Comprehensive Cuts 3: Where are we now for young people and the voluntary and community youth sector?

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1. Context

In December NCVYS published *Comprehensive Cuts – Part 2: Taking stock of changes in funding and policies and their impact on young people and the voluntary and community youth sector*.[1] The report detailed the impact of the Coalition Government's policies on the financial situation of the voluntary and community youth sector (VCYS)[2]. It raised concerns about their impact on young people, and in particular disadvantaged young people. It followed *Comprehensive Cuts: Report on funding changes in the voluntary and community youth sector*, published in October 2010, which summarised a survey conducted in September 2010, revealing that most charities are already facing significant cuts to their programmes, and that further cuts are on the way.[3] The main findings pointed to almost 70% of organisations seeing a drop in income over the last year, 75% cutting projects and over 80% citing the end of targeted programmes for young people.

Since the beginning of 2011, HM Treasury has published Budget 2011, and NCVYS written a briefing summarising the impact of the Budget on the VCYS.[4] The new financial year is also beginning to reveal further evidence of the impact of public spending cuts on the voluntary and community youth sector (VCYS). This report examines the latest information and asks, "Where are we now for young people and the voluntary and community youth sector?"

NCVYS remains extremely concerned that the voluntary and community youth sector, which provides vital services for young people, is facing serious challenges owing to the reduced investment in the sector. Our members need support to fulfil the needs of the young people in our communities; investment in these services delivering significant cost savings to other areas.[5] These concerns have been echoed by many youth organisations,[6] as well as the House of Commons Education Committee, whose inquiry into services for young people acknowledged "that there have already been very significant, disproportionate cuts to local authority youth services –a a situation which the Minister acknowledged—ranging from 20% to 100%."[7]

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[1] *Comprehensive Cuts 2,* NCVYS (December 2010) http://bit.ly/compcuts2
[2] NCVYS's Financial Monitoring Blog http://ncvyspolicy.wordpress.com
[3] *Comprehensive Cuts*, NCVYS (October 2010) http://ncvys.org.uk/UserFiles/Comprehensive Cuts.pdf
[4] *Budget 2011 briefing*, NCVYS (March 2010) http://bit.ly/NCVYSBudget2011
[5] See http://www.ncvys.org.uk/resources.html for evidence
[6] For example, supporters of the Choose Youth campaign http://chooseyouth.org/support-us/
[7] *Services for young people*, House of Commons Education Committee (June 2011) http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmeduc/744/744i.pdf

The Young Foundation's recent report for the NCVYS-coordinated Catalyst consortium, *Growing interest? Mapping the market for social finance in the youth sector* has estimated the level of cuts in 50 organisations in May 2011. It says, "Youth sector income fell by approximately £110 million last year; a loss of up to 23% of the sector's total income. Nearly three quarters (74%) of the VCYS organisations we surveyed had experienced a drop in income in the last 12 months... A quarter of organisations experienced a drop of over 25%, with 8% having lost over half their income in one year."[8]

Young people are at risk of suffering heavily from the public spending cuts. Almost one million remain unemployed, and stronger and more committed government intervention is required to alleviate the damaging effects that this will have on today's youth. Vulnerable young people in particular, including young carers, disabled children and homeless young people, are unlikely to be able to access the limited new opportunities that are available. The asymmetric impact of cutting youth projects is highlighted by a Children and Young People Now investigation into the locations of youth projects, which found that they are disproportionately situated in the most deprived areas of the country.[9]

2. The health of the VCYS

We are extremely worried about the health of the voluntary and community youth sector (VCYS). Since the beginning of 2011 we have seen organisations including Youth Action Network announce their forthcoming closure, the UK Youth Parliament needing additional funding for its future to be secured and many long-standing VCYS employees leaving the sector, all at a time when young people are in urgent need of support. Understandably some of our members are slightly guarded about sharing the full details of their funding situation, but we are aware that many successful projects are closing. Other successful organisations and projects are still uncertain about their future, but are continuing to struggle to secure funding. Many NCVYS members have affected by the financial situation.

- The Prince's Trust and Fairbridge have united to offer more support to disadvantaged young people across the UK.[10] They merged on 1 April 2011 with a vision of delivering a more joined-up, wide-ranging service for an increased number of disadvantaged young people. The united organisation, called The Prince's Trust, will help around 50,000 young people over the course of the next year alone.

- Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets has reported that they no longer have sector funding and are facing staff cuts within 6 months and a very uncertain future.[11]

- GFS Platform has announced that due to financial constraints it has been forced to close down its project in the Isle of Wight after a 117 years presence supporting young women and their children.[12] The project offered young mothers a unique service enabling them to receive advice and support on a range of issue, meet other young mums, and take part in informal and formal education programmes. NCVYS also understands that GFS Platform has lost other service level agreements with local authorities for their work with young mothers aged 14 to 25.

- The Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade (JLGB) lost support when the Children, Young People and Families Grant Programme came to an end. This led to the loss of some projects as well as its ability to invest in a development team to set up new work across the country.

  Chief Executive Neil Martin said, "Through the Government's "*Improving outcomes for children, young people and families – a national prospectus*", they have recognised that activities that are faith and culturally sensitive are vital for many young people. Yet the loss of Government funding means the loss of some of this expertise in the sector, and we are concerned that some of these hard to reach young people are now able to receive support as planned. Our other work, for

[8] *Growing interest? Mapping the market for social finance in the youth sector*, Young Foundation (August 2011) http://www.ncvys.org.uk/UserFiles/Growing%20interest.pdf
[9] *Youth club study highlights link to most deprived areas*, CYPNow (28 June 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Youth_Work/article/1077090/youth-club-study-highlights-link-deprived-areas/
[10] *Youth charities join forces*, Fairbridge (Jan 2011) http://www.fairbridge.org.uk/editorial.asp?page_id=113&n_id=154
[11] Voluntary Sector Cuts website (February 2011) http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/cut.php?guid=2C0AE23A-B98D-4082-B72D-49934D9D2857
[12] *GFS Platform leaves the Island after over 100 years*, GFS Platform (May 2011) http://www.gfsplatform.org.uk/press-releases/isle-of-wight-press-release.doc

example our partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, is thriving. It is a shame that we can't expand vital services, including accredited training, music provision and bite size projects, into new areas of the country as we had planned through initiatives such as Aiming High for Jewish Youth.[13]

