

In praise of Barnardo's

Kudos to Barnardo's for daring to resist the Office of the Children's Commissioner's soppy nonsense of token participation by children (*CYP Now*, 3-9 October). We should be taking kids seriously, not patronising them by pretending.

I wish Sir Al Aynsley-Green's organisation 11 Million every success, despite its silly New Labour-ish name. But please, stop being trendy, stop being media-driven and stop patronising everybody.

Please take note other guilty child-related organisations.

Arthur Battram, Derbyshire

The funding conundrum

The situation that Mike Thompson, chief executive of Child Base Ltd, outlines regarding funding for children's centres mirrors the

experience that we, as a national provider of extended childcare, are facing (*CYP Now*, 3-9 October).

Local authorities choose not to fund many of our clubs because they are not deemed sustainable. But it can sometimes take years to make a club in a deprived area sustainable. The extended schools agenda was created to assist every family, but if we fail to address this issue, the more affluent will continue to be the only ones to benefit from it.

*Amanda Argent, chief executive,
Schoolfriend etc*

Prisoners' families in poverty

Children's minister Beverley Hughes said reducing child poverty is a priority for the government (*CYP Now*, 26 September-2 October). We hope it will pay attention to groups of children who