



9<sup>th</sup> November 2011

## **Children takeover The Deep for a day!**

On Friday 11th November, young people from Sirius Academy will be taking over The Deep, Hull's award-winning aquarium, for the day. The activities are being organised as part of Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day 2011, a national event led by the Children's Commissioner for England which gives children and young people the chance to shadow jobs, get involved in decision-making and offer their opinions on key issues.

25 students aged 14-15 years will spend the day working in various departments of the aquarium including marketing, catering, education, guides, finance and reception. This will involve shadowing staff, making decisions and working on special projects. One student, Alex Douglas, will even be taking over the role of chief executive!

Alex Douglas said, "I think it is really exciting to be involved in this high profile event at such a unique and interesting venue. This will help us all in preparing for the world of work and I am really looking forward to taking over the running of The Deep for the day. It will be a once in a lifetime opportunity!"

Colin Brown, chief executive of The Deep said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for local students from Sirius Academy, to get a real insight into what it's like to work at an aquarium. It will be a great opportunity for our staff to see The Deep through the eyes of the next working generation. It will be refreshing to hear their ideas and see how they might approach the issues we face every day."

Maggie Atkinson, Children's Commissioner for England said: "I am very excited about our fifth Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day this year, and I look forward to hearing about what people are doing. The day provides such a brilliant opportunity for children and young people to make a difference to their schools and communities have their voices heard and challenge the stereotypes about them that we hear too often. Children and young people have so much to offer. They bring ideas, imagination and energy which can really make a difference to organisations."

This year the Children's Commissioner hopes that 50,000 children and young people around the country will be part of Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day, and numerous organisations have already signed up. It is being held on Remembrance Day to encourage intergenerational understanding and the Royal British Legion is also supporting the day.

On the day in 2010, around 40,000 children and young people worked with organisations including businesses, schools, police and fire services, newspapers, banks, TV and radio stations, local councils, MPs, over 50 museums, charities and Government departments. Everyone got involved, including the BBC, Co-operative Group and even the Mayor of London.

### **Notes to Editors**

1. To find out about Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day events around the country, go to: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/takeover\\_day](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/takeover_day)

2. The Office of the Children's Commissioner is a national organisation led by the Children's Commissioner for England, Dr Maggie Atkinson. The post of Children's Commissioner for England was established by the Children Act 2004. It requires us to refer to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) when planning and carrying out our work. The Children's Commissioner has a duty to promote the views and interests of all children in England, in particular those whose voices are least likely to be heard, to the people who make decisions about their lives.
  
3. Sirius Academy is a state secondary school that achieved its academy status on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.

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To arrange an interview with the Children's Commissioner please contact the Children's Commissioner's press office on 020 7783 8610 or email:  
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