"We were unable to access the Transition Fund: we met all but one of the criteria, but because we have some income through services such as summer camps, too small a percentage of our income came from government. It's not only the loss of funding which matters, we're also unsure that the government is effectively engaging with organisations that bring knowledge of faith and culture to the sector. We also know that like other smaller ethnic minority or faith groups, local Jewish communities, which can be geographically dispersed across multiple catchment areas and local authority boundaries, are not adequately accounted for in the localism agenda. This will have future implications for supporting our work to provide culturally and religiously sensitive provisions and services."

- Centrepoint, which provides emergency accommodation, support, information and training for homeless young people in London, is reported to be consulting with staff on redundancies. 100 staff members look set to be affected by the proposals, with 14 possible redundancies.[14]

- The National Association of Youth Theatres (NAYT) lost support from the Arts Council England ACE and the Department for Education. NAYT "is heavily reliant upon government funding to provide a service to over 1,300 groups and... the educational charity which supports approximates 65,000 young people's participation in theatre, faces closure if alternative funding is not secured."[15]

- A CYPNow survey, compiled in conjunction with UK Youth, has revealed that 67% of the youth associations and clubs said they or their members had been affected by cuts.[16] The 18 youth associations and clubs surveyed collectively support almost 300,000 young people. 27% said the impact of spending cuts on youth clubs in their area wasn't yet clear and only 6% said that projects hadn't been affected.

Local NCVYS members have also suffered. These voluntary youth networks offer voice and support to voluntary and community youth organisations working at the local level.

- Voluntary Youth Services Devon has received notice that its long standing Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Local Authority Youth Service will be withdrawn in 2011.[17] One member of staff has been already been made redundant and the organisation will also lose their manager who as a part of the SLA was seconded to this role by the Youth Service. This cut of £47,000 "will result in a significant reduction in the infrastructure services currently being provided to the voluntary youth sector in Devon."

- Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency lost funding from its local authority, which did not recognise the value of its services around campaigning, representation and engagement with the VCS locally.

- Hull Council for Voluntary Youth Services has lost its Service Level Agreement with the local authority. This loss of core funding has led to the loss of staff, which means there is no support,

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[13] *Aiming High for Jewish Youth*, Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade (2011) http://www.jlgb.org/aiminghigh
[14] *Centrepoint consults on redundancies*, Civil Society (20 Jun 2011) http://www.civilsociety.co.uk/governance/news/content/9843/centrepoint_consulting_on_redundancies
[15] *Save NAYT*, NAYT (April 2011) http://www.nayt.org.uk/donate
[16] *Youth groups find alternative funding to make up for government spending cuts*, CYPNow (14 June 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/go/news/article/1074694/youth-groups-find-alternative-funding-government-spending-cuts/
[17] Voluntary Sector Cuts website (April 2011) http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/cut.php?guid=AAC2E820-114A-4E7B-AF8B-743054B78DA2

newsletter or updates for 200 voluntary youth organisations and the 12,500 young people that they work with.[18]

- We have had reports from another Council for Voluntary Youth Services which saw all of its funding come to an end in March. While it has won some contracts since then, it is very concerned about future support for the training for voluntary youth workers and appropriate support for safeguarding and other policies.

Since NCVYS's survey in September 2010, documented in Comprehensive Cuts, other membership organisations have also shown that VCS organisations working with young people are facing significant financial pressures.

NCVYS member Youth Access found that organisations providing mental health and advice services for young people are struggling to cope with multiple cuts and that vital services delivered by YIACS will be lost. This comes at a time when the demand from young people is still increasing, and the findings suggest that at least 45,000 vulnerable young people will be left without access to services they depend on.[19] NCVYS member Clinks has found that organisations working to prevent and reduce crime are losing vital funding in the face of multiple challenges and growing demand for their services.[20] The report finds that 68% of survey respondents had made staff redundant or were about to do so, while 83% reported an increase in the number of people seeking their help.

A survey conducted by Children England estimates that over 70% of the children and families charity sector were experiencing some level of cut to their funding and many were still awaiting funding decisions affecting service provision and staffing."[21] The report suggests that youth work is among the worst hit services, with early intervention, work with fathers, teenage parents and homeless children also badly affected. The Mentoring and Befriending Foundation found that 72%of mentoring and befriending projects are likely to be affected by spending cuts in 2011-12, while 79% anticipating greater demand for their services in 2011-12. Figures from Action for Children, following a survey of 23 young carers projects in May and June, have shown that services supporting 1,192 young carers have had their budgets cut by up to 30%. A further 192 young carers are supported by services that have suffered budget cuts of 40% or more.[22]

The trade union backed website False Economy has published research showing that nearly 400 charities working with children and young people are facing significant budget cuts.[23] Using Freedom of Information requests, False Economy identified 382 organisations working in the voluntary and community children and youth sector which are facing cuts of 5% or more. Identified in the research were many NCVYS members who had lost hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of projects supporting vulnerable young people. This includes YMCA Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Worth Unlimited in Birmingham, Rathbone in Rochdale, Catch22 in Hackney and the Prince's Trust in Blackburn with Darwen. Even organisations not traditionally recognised as dependent on government funding, such as Scout and Girlguiding groups, have lost out, e.g. though the loss of the use of school premises for delivering activities.

