

Press Release
30 September 2003

**Comprehensive
Future**

**Campaigning for a change in Labour policy to bring about an end to selection
at 11 both by ability and aptitude**

SELECTION IS AN ENGLISH DISEASE

Chair
David Chaytor MP

Secretary
Margaret Tulloch

Treasurer
Malcom Horne
Gen Sec SEA

Charles Clarke will speak today at a fringe meeting organised by Comprehensive Future and the Socialist Education Association. He will hear from a parent in Skipton, which has two grammar schools, about the reality of selection in this part of North Yorkshire.

Graeme Hitchen, parent from Skipton will say -
'The children from the poor areas stand little chance of getting into the grammars. The ballot is unworkable and denying a vote to those most likely to benefit from the ending of selection. Selection does not raise standards, it lowers them'.

The meeting will hear from speakers from Scotland and Wales, where there is no selection. They will show up the stark contrast with England where selection remains the everyday experience for many children, affecting as many as 20% of English school children.

Speaking at the meeting in addition to Charles Clarke and Graeme Hitchen will be David Chaytor MP for Bury North, Chair of Comprehensive Future, from Wales Neil Foden NUT executive and from Scotland Anne Begg MP for Aberdeen South.

**Comprehensive
Future**

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