



Day 5

United Kingdom

PROMOTING YOUTH-ADULT CO-MANAGEMENT

- Wake up England! Youth have arrived!

Jenny Willott MP, London

Today we visited Member of Parliament Jenny Willott as a member of the Liberal Democrats. She has a leading role on youth issues in her part which is why we went to see her views on Co-Management.

JW: I understand the term: 'Co-management' - but I have never used it. I sense it has limitations - it would appear to open the door to participation only for well-educated, eloquent rich kids not the kind of



young people who live on the sink estates in my constituency. However, even for them, at a local level, I think it is an excellent aspiration: if local authorities go out and make an effort to engage young people, get them involved in local projects on the ground, they can give young people more of a sense of ownership of the communities in which they live - and get them to care about the area. There is a lot of negative feeling towards young people in the poorer parts of my constituency - particularly from the older residents. Getting young people involved in local projects might help dilute that. Also, I like the proposal you make in here for engaging young people with the Police Authorities - that is definitely something that should be explored.”

PCI: What do you think about the current efforts in

the UK to involve young people at a national level of governance?

JW: “The UK Youth Parliament does a good job as it engages young people democratically through the Youth Service from every constituency. But I would agree, it makes little impact on government policy...”



PCI: Do you think *following the closure of the Children and Young People's Unit (CYPU), that a Ministry of Youth would help?*

JW: "I don't think a Ministry for Youth is the answer to addressing young people's issues, just as I don't think a Ministry for Women is the answer for women. Both sectors have issues that reach across the political spectrum. Both are cross-cutting themes. Therefore, I think the government was on the right track with the CYPU and it worked quite well under John Denham (*former Minister for Youth*). But he was responsible **ONLY** for youth - whereas Beverley Hughes (Minister for Children, Young People and Families) has several other portfolios within her duties."



When we invited her to provide a government response to the ideas in our booklet, Ms Hughes sent her apologies and told us she had no time to discuss co-management.