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[18] Voluntary Sector Cuts website (March 2011) http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/cut.php?guid=BBB91922-3BC1-4E7C-B39E-7FF6B518F807

[19] *The funding situation of Youth Information, Advice, Counselling and Support services (YIACS),* Youth Access (April 2011) http://www.youthaccess.org.uk/resources/funding/upload/RESULTS-OF-A-SURVEY-ON-THE-FUNDING-POSITION-OF-YIACS-report.pdf

[20] *Changing Times, Challenging Times,* Clinks (April 2011) http://www.clinks.org/assets/files/PDFs/Press%20Releases/Clinks%20Press%20Release%20-%20VCS%20services%20at%20risk.pdf

[21] *Counting the Cuts: The impact of public sector spending cuts on children's charities*, Children England (April 2011) http://www.childrenengland.org.uk/upload/CountingTheCutsFinalforPDF.pdf

[22] *The true face of young carers and the diminishing support for them*, Action for Children (16 June 2011) http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news/archive/2011/june/the-true-face-of-young-carers-and-the-diminishing-support-for-them

[23] *Exclusive: More than 2,000 charities and community groups face cuts*, False Economy (Aug 2011) http://falseeconomy.org.uk/blog/exclusive-more-than-2000-charities-and-community-groups-face-cuts

The survey estimated charities face funding reductions of more than £110m this year. Research from the National Council for Voluntary Organisations suggests this is estimate is far too low, and estimates cuts to the voluntary and community sector of at least £3 billion over the government's spending review period 2011-2015.[24] This suggests that far more youth charities than those identified by False Economy have suffered from Government cuts, because the False Economy research has not been extrapolated for the whole country and only includes projects funded by local government, but not other government bodies.

3. Local authority funded youth services

There is not yet a full picture of how local authorities are spending their Early Intervention Grants, which replaced many youth-specific grants as outlined in Comprehensive Cuts 2. However there is a wealth of evidence which suggests that youth services are suffering heavily from reductions in local authority spending. The Education Select Committee's inquiry into services for young people found that "there have already been very significant, disproportionate cuts to local authority youth services—a situation which the Minister acknowledged—ranging from 20% to 100%."[25]

Some have argued that the idea of youth services as a "universal" offer appears to be being abandoned.[26] A study conducted by the Local Government Association (LGA) has found that cuts to council-run services will bring dramatic reductions in children's services, libraries and youth clubs. In the survey of finance directors from 40% of local authorities 22% said that services such as youth clubs and play groups were getting above-average spending reductions.[27] A second survey found that 56% of directors of children's services said that youth services would be among the hardest hit, with early years, Connexions and school improvement services also likely to bear the brunt of the cuts to children's services.[28] 80% of the directors warned that children and young people will be adversely affected by spending reductions.

The scale of the cuts is estimated in the Local Government Association's Local Government Finance Report 2011-12.[29] It claims that local government faces a funding gap in the order of £6.5 billion in 2011-12. It estimates that the top-slicing of local authorities to fund the Academies programme will mean a cut of £350m from non-schools budgets such as child protection and youth provision, and that this "comes at a time when the money available for early intervention is reduced by 25%." Over the next two years the cuts to non-schools budgets is estimated to be £413m.

Other surveys further demonstrate that services for young people are a soft target for local authority cuts across the country. A study by the Confederation of Heads of Young People's Services calculates that over £100m will be removed from the local authority operational budgets by March 2012, with just under 3,000 FTE staff being lost.[30] It estimates that youth services will suffer average budget cuts of 28% in the next financial year, and that open-access youth clubs and centres will be most affected. A second survey, conducted by the union Unite, shows that more than a quarter of youth services in England face cuts of between 21 and 30%.[31] 27% of Unite's youth service members who responded said that youth clubs and centres would be most affected by the cuts. The same percentage said that Connexions or other information, advice and guidance services would be hit by spending reductions.

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[24] *Counting the Cuts: The impact of spending cuts on the UK voluntary and community sector*, NCVO (August 2011) http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/sites/default/files/counting_the_cuts.pdf
[25] *Services for young people Third Report of Session 2010–12*, House of Commons Education Committee (June 2011) http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmeduc/744/744i.pdf
[26] *How have the cuts affected children's services?* Patrick Butler, The Guardian, (30 March 2011) http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/mar/30/cuts-childrens-services
[27] *Young people bear brunt as councils reveal cuts to services*, Polly Curtis, The Guardian, (1 April 2011) http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/apr/01/councils-reveal-services-cuts-young-people-brunt
[28] *Exclusive survey: youth services and children's centres worst hit as cuts average 13 per cent in one year*, Children & Young People Now, Lauren Higgs (25 January 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/1050883/
[29] *Local Government Finance Report 2011-12*, Local Government Association, (9 February 2011) http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/16720540
[30] *Survey of Local Authority Youth Services*, Confederation of Heads of Young People's Services, (February 2011) http://www.chyps.org.uk/assets/LA%20Survey%20December%202010%20summary%20of%20results%203.doc
[31] *True scale of council youth service cuts revealed*, Children & Young People Now, Andy Hillier, (8 February 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/1053491/

An indication of why councils are cutting youth services significantly is provided by Sefton council, which has produced an online cuts consultation that places everything it provides into one of four categories: critical, regulatory, frontline and other services.[32] Youth services feature in 'other' services – because there is not seen to be "a legal, regulatory or critical reason" for providing these services. It is probable that these services are the most vulnerable to cuts.

NCVYS's Financial Monitoring blog gives details of many of the cuts in local authority areas, which in totality suggest extensive reductions in youth services across the country.[33] Further evidence of cuts to youth services is provided by the In Defence of Youth Work blog.[34] Some of the most dramatic cuts are included here to give a flavour of the state of local authority youth services.

