

# The start of something special...

By Natasha Monroe



*Pictured above The Young BPW UK “Dream Team” (left to right) Natasha Monroe, Northern Ireland, Lynette Ametewee, London, Samantha Raggatt, Nottingham.*

National BPW Conference 2007 in Edinburgh saw us launch the Young BPW UK Pilot Projects happening in London, Northern Ireland and Nottingham. Young BPW is set to take full flight at conference 2008 and is open to any member aged 35 and under in the UK.

The Young BPW presentation entitled “The young side of BPW” focused on the history and structure of Young BPW across the world, why we need Young BPW, the benefits for members young and old, and the outline of the individual pilot projects.

## Pilot projects

The “Dream team” as we are sometimes referred to, aka, Lynette, Natasha and Samantha, met at the Regional meeting in Luton last year. We were approached by Board members and asked if we were interested in re-starting Young BPW in the UK. Lynette and I presented the proposal to the Board which was accepted and we started work on two pilot project outlines in London and Northern Ireland. Samantha has become more involved and is also about to start undertaking a pilot project in Nottingham.

## London pilot, Lynette Ametewee

The London pilot is to focus on events and partnerships with other organisations, with event one in June 2007 (tbc) - Question Time Panel Discussion on CEDAW

- Partnership with WNC to launch the UK shadow Report
- Situating Young BPW on policy agenda for 4 key areas
- Link with the BPW Parliamentary Group
- Theme of mentoring & diversity will be reflected in selection of speakers
- Public event and target university students
- Consult with captive audience to shape Young BPW

Event two - Leadership and Career Development Event

#### Northern Ireland pilot, Natasha Monroe

The Northern Ireland pilot is taking the focus on Universities, Lecturers, Students and Alumni.

Activities and objectives to include:

- Contacting Alumni Magazines
- Targeting Lecturers in Women's Studies and Journals in this area
- Posters and flyers on-campus
- Attending careers fairs and careers libraries
- Eventually setting up a student clubs (run by students)
- "Step up" campaign

#### Nottingham pilot, Samantha Raggatt

Nottingham pilot will focus on increasing membership of young civil service and government.

Sector Targeting:

- Civil Servants, e.g. Regional Development Agencies
- Government, e.g. Local Government

Samantha is familiar with the culture through work and will make contact with recruitment and training departments, as well as the intranet, websites- and website links.

#### Conference 2007

On a personal note, it was an extremely interesting first conference. Young BPW were very well received with lots of encouragement and support, from International levels, Board level and members alike. In fact, the day following our presentation we had increased our Young BPW membership by 7 women! Many longstanding and respected members have pledged to purchase membership for daughters, nieces and female friends. We are hoping other members may do the same!

#### The future

Lynette is holding the first Young BPW UK event of 2007 in London, and everyone is encouraged to attend for support, and, because it will be an extremely interesting topic; The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Question Time Panel Discussion.

Young BPW "Dream team" are also going to attend their first European event in Berlin in September of this year. A fundraising raffle at conference raised £225.50 to help support attendance. The event looks really exciting and we hope to see a few of you there!

Conference 2008 is when we hope to launch Young BPW UK in full force. I think you will all agree that the encouragement and support we have received from so many people already, and the excitement and enthusiasm from members, really shows that this is the start of something special for BPW UK.