

MEDIA RELEASE: 4th August 2011



A MAJOR AWARD FOR YOUNGSTERS WHO STAMMER: THE 'HELP A CAPITAL CHILD GROUP THERAPY ROOM' LAUNCHES

95.8 Capital FM presenter and Patron of its charity Help a Capital Child, Margherita Taylor officially opened the 'Help a Capital Child Group Therapy Room' on Wednesday 27th July 2011. The launch was held at the Michael Palin Centre which specialises in treating children and young people who stammer.

Earlier this year, The Association for Research into Stammering in Childhood (ARSC) was awarded a grant of £46,559 as part of Help a Capital Child's Major Grants programme. The award has been used to refurbish and equip a new specialist group therapy room specifically for young people who stammer, which will help them to develop their communication skills.

Margherita chatted with the sixteen young people aged 15-19, some of whom live in City and Hackney, Harrow, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets, Surrey and Essex, who all attended the Group Intensive Course. As well as improving communication, the support within their peer group in exchanging and discussing the difficulties they face is of immense value, for example, overcoming other problems associated with stammering such as teasing and bullying.

95.8 Capital FM's Help a Capital Child Patron, Margherita Taylor, said: "It was a privilege to officially open the Help a Capital Child Group Therapy Room and to meet the young people on the first course in their own room, as well as seeing how our funding will make a huge difference to children and teenagers who stammer."

ARSC Chairman, Bryan Dutton was delighted with the award and said:

"With the Help a Capital Child grant, for the first time we can fully equip a Group Therapy Suite so that the children have everything they need to work with our specialists to improve their confidence and ability to manage their stammer. Thank you, Capital, for your generous support - this will help to change many youngsters' lives, for the rest of their lives."

The above grant is part of a record £1.6m which has been awarded to 431 projects across London in the last year supporting children and young people projects covering issues such as: Disability, illness, poverty, homelessness, counselling, mentoring, youth projects, playgroups and toy libraries.

-Ends-

For further information please contact:

Richard Horsnell / Hema Chouhan
95.8 Capital FM's Help a Capital Child
Richard.Horsnell@capitalfm.com / Hema.chouhan@thisisglobal.com
020 7054 8396

Patrick Tonks, Chief Executive, ARSC
patricktonks@stammeringcentre.org
020 3316 8100

Notes to Editors

95.8 Capital FM's Help a Capital Child, previously known as Help a London Child, was launched in 1975 by Lord Attenborough CBE. In the past thirty-six years, the charity has raised in excess of £25,000,000 and awarded 13,000 grants to small groups and charities, working with 1.4 million of London's less advantaged and most vulnerable children and young people.

In January 2011, 95-106 Capital FM, was launched as the UK's No1 Hit Music station, reaching an audience of over 6.3 million people, broadcasting in major cities across the UK. Help a Capital Child, while retaining its core base of support and work in London, the charity will start to roll out its activity to help children across the entire Capital network.

Help a Capital Child is an appeal run by Global Charities, a registered charity in England and Wales (1091657) and Scotland (SC041475), and relies on fundraising to sustain its work. For further information please visit: www.capitalfm.com/helpacapitalchild

The Association for Research into Stammering in Childhood (ARSC), funds the delivery of specialist services that transform the lives of children and young people who stammer.

ARSC is the Charity behind the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children. Based in Islington, this national Centre runs the UK's largest specialist service exclusively dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of children who stammer.

Stammering is a severe communication disability which impairs social, emotional and educational development. Estimates for children suggest that 1 in 20 children stammer and that it is 3 to 4 times more common in boys than in girls. While stammering is outwardly characterised by repetitions, prolongations and blocking of sounds, these core behaviours can be accompanied by feelings of isolation, frustration, embarrassment, diminished self-worth and poor self-image.

Stammering crosses all races, cultures, religions and social groupings, conceals intellectual ability, affects educational choices and attainment, results in impaired communication skills and frequently becomes a focus for teasing and bullying. In chronic cases, it may play a significant part in a young person's ability to achieve their potential and to make their full contribution to society as an adult.

As well as providing specialist assessments and therapy, the charity also funds training of Speech and Language Therapists and appropriate Research. The training increases the understanding, skills and confidence of generalist Speech and Language Therapists to be able to work with a child who stammers and the Research programme provides evidence of the efficacy of the work done whilst at the same time helps to continue to develop the best possible therapies.

Address: The Association for Research into Stammering in Childhood (ARSC),
The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children, 13-15 Pine Street,
London. EC1R 0JH

Status: Registered Charity, Number 801171

Contacts: Bryan Dutton, Chairman, ARSC
Patrick Tonks, Chief Executive, ARSC
Frances Cook, Head of Specialty, Michael Palin Centre
Diana de Grunwald, Business Manager, Michael Palin Centre

Telephone: 020 3316 8100 **Web Site:** www.stammeringcentre.org