- Buckinghamshire County Council has agreed £1.6m cuts to youth services over the next two years, leaving four South Bucks centres at risk of closure. Nearly 100 youth workers are at risk of redundancy in 2011/12, and 24 additional people in youth service posts have already been told they will be laid off by the county council.[35]
- Gloucestershire County Council has approved a four-year programme of cuts totalling £114m. The plans will see 22 youth centres and 10 libraries close unless communities come forward to run them.[36]
- Haringey Council has made a 75% cut, estimated to be £2 million, to the youth service. The council runs over 21 projects to over 4400 teenagers across the borough including 13 youth centres (8 of which, according to the Save Haringey Youth Services group, had already been closed by the council in the last 6 months) and the Haringey Youth Council.[37]
- The Union Unite has said that Hull City Council is cutting £4 million from the youth service, which will mean 75% of the youth service will be lost. Unite expects that 75 out of 131 youth service jobs will be lost and three major centres will close to be replaced by area-based teams.[38]
- Lancashire County Council will be reducing its Young People Service (YPS) by around £8.4million over the next three years.[39]

An additional concerning aspect of youth service cuts is that there is significant evidence that a lack of funding and a shortage of placements are posing problems for providers of youth work courses.[40] Research by CYPNow documents concerns that changes to the teaching grant, which will take place from September 2012, "will mean that relatively unprofitable courses such as youth and community work may struggle to survive." There is already evidence that this is happening, with YouthLink Scotland, the national agency for youth work, campaigning against a proposal by Strathclyde University to close its community education course.[41] NCVYS has seen additional evidence from youth work course providers to support this view, with youth work course institutions reporting problems securing the practice placements. It is suggested that this may be because employers receive no grant or financial benefit for providing a youth work student placement. Other cuts hitting workforce development programmes include the closure of youth research and training provider Young People in Focus, who saw reduced income from their services as Local Authorities reduced their investment in training.[42]

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[32] *Transforming Sefton - Meeting Challenging Times*, Sefton Council (accessed on 5 April 2011) http://www.sefton.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=10879
[33] *Financial Monitoring Blog*, NCVYS http://ncvyspolicy.wordpress.com
[34] *The Last Rites of the Youth Service!* In Defence of Youth Work, (February 23 2011) http://www.indefenceofyouthwork.org.uk/wordpress/?p=1074
[35] *Help needed to keep youth centre alive amid* cuts, Maidenhead Advertiser (11 March 11) http://www.maidenhead-advertiser.co.uk/news/article-20268-help-needed-to-keep-youth-centre-alive-amid-cuts/
[36] *Gloucestershire County Council cuts are approved*, BBC News (16 February 2011) http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-12486288
[37] *Youth clubs at risk as Haringey Council cuts £2million cash*, Tottenham Journal (January 28, 2011) http://www.tottenhamjournal.co.uk/news/youth_clubs_at_risk_as_haringey_council_cuts_2million_cash_1_784440
[38] *Liberal Democrat-controlled Hull city council speaks with 'forked tongue' on youth service cuts*, Unite the Union (15 February 2011) http://www.unitetheunion.org/news__events/latest_news/liberal_democrat-controlled_hu.aspx
[39] *Young People's Service Lancashire County Council newsletter* (June 2011) http://yps.lancashire.gov.uk/june-2011#reorganisation-yps
[40] *Youth work courses feel the squeeze*, CYPNow (14 June 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Careers/article/1074682/youth-work-courses-feel-squeeze
[41] *Stop Closure of Community Education Courses*, YouthLink Scotland (June 2011) http://www.youthlinkscotland.org/Index.asp?MainID=12943
[42] *Training provider Young People in Focus shuts down*, CYPNow (19 August 2011)

4. Other services for young people

Information, advice and guidance services

A survey of members by the Institute of Career Guidance, based on around 340 responses, show that there are severe cuts to the careers service in England and argues that these are putting the futures of young people at risk.[43] The findings included that nearly one in six respondents said that the entire careers service in their area was due to close or had already closed. It found that no respondents were confident that their local authority would be able to offer a fully comprehensive careers information advice and guidance (IAG) service to all young people aged 14-19. It also reported findings from the union UNISON in May 2011 that there may be redundancies of at least 8,000, which are "depleting the service to the extent that they are now unable to provide adequate support to schools and colleges at a time when young people need guidance more than ever."

This evidence has been supported by researchers at the University of Derby, who also raised concerns about the impact of cuts on the careers profession and "the lack of a national transitional plan for managing the change."[44]*Careers Work with Young People: Collapse or Transition?* finds that of 144 local authorities surveyed only 15 will maintain "substantial" universal careers service. 12 councils are identified as making extreme cuts to Connexions services and at least 49 as reducing or removing the universal careers element of the Connexions service. A separate investigation by Children and Young People Now found that local authorities have budgeted to spend almost £180m less on information, advice and guidance services for young people this year compared with last year.[45]

Get Connected, a charity that signposts young people across the UK to services ranging from support with housing to help with substance abuse, has suggested that it is not only statutory advice services which are struggling. Its records show that in the past financial year an average of three to four organisations a week disappeared from its network of organisations, which offer practical help to young people.[46]

Health

There is concern among the VCYS that the Health and Social Care Bill does not sufficiently reflect children and young people's specific needs. NCVYS signed up to letter in May written by charities and organisations with an interest in children's health highlighting the lack of any debate or discussion on how the proposals will affect the services that they use and receive.[47] The Bill in its current form appears to treat children as the same as adults and do not seem to recognise that infants, children and young people have specific needs that must be reflected in the commissioning of services. These concerns are supported by National Children's Bureau research which shows that local health and social care watchdogs are dominated by the elderly and are failing to engage children and young people.[48]

These concerns are exacerbated by cuts to funding that are hitting health services for young people, including sexual and mental health services:

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http://www.cypnow.co.uk/go/news/article/1085772/training-provider-young-people-focus-shuts-down/

[43] *Uncertain futures: The impact of cuts to the careers service on the futures of young people*, Institute of Career Guidance (June 2011) www.agcas.org.uk/assets/download?file=2692&parent=1063

