 years, including how learning from the programme will help develop future thinking. Dawn shared the importance of gathering data for the purpose of improving replications rather than simply measuring impact and why it's important to develop and disseminate 'what works' as widely as possible. Dawn highlighted some key outputs of the programme: reaching over 160,000 young people in the UK against a target of 135,000; replicating 25 services in 108 different locations in the UK; and with 16 of those services being sustained beyond the grant funding period.

***Shona Gibbs, Programme Manager, Anne Frank Trust and Sophie, Meghan and Jonathan from The Grove Academy, Dundee***

Shona provided an overview of the Schools and Ambassadors Programme, a peer education and volunteering programme which aims to challenge prejudice and prevent hate-related offending. School students are trained as exhibition guides and as young ambassadors, developing important social and communication skills. They take part in diversity and human-rights workshops, which encourage them to reflect on their own attitudes. Shona introduced the students of The Gove Academy, who provided guests with an insight into what they learnt and how they have grown in confidence as individuals through their work with the Anne Frank Trust.

*Slides for this presentation are attached.*

***Tim Hobbs, Head of Analytics, Dartington Social Research Unit and Shaun Whelan, Programme Manager, Catch22***

Tim and Shaun launched The Confidence Framework, a Realising Ambition resource designed to help organisations identify areas of strength and improvement for their services as well as in their ability to deliver them to achieve improved outcomes for children and young people. The online resource is freely available and has been developed under a Creative Commons licence which means it can be adapted to suit the particular needs of organisations or sectors.

The Confidence framework is available at: [www.theconfidenceframework.org.uk](http://www.theconfidenceframework.org.uk)

*Slides for this presentation are attached.*

### **Kessington Ladipo, Chance UK**

Kessington provided a personal account of his journey from being a mentee participating on Chance UK's early intervention mentoring programme and how as a result he was encouraged to realise his own potential and ambition. Kessington told of how he later revisited the importance of his relationship with his mentor and how as a result he became a mentor to young people himself. He now mentors on behalf of Chance UK.

### **Tim Souster, Barnardo's Path Plus, and children from Grange Primary School**

Tim provided an overview of the work delivered by Barnardo's Northern Ireland Paths Plus Programme. It is an evidenced school-based programme which addresses social and emotional learning, resilience and skills development in children. It provides schools with curriculum resources, training, and implementation support from an accredited coach. Tim introduced the children from the Grange Primary School who provided a self-choreographed, spell-binding dance to close the event.

*Slides for this presentation are attached.*