

Press Update November/December 2007

GEOFF MULGAN

1. China's great green leap forward? The Times, November 27

The world's superpolluter appears to be making huge environmental efforts. But is this just rhetoric? To the rest of the world China looks like an environmental car crash, a superpower superpolluter that along with the USA has become the most obdurate barrier to action on climate change. Every self-respecting green knows that it is building a new coal-fired power station every day, has 16 of the world's 20 most polluted cities and uses an extraordinary 40 per cent of the world's cement to pepper China's landscape with crane-topped half-built skyscrapers. Many believe that China's leaders have trapped themselves on a growth juggernaut, terrified of the unrest that would follow if the growth rate fell much below 9 per cent.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/columnists/guest_contributors/article2950882.ece

SAFFRON JAMES

2. Councillors look for a new role:

On Wednesday 21 November, the Guardian featured Saffron James' and Ed Cox's report 'Ward Councillors and community leadership: A future Perspective'. Saffron says "Communities need a new breed of councillor...Tomorrow's councillors need new skills and support systems"

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2007/nov/21/guardiansocietysupplement.localgovernment>

RUSHANARA ALI

3. In an interview with the Evening Standard, 11 December, Rushanara talks about being the first female Bengali to be selected by a major party to contest a winnable seat. As well as talking about her work at the Young Foundation, the author predicts:

"Ali to make political history as the first female Asian M.P to make it into the House of Commons."

MICHAEL YOUNG PRIZE 2007

4. Michael Young Prize winner's Autism research featured in Medical News Today.

The 2007 winner Dr Elizabeth Pellicano said: "Winning the prize will enable me to hold a series of events inviting people with autism, parents and carers of children with autism, and policymakers to consider the changes and continuities that take place as children make the transition to adolescence and adulthood."

DAVID CAMERON - FROM GOVERNMENT TO PEOPLE

On Tuesday 13 November, 2007, David Cameron gave a lecture at Oxford House, hosted by the Young Foundation.

David Cameron said:

"I am honoured to speak at the Young Foundation. Michael Young stood for so much of what is great about our country: the spirit of enterprise, and enterprise for social progress. It is entirely right that there is a foundation to promote his legacy. Because Lord Young was that essentially English thing - an institution-builder. He recognised that we live, not as isolated individuals, nor as undifferentiated members of the mass - but as friends, neighbours, colleagues, families: ...we

exist in our particular and personal relationships.....

http://www.conservatives.com/tile.do?def=news.story.page&obj_id=140339&speeches=1
http://www.conservatives.com/tile.do?def=news.story.page&obj_id=140339&speeches=1

His speech attracted much press coverage.

The Times reported 'Tories pick right issue but wrong answer', David Cameron has missed an opportunity with his new proposals on council tax. He talks the language of localism, but is reluctant to concede its substance. The Guardian says 'Tories plan to allow voters to veto council tax increases'. Public Finance, Egov Monitor and EPolitix.com also reported on his speech

http://www.conservatives.com/tile.do?def=news.story.page&obj_id=140339
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,2209978,00.html>

STUDIO SCHOOLS

The Launchpad Studio Schools model was on the front page of the Telegraph on Monday 19 November, reported inaccurately by the Political Editor:

'Studio schools' planned for pupil malcontents. Excluded and disaffected pupils will be sent to special "studio schools" under plans being drawn up by the Government.'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/11/19/nschools119.xml>

The Times also drew attention to Studio Schools in this light, the schools being a place where 'disaffected teenagers will be taught how to run businesses...'

The Department for Children, Schools and Families said that studio schools may be part of the Children's Plan, to be published next month. "There is a recognition that we need to keep pupils out of trouble," a spokeswoman said. "The environment would be more akin to a workplace because school has not worked for these pupils."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2007/11/19/nschools119.xml>

The Guardian also ran an article on studio schools, reporting that the government is also looking at introducing "studio schools" to provide practical teaching for excluded and disaffected pupils aged 14-19, under its Children Plan to be unveiled next month.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/policy/story/0,,2213301,00.html>

The Daily Mail inaccurately describes Studio Schools as "a last ditch effort to keep teenagers in education.... excluded and disaffected pupils will be sent to special schools which will teach them to run businesses."

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=494892&in_page_id=1770

Ed Balls also floated the idea of Studio Schools in his announcement of the Family Plan. The Guardian and the Daily Mail provided further coverage of this.

http://politics.guardian.co.uk/publicservices/story/0,,2224959,00.html?gusrc=rss&feed=19#article_continue
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=500431&in_page_id=1770&ito=1490