[44] *Careers Work with Young People: Collapse or Transition?,* Tristram Hooley & A.G. Watts, University of Derby (July 2011) http://www.derby.ac.uk/files/careers_transition_paper.pdf

[45] *Young people's advice services take a £180m hit*, CYPNow (August 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Advice_and_Guidance/article/1083841/young-peoples-advice-services-180m-hit

[46] *Four organisations supporting young people close a week, claims charity*, CYPNow (20 December 2010) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/1047267/Four-organisations-supporting-young-people-close-week-claims-charity

[47] *Joint letter to David Cameron on the NHS Reforms and Listening Exercise*, National Children's Bureau (16 May 2011) http://www.ncb.org.uk/campaigning/media_news/2011/jan-jun/joint_letter_on_nhs_reforms.aspx

[48] *Health and social care watchdogs fail to involve children*, CYPNow (01 August 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/go/news/article/1082785/health-social-care-watchdogs-fail-involve-children/

- NCVYS member Platform 51 has seen two of its programmes for teenage parents finishing at the end of March due to a lack of funding.[49] Young Parents To Be and Parents With Prospects were funded by NHS Nottingham and despite positive feedback from participants and the NHS the funding was not extended. Concerns about teenage pregnancy support appear to be spread across the country, with a CYPNow investigation in February revealing that roughly three in five teenage pregnancy co-ordinator posts are under threat in England as councils are unable to commit to keeping them.[50]

  A SocietyGuardian investigation in August gives further details of the current situation and found that teenage pregnancy co-ordinators (TPCs) "have been cut in just over a third of areas – including several where conception rates among under-18s are very high.[51] A survey of all 150 local authorities in England and those PCTs which employ a TPC discovered that since the beginning of last year the role had been axed in 56 areas.

- Youthreach, which has been providing a counselling service for young people aged 11-25 for 24 years, has had its funding of £118,000 from Greenwich Council cut by 100% and will have to close.[52] Youthreach works with young people who are vulnerable, often isolated, at risk from harm/abuse and potentially alienated from their family and peer groups and who often feel excluded from mainstream service provision. The organisation provides therapeutic support for at a minimum 350 young people per year, and has been described by the Service Manager at Greenwich CAMHS as 'one we can't manage without'.

- Unite, the union has said that Lewisham CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) has frozen recruitment for vacant posts to achieve savings of £484, 000.[53] It estimates that thousands of children and young people could be hit by the cuts.

There have also been concerns raised that proposals in the Welfare Reform Bill will also negatively impact on young people. Cancer charity Clic Sargent has warned that families of children and young people with cancer will be worse off under the proposals to reform Disability Living Allowance (DLA), with families having to wait until six months after their child's cancer diagnosis to claim DLA, rather than the current three months.[54] The Left Foot Forward blog has suggested that the Welfare Reform Bill "also contains a small, but significant, new cut: the 'youth provision' is being removed from contributory Employment and Support Allowance." ESA-C is a benefit for unemployed disabled people who have paid sufficient National Insurance.[55] The Children's Society has produced analysis which reveals that thousands of young carers and their families face losing more than £3,500 a year. Families with young carers looking after disabled parents could lose out through the abolition of the 'severe disability premium' and the Enhanced Disability premium, which will be ended following the introduction of the Universal Credit premium.[56]

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[49] *Threats to teenage parent services in Nottingham*, Platform 51 (4 March 2011) http://www.platform51.org/news/Threats_to_teenage_parent_services_in_Nottingham

[50] *Rise in teen pregnancy feared as roles are axed*, CYPNow (22 February 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletins/Daily-Bulletin/news/1055961/?DCMP=EMC-DailyBulletin

[51] *Cuts threaten to undo progress on reducing teenage pregnancies*, The Guardian (9 August) http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/aug/09/cuts-undo-progress-teenage-pregnancies

[52] Voluntary Sector Cuts website (March 2011) http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/cut.php?guid=F28640F5-1BEA-414D-88B6-2D9DE367745C

[53] *Children and young people in South London could be hit by mental health services being axed, says Unite*, Unite (March 2011) http://www.unitetheunion.org/news__events/latest_news/children_and_young_people_in_s.aspx

[54] *Children with cancer will be worse off under welfare reforms, charity claims*, CYPNow (18 February 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/1055848/Children-cancer-will-worse-off-welfare-reforms-charity-claims/

[55] *'Simplification' leads to severely disabled young people's benefits being cut*, Left Foot Forward (18 February 2011) http://www.leftfootforward.org/2011/02/impact-of-welfare-reform-bill/

[56] *Young carers and their disabled parents set to lose out on thousands of pounds*, The Children's Society (30 August 2011) http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/news-views/press-release/young-carers-and-their-disabled-parents-set-lose-out-thousands-pounds

YoungMinds has published research which shows that vital services for children and young people suffering from mental health problems are being cut across the country. [57] The survey of health trusts and councils found that more than half have cut their budgets for children and young people's mental health services for 2011/2012. The report includes case studies of councils who have made cuts of up to 25% for child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS).

DrugScope, the national membership organisation for the drug sector, has revealed evidence of the impact of funding cuts on the provision of drug and alcohol services for young people.[58] It shows that drug education and prevention provision for young people delivered in school settings, drug treatment for young people who are already using drugs and alcohol, and support for infrastructure organisations for professionals working in the sector are all affected. Drugscope research has found that a number of young people's treatment services have already closed in the London boroughs of Hammersmith and Fulham, Newham and Merton. Additionally, Addaction, one of the UK's major treatment providers, has confirmed that some local authorities have imposed funding cuts on their young people's services of up to 50 per cent. DrugScope also noted that recent research published by the Department for Education concluded that young people's drug treatment is a cost effective intervention, estimating that for every £1 spent on young person's treatment, between £5 and £8 is saved by the NHS and other agencies.[59]

Housing services

Housing services for disadvantaged young people also appear to be at risk. A CYPNow article has shown that members of the Chartered Institute of Housing's (CIH) UK housing panel estimated that support for vulnerable young people will be cut by between 10 and 50% from April 2011.[60] A senior policy officer at CIH said that cuts to services would put many young people at risk saying the most affected would be care leavers, pregnant and homeless young people. A survey conducted by the National Housing Federation (NHF) in January found that nearly three quarters of supported housing charities have been warned by their local authority to expect "disproportionate" cuts to services which support homeless people, mentally ill people, refugees, women fleeing domestic violence, care leavers and teenage parents. One in five have been told to expect cuts of over 30%.[61]

Examples of the cuts include:

- Forest YMCA in Walthamstow, which is losing £550,000 following severe cuts to Supporting People contracts.[62] This means the closure of its domestic violence service and the end of most support to its service to 122 homeless young people.

