

# Government pledges £5.5m for intergenerational work

By Shafik Meghji  
Children & Young People Now  
17 April 2009

A £5.5m government programme has been launched today (Monday 20 April) to fund intergenerational community projects that bring older and younger people together.

The programme aims to challenge negative stereotypes on both sides caused partly, ministers argue, by changing family patterns and living arrangements. Last year, a Joseph Rowntree Foundation survey of 3,500 people revealed a "growing gulf" between the old and the young.

Local authorities, in partnership with third sector organisations, have been encouraged to apply for funding from the programme to help them set up intergenerational projects.

Beverley Hughes, minister for children and young people, said: "The projects will give older people the chance to see that young people are good, decent and law-abiding, and not the 'hoodies' and 'yobs' that many people see them as.

"Projects like these also show that young and older people often have the same concerns about the communities they live in, like the environment and antisocial behaviour."

<http://tinyurl.com/dll7kp>