

PRESS RELEASE

BPAA MOVES NSPCC APPEAL FORWARD



A Bristol fundraising appeal which aims to raise £400,000 for the NSPCC's ChildLine and HelpLine services received a major boost this week, thanks to a donation for over £2,400 from the Bristol Property Agents Association (BPAA).

The cheque was handed over to representatives of the NSPCC Bristol Business Board, a group of local businesses working together to drive the appeal, by Chris Haworth, Partner at Alder King and Past President of the BPAA and Andrew Batchelor, Partner at Hartnell Taylor Cook and President of the BPAA, on Tuesday 14 December.

The BPAA, which was formed in 1946, is a property-based mutual interest association which aims to create a positive image of Greater Bristol and promote inward investment. Its 280 strong membership is drawn from a large number of businesses involved primarily in all aspects of commercial and residential property and includes surveyors, solicitors, architects, engineers, developers and contractors.

The donation of £2,452.68 represents 50 per cent of the total charitable funds raised by members last year through a range of events including an annual dinner, golf tournament, boules competition and quiz. An equivalent amount has been donated by the Association to its other chosen charity, MacMillan Cancer Support.

Chris Haworth, who chose NSPCC as one of the BPAA's charities during his presidency of the Association and whose company, Alder King, is a member of the NSPCC's Bristol Board said: "ChildLine is a crucial service which makes a real difference to the lives of a huge number of vulnerable children every year. I am delighted, as a former President of the BPAA and a father, that the money raised by our members will ensure that even more children can access the support they need in 2011 and beyond."

For the NSPCC's Bristol Board, which is aiming to contribute to a South West target of £1.6 million being raised jointly by businesses from Bath, Bristol, Exeter and Swindon, the donation will make a tangible difference. "For every £1600 our campaign can raise, we can recruit and train an additional ChildLine counsellor to answer calls from children across Bristol and the South West." said Paul Keith, Chairman of the NSPCC's Bristol Business Board.

"We are so grateful to the BPAA as their donation will ensure that hundreds more children will be able to speak to a counsellor in confidence in their hours of need.

"The generous support of local businesses and organisations has already enabled the NSPCC to more than double the number of volunteer counsellors at its South West ChildLine base in Exeter. Yet we still need to more and would love to hear from other businesses and organisations who could lend their support to our appeal through a donation, by making our appeal their charity of the year or by organising a specific fundraising event."

The NSPCC launched the Child's Voice Appeal in 2008 to raise £50 million nationally to develop its helpline services – ChildLine and the NSPCC Helpline for adults with concerns about a child. At that time one in three calls to ChildLine from children wanting to talk about bullying, family relationships, physical and sexual abuse and other problems were going unanswered because the NSPCC did not have enough funds to fully resource the service.

The NSPCC Bristol Business Board is actively organising fundraising events ranging from golf days to supper parties to business networking breakfasts. Businesses who would like to find out more about raising money for the NSPCC and becoming part of the Bristol business campaign in 2011 are invited to contact Paul Keith on 0117 3770016 or corporate fundraising manager Carrie Cardale on 01823 346346 or 07976 065181.

Ends

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Issued for the NSPCC Bristol Business Board by Jacqueline Southway PR – Tel: Jacqui Southway or Sarah Quick on 01454 201869 / 07747 804703.

For further information please contact the NSPCC South West communications team on 0117 966 4290 or out of hours on 07977 127064.

More ...

Notes to Editors:

* The NSPCC Bristol Business Board includes Alder King, Clairis Technologies, HR Dept. Jacqueline Southway PR, KPMG, Nameless, Osborne Clarke, The Penleigh Partnership, RBS and Verdant UK Ltd.

About the NSPCC

The NSPCC is here to end cruelty to children in the UK by fighting for their rights, listening to them, helping them when they need us and making them safe.

We provide national services such as ChildLine and our Helpline for concerned adults to provide support for all children. Our local services focus on the most acute forms of abuse and the most vulnerable, highest risk children working in areas such as sexual abuse or children under one so that we can bring help, advice and treatment to children at risk or those who have been abused.

For more information about the NSPCC visit www.nspcc.org.uk

Childline – 0800 1111 / www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC Helpline for adults worried about the welfare of a child – 0808 800 5000 / help@nspcc.org.uk

About the Child's Voice Appeal

The government has pledged £30m over four years towards the expansion of ChildLine and the NSPCC Helpline, but the NSPCC needs the support of the public to raise a further £50m through the Child's Voice Appeal, to make its vision to answer many more cries for help a reality. Everyone can support the Child's Voice Appeal at www.childsvoiceappeal.org.uk