- Cirencester Housing for Young People, which has lost its Supporting People grant of £116,000 per year from Gloucestershire County Council and will have to reduce its support for homeless young people.[63] It has also lost a grant from Cotswold District Council of £13,500 per year to house 7 young people. There is concern that the amount of support time available to each individual resident has reduced, because the nature of problems experienced by residents (including mental health issues, former abuse and neglect and behavioural issues) can't be dealt with quickly.

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[57] *Children and young people's mental health services slashed by funding cuts*, Young Minds (July 2011) http://www.youngminds.org.uk/ym-newsroom/press-releases/press-releases-2011/jul/children-and-young-people2019s-mental-health-services-slashed-by-funding-cuts

[58] Charities warn of 'devastating impact' of cuts to young people's drug and alcohol services, DrugScope (July 2011) http://www.drugscope.org.uk/ourwork/pressoffice/pressreleases/Young+Peoples+Cuts.htm

[59] *Specialist Drug and Alcohol Services for Young People – A Cost-Benefit Analysis*, Department for Education (February 2011) http://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/DFE-RB087.pdf

[60] *Care leavers will be hit by reduction in housing services*, CYPNow (25 March 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletin/cypnow_daily/article/1062231/

[61] *Message to big society charities: expect 'disproportionate' cuts*, The Guardian (24 January 2011) http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/patrick-butler-cuts-blog/2011/jan/24/big-society-charites-expect-big-cuts

[62] Voluntary Sector Cuts website (March 2011) http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/cut.php?guid=DCCF5EBB-99D1-45C7-AA4D-2057CBDC0954

[63] Voluntary Sector Cuts website (February 2011) http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/cut.php?guid=7627D99D-31A4-446A-BC67-B8CC83CDA460

- Foyer Federation, which is facing a 40% reduction in its Cornwall budget because of Cornwall Council's spending cuts.[64] There are currently six Foyer buildings across the county which provide accommodation and advice for homeless youngsters aged between 16 and 24.

Volunteering

Volunteering projects for young people are also suffering following the ending of vinvolved funding in March 2011. Organisations within the NCVYS network which have lost projects include:

- Young Suffolk, which has lost £450,000 and has had to make 3 staff redundant. Its Youth Volunteering programme will be closed after 11 successful years working with close to 6000 young people.[65]

- Rathbone Vflex Sandwell, which has lost £300,000.[66] There will be staff redundancies and some volunteer involving organisations will have to reduce their delivery due to the loss of the young volunteers. The local community is unlikely to continue to benefit from young people volunteering in the area as the local volunteer centre does not work with under-18s.

- Watford & District YMCA, which has lost "6 staff providing support for up to 2500 young people each year, helping them get into volunteering and to set up and manage their own community projects to tackle local issues."[67] They have lost funding for "3 staff providing support for up to 135 young people not in education, employment or training each year helping them to resolve complex emotional, social and behavioural issues and make positive transitions into work or college."

The forthcoming closure of Youth Action Network (YAN) will also impact on youth volunteering opportunities for young people.[68] YAN have been unable to replace their main source of income, the Strategic Partners Grant from the Office for Civil Society. YAN has also conducted research suggesting that the future for their member organisations (who together support almost 400,000 young people to volunteer) is very uncertain. YAN's survey in June 2010 asked members about their current situation in terms of funding, staffing and delivery – and how they foresaw the future. The responses of the 45 organisations who participated suggest that funding for youth action will decrease from £45.8m in 2010 to £11.5m in 2011. There will be a decrease from 792 to 170 of workers supporting young volunteers. Assuming that the ratio of workers to young volunteers stays the same, this will mean a reduction from 400,000 to 86,000 in young volunteers who are supported to volunteer.[69] A second survey in February 2011 estimated that 68% of their member organisations or projects will close after March 2011, 85% of member organisations will face cuts of 50% or more in funding, and 88% fewer young volunteers will be supported after April 2011.[70]

Youth Justice

A survey by CYP Now has revealed that 90% of youth offending teams (YOTs) have faced cuts.[71] Of the 41 out of 156 YOT managers who responded to the survey, 50% believe spending cuts will result in increasing numbers of young people sentenced to custody. 32% said that this has resulted in less

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[64] *Cornwall young homeless projects' concern over cuts*, BBCNews (April 2011) http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-12945951
[65] Voluntary Sector Cuts website (January 2011) http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/cut.php?guid=BA4FB9DA-E5E1-4BAC-BB31-7CF559EA42A9
[66] Voluntary Sector Cuts website (January 2011) http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/cut.php?guid=F81A881A-EFC8-454E-A2C8-C6ED3AB159CD
[67] Voluntary Sector Cuts website (January 2011) http://voluntarysectorcuts.org.uk/cut.php?guid=03A8
[68] *Youth Action Network likely to close*, Youth Action Network (Feb 2011) http://www.youthactionnetwork.org.uk/yn/our_activities/our_latest_news/youth_action_network_likely_to_close
[69] *Headline results from YAN members' survey 2010*, YAN (December 2010) http://www.stoptheyouthquake.org.uk/2010/12/youth-action-network-members-survey-2010/
[70] *Support for youth volunteering is being wiped out!* YAN (February 2010) http://www.stoptheyouthquake.org.uk/2011/02/support-for-youth-volunteering-is-being-wiped-out/
[71] *Cuts could lead to more young offenders in custody*, CYPNow (1 June 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/go/news/article/1072432/cuts-lead-young-offenders-custody/

provision for community punishments making up the youth rehabilitation order (YRO). The YRO, introduced by the Labour government, provides magistrates with a "menu" of community punishments to minimise the use of custody. Respondents revealed that at least eight of the 18 community sentences that make up the YRO are suffering from less provision. These include the intensive supervision, surveillance, activity, local authority residence, education programme, restorative justice processes and restorative conferencing, substance misuse and drug treatment requirements. Some YOT managers who are less concerned about rising custody numbers point to plans to devolve the cost of custody to local authorities as an incentive for fresh investment in community alternatives to custody.

Examples of cuts include:

- White Gold, a partnership between the police and Cornwall youth offending team (YOT), is to close at the end of this month because its £185,000 funding from a government local area agreement is to end.[72] The crime prevention project in Cornwall has helped more than 960 young people since it started in 2003.

- Harrow youth offending team has seen a cut of £150,000 (30% of its income).[73] The team works with about 300 10- to 18-year-olds each year and handles 100 court orders at any one time. Many of the young offenders face exclusion from school, have learning disabilities, mental health issues, or demonstrate violent behaviour and self-harm.

- London Councils' Executive Member for Children and Young People Councillor Steve Reed has written to Education Secretary Michael Gove warning that planned funding cuts to youth offending team funding could set back efforts to reduce crime in London.[74] This follows news that funding for youth offending teams (YOTS) from the Youth Justice Board will be reduced by as much as 30% for some boroughs and an average 23% in London. The average cut in cash terms for London is almost £175,000 per borough. The letter argues that the average cut for England is 21%, and given that young Londoners account for almost a quarter of all young offenders in the criminal justice system, this cut appears disproportionately harsh on the capital.

- Sandwell Council has put all staff within the youth offending and targeted youth support services on the authority's 'at risk of redundancy' register.[75] 70 full-time equivalent posts are affected and over 80 employees in total, although it is not yet known how many will be made redundant. The council has so far confirmed around £1m for this year's budget compared to over £2.5m in 2010/11, and one councillor is expecting about a 25-30% reduction on last year's budget. Over the past three years, Sandwell's youth offending service has reduced the number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time by over 400 – more than a 60% drop.

Voluntary sector projects working with young people at risk are also facing cuts. Oasis UK have begun an appeal for funding following news that funding for some of its summer youth work programmes have been cut, with over 200 young people affected.[76] This is despite evidence from both police and academic researchers that the organisations' projects reduce youth crime and violence and lead to positive changes in young people's activities, social skills and personal development.[77] Another project, which is losing funding from Lambeth Council, is 2XL, run by Brathay Hall Trust.[78] The 2XL programme

[72] *Public sector cuts: Rise in youth crime feared as key teams are reduced*, The Guardian (25 March 2011) http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/mar/25/public-sector-cuts-youth-crime
[73] *Public sector cuts: where they will hit*, The Guardian (25 March 2011) http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/mar/25/public-sector-cuts-where-will-they-hit#Harrow
[74] *Government urged to reverse cuts to youth offending teams*, London Councils (14 March 2011) http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/news/current/pressdetail.htm?pk=1271&showpage=1
[75] *Government cuts put youth offending staff at risk*, Sandwell Council (18 March) http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/news/article/822/government_cuts_put_youth_offending_staff_at_risk
[76] *Tom's letter*, Oasis (summer 2011) http://www.oasisuk.org/uk/summer11/letter
[77] *A&E youth work project helps change lives of young gang members*, CYPNow (19 August 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/go/news/article/1085714/a-e-youth-work-project-helps-change-lives-young-gang-members/
[78] *Projects to prevent young people joining gangs face axe*, The Guardian (11 May 2011) http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/may/11/gangs-youth-crime-projects-face-funding-cuts

uses peer mentoring to stop young people turning to crime by offering practical alternatives to gang activity.

5. Key policy areas directly affecting young people

Employment – the Future Jobs Fund and the Work Programme

A recent report by the Young Foundation on youth unemployment details the Government's measures to address rising youth unemployment and the current context of high levels of youth unemployment.[79] It noted concerns about the gap between the previous Government's Future Jobs Fund (FJF), which ended in March 2011 and the new Government's Work Programme, launched in June 2011. This follows the conclusions of the Work and Pensions Select Committee's report into *Youth Unemployment and the Future Jobs Fund*, which examined the Coalition Government's decision to terminate the £1 billion FJF programme in March 2011 - a year earlier than planned.[80] It found that it was too soon to assess whether the Future Jobs Fund has been successful in supporting unemployed young people in finding permanent employment.

The report called on the Government to ensure that its increased funding for apprenticeships includes opportunities for young people who lack skills and experience and who face significant obstacles to finding work. The Government's response to the report said that it would conduct an impact assessment to estimate the difference that the Future Jobs Fund had made to participants' employment and benefit receipt outcomes.[81]

A more recent Select Committee inquiry into the Work Programme has also raised concerns about its potential to impact on youth unemployment. Evidence from the Prince's Trust suggested that a payment by results model may lead to organisations failing to work with the most disadvantaged groups, "further deepening their culture of worklessness."[82] It has also suggested that outcome targets for those young people furthest from the labour market need to be realistic, as they will need multiple interventions to progress to employment. There should be recognition and payment for achieving steps along that journey, progression and achievement rates must be not be uniform but need to reflect the increased barriers certain groups of clients will face. The Work and Pensions Select Committee's final report agreed that there is a risk that providers of the Work Programme might focus their attention on jobseekers who are easier to place in work, at the expense of those who face greater challenges to finding jobs.[83]

