



## **PBE Economists**

### **Paying for It Volunteer Review**

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#### **Introduction**

Paying for It is an educational programme run by the Citizenship Foundation in partnership with Aviva to provide free educational resources that engage young people (aged 14-18) with current economic issues.

The resources include lesson plans containing interactive activities that encourage students to consider economic issues and to debate the challenges facing the British economy. Another component of the programme is Chance to be Chancellor, a competition to give 14-18 year olds the chance to create their own Budgets for the country. This year's competition launched a web-based tool to provide an opportunity for young people to share their opinions on the Comprehensive Spending Review. The results from all the young people who took part were collated to form the Youth Budget to represent the views and opinions of young people on the Budget.

#### **PBE Economist Volunteers**

Pro Bono Economics connected the Citizenship Foundation with volunteer economists Angus Heberton, Jonathan Wallis, John Robertson, Rob Mills, Julia Wilcox, Maria Tubbs and Rob Clogher. The economists provided input into developing both the lesson plans and Chance to be Chancellor.

During November to May the volunteers assessed the current stock of lesson plans. They developed the content of the lesson plans to better reflect the Government's key priorities in the Spending Review, but at a level accessible to 14-18 year olds. This has helped connect Paying for It's lesson plans with Chance to be Chancellor and provide a more cohesive body of resources.

From November to December the volunteers worked closely with the Citizenship Foundation to generate the content and focus for the Chance to be Chancellor online tool. The volunteers extrapolated content from the Comprehensive Spending Review, developed a metric to calculate users' choices and outcomes and contributed to user testing the challenge. They also helped facilitate a school session using the platform.

### **Value of Volunteer Contribution**

The volunteers have contributed greatly to Paying for It, enabling synthesis of the content of the lesson plans with that of Chance to be Chancellor. The Citizenship Foundation anticipates the development of the lesson plans to include a clearer fiscal focus with up to date factual information which will help further their effectiveness in the classroom. An evaluation by the Citizenship Foundation assessing the impact of the lesson plans in delivering economic awareness in schools will be available in June 2012.

The economists work on Chance to be Chancellor was definitive in shaping the content and focus of the challenge in 2011. The dissecting of the Comprehensive Spending Review in order to generate the content for the challenge for young people, the creation of the metric and external user testing simply would not have been feasible in-house. The Citizenship Foundation has recently begun assessing the impact of Chance to be Chancellor and in a recent survey of 100 young people who participated has found that:

- In terms of learning experience the overwhelming majority of respondents indicated that through participating they either 'learnt a lot' (52%) or 'learnt a bit' (40%).
- 80% found Chance to be Chancellor an interesting way to learn about the economy.
- 79% viewed the challenge as an effective way to promote young people's views on the Budget.

The Chance to be Chancellor online tool can be found at:

[www.payingforit.org.uk/chance-to-be-chancellor-2011](http://www.payingforit.org.uk/chance-to-be-chancellor-2011)

The results of the Youth Budget 2001 can be found at:

<http://www.payingforit.org.uk/media/uploads/2011/03/156/youthbudgettemplate-vfinal2.pdf>

More information about the Citizenship Foundation can be found at:

[www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk](http://www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk)