

## MEDIA RELEASE

### “Please release me” says MP

8 August 2009

Henley's MP, John Howell, has agreed to be one of a number of people to be marooned on Temple Island in the River Thames at the start of the Henley Regatta course on 17<sup>th</sup> September to help raise awareness and money for Action for Children. He will be marooned on the island in the morning and only allowed off the island when sponsorship to rescue him reaches at least £1000.

Action for children is a children's charity that supports and speaks out for the UK's most vulnerable children and young people. Mr Howell, who is also the Champion on Child Poverty issues for the Conservative Party, agreed to support the event to help draw attention to the work.

John Howell said

*‘Although this is a fun event there is a very serious side to it. I have spoken at length in the recent debate in the House of Commons on the Government's Child Poverty Bill. Child poverty is a complex issue which cannot be tackled simply by passing a law to eradicate it. It needs real action.*

*“Breaking the cycle of deprivation that children in our own county face is one of Oxfordshire's central objectives. The work of organisations such as Action for Children is an important part of our combined effort. If my involvement in this day can raise public awareness and much needed funds it will have been worthwhile.”*

#### NOTES

1. Photo attached: John Howell MP preparing to be marooned
2. Action for Children is an established charity which has been working in the UK since 1869. Until September 2008 they were called the National Children's Home, or NCH. The new name was selected to better describes what they do and what they value - Action for Children.

The charity is committed to helping the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK break through injustice, deprivation and inequality, so they can achieve their full potential. We believe all children and young people have unique potential and that they should have the support and opportunities they need to reach it.

Action for Children helps nearly 156,000 children, young people and their families through nearly 420 projects across the UK. We also promote social justice by lobbying and campaigning for change.

Today, Action for Children is the leading UK provider of family and community centres, children's services in rural areas, services for disabled children and their families, and services for young people leaving care.