The Prince's Trust also raised a concern that since the programme will not create jobs, the targets it sets need to be take into account the job opportunities in each region. One MP has raised concerns that the providers will focus their work in areas where it is easier to get young people into jobs, further disadvantaging those in the most deprived areas.[84]

Education Maintenance Allowance

Comprehensive Cuts 2 documented in detail many of the arguments around the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) scheme. This report looks at its successor, announced by the Department for Education at the end of March. The £180 million bursary scheme to help the most vulnerable 16-19

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[79] *Youth Unemployment: A Policy Briefing*, Produced by the Young Foundation for the Catalyst Consortium (July 2011) http://www.ncvys.org.uk/UserFiles/Catalyst_Briefing_on_Youth_Unemployment.pdf

[80] *Youth Unemployment and the Future Jobs Fund*, Work and Pensions Select Committee, (21 December 2010) http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmworpen/472/472.pdf

[81] *Youth Unemployment and the Future Jobs Fund: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2010–11*, House of Commons Work and Pensions Committee, (9 March 2011) http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmworpen/844/844.pdf

[82] http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201012/cmselect/cmworpen/718/718we03.htm

[83] http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/work-and-pensions-committee/news/substantive-work-programme-press-notice/

[84] *Youth Unemployment*, Oral Answers to Questions — Work and Pensions (13 June 2011) http://www.theyworkforyou.com/debates/?id=2011-06-13a.483.2

years olds continue in full-time education replaces the £560 million per year EMA scheme, and is made up of two parts:[85]

- "Around 12,000 16-19 year olds will be given guaranteed bursaries of £1,200 a year. This group is made up of children in care, care leavers and those on income support. Income support is paid to young people such as teenage parents, young people with severe disabilities, teenagers living away from their parents and young people whose parents have died. This is more than they would have received through the EMA";

- "Schools and colleges can distribute the rest of the money to support any student who faces genuine financial barriers to participation such as costs of transport, food or equipment. They will have the freedom to decide the scale of the bursaries; to pay weekly, monthly, or annually; and link it to behaviour or attendance."

The current discretionary fund is £26 million. In future the fund will be worth £180 million. After the guaranteed bursaries have been paid to the most vulnerable 12,000, colleges will have £165m for the discretionary pot. There will also be additional transitional arrangements to help those who are part-way through their studies and are currently receiving the EMA.

NCVYS member Catch22 is concerned with how schools will administer these changes: "The replacement will also have serious consequences on young people from families moving in and out of the poverty trap who may not always receive school meals. Those above the threshold will have to apply for the replacement and there is not clear that they will be eligible to receive it."[86]

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has also raised another concern: "if students must apply for the bursary after enrolment, then they will not know, when applying for a place in post-16 education, whether they will receive a bursary - and if so, how much. This could have an impact on their decision to stay on in the first place."[87]

The IFS also warns: "we can't say in advance which students would receive more or less under the new scheme. Schools could choose to allocate more to some students than they receive at the moment, and less to others." It also queries the assertion of the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, who said that the new bursary scheme "would allow £800 for every child eligible for free school meals who chose to stay on - more than many receive under the current arrangements." It concludes: "The government as ever will be facing a dilemma in looking to provide more discretion to front-line providers over how they allocate the money made available. This could allow (the smaller amount of) money available to be better targeted at those who would benefit most. But if the discretion is used, it could reduce transparency and certainty for students. The system will also need to be carefully designed to avoid perverse incentives."

One of the Government's justifications for replacing EMA has also been challenged. Thomas Spielhofer's study for the National Foundation for Educational Research, which found that 88 per cent of students would have stayed in education or training even without the EMA, has been used by Government to argue that the EMA should be replaced.[88] But Spielhofer gave evidence to the Education Select Committee's inquiry into 'Participation by 16-19 year olds in education and training' saying that it was wrong to interpret this as meaning 88 per cent of money handed out through the EMA was wasted.[89]

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[85] *£180 million new bursary scheme to help the most vulnerable 16-19 year olds*, Department for Education (28 March 2011) http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/pressnotices/a0076112/180-million-new-bursary-scheme-to-help-the-most-vulnerable-16-19-year-olds

[86] *Government's U-turn on EMA replacement is encouraging*, Catch22 (28 March 2011) http://www.catch-22.org.uk/News/Detail/Governments-U-turn-on-EMA-replacement-is-encouraging

[87] *Many unanswered questions over EMA successor*, Institute for Fiscal Studies (March 2011) http://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/5529

[88] e.g. *Education questions: Finance*, Theyworkforyou.com (26 April 2011) http://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2011-04-26b.51061.h&s=ema+90%25#g51061.r0

[89] *EMA study was 'misinterpreted' by government*, CYPNow (9 June 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Education/article/1074275/ema-study-misinterpreted-government/

Higher education and student finance
Comprehensive Cuts 2 also looked at the debates around higher education and student finance, and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' plans for reform. The proposals, which will come into place from 2012/13, will allow universities to charge up to £9,000 per year, raising the cap from its current level of £3,290. Universities wanting to charge more than £6,000 will have to undertake measures, such as offering bursaries, summer schools and outreach programmes, to encourage students from poorer backgrounds to apply.

Since the beginning of 2011 more details around the fees universities will be charging have emerged. In July the Office for Fair Access (Offa) published details of how much each university in England will charge students for tuition. 47 out of 123 universities will charge the maximum £9,000 with the average fee of £8,393 falling to £8,161 when fee waivers are taken into account.[90] Channel 4's Fact Check has explored the Government's promise that universities will only be allowed to charge £9,000 tuition fees in "exceptional circumstances".[91] It questions whether the Office For Fair Access, which, according to Prime Minister David Cameron "will decide whether or not [universities] can go to that £9,000 threshold", has any powers to stop universities charging £9,000.

6. Funding for young people and the voluntary sector

While cuts have been affecting existing youth services, there have been