

PRESS RELEASE



Date: 3rd July 2012
From: Local MP Caroline Spelman,
Member of Parliament for the Meriden Constituency
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local MP delighted that Investment in Youth Employment is coming to the Meriden constituency

Local MP Caroline Spelman has welcomed The Big Lottery Fund's launch of Talent Match, a £100 million investment aimed at tackling youth unemployment in areas of England hardest hit by the economic downturn. Solihull is among the 21 areas where five year investments ranging from £1 million to £10 million will be made. The money will target hotspots across England where those aged 18-24 are finding it hardest to secure jobs or training opportunities.

Talent Match will put charities at the heart of local partnerships established between local councils, charities, employers, and colleges to work up proposals on how they will best use lottery funding to help match the talents of young people in their hotspot with skills and opportunities.

Caroline said: **"I was delighted to hear that Solihull has been chosen for Big Lottery Fund investment. This money will help young people who may feel that their employment prospects at the moment look a bit discouraging. It's a great idea that the Big Lottery Fund have decided to work with an advisory panel of young people as they plan ways to tackle youth unemployment and use this money most effectively. I can't think of a better way to really understand the task ahead as we try to create the best opportunities for the next generation.**

"This is an ambitious project, but I am confident that it will make a difference and I look forward to hearing about the success stories it will create in my constituency."

Full details of the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grant awards are available on the website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk .

www.carolinespelman.com

Notes to Editors

Members of BIG's young advisor panel are available for interview along with senior spokespeople.

Click on the links to view video endorsements of Talent Match from the Work Foundation, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and the Rt Hon David Miliband MP who chaired the Acevo Commission on Youth Unemployment.

- The Big Lottery Fund (BIG), the largest distributor of National Lottery good cause funding, is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised for good causes by the National Lottery.
- BIG is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK. Since June 2004 BIG has awarded over £4.4bn.
- The Fund was formally established by Parliament on 1 December 2006.
- Since the National Lottery began in 1994, 28p from every pound spent by the public has gone to good causes. As a result, over £28 billion has now been raised and more than 383,000 grants awarded across arts, sport, heritage, charities, health, education and the environment.

The 21 areas in England where investments will be made are:

The Black Country (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton)
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
Coventry and Warwickshire
Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire
Greater Birmingham and Solihull
Greater Lincolnshire
Greater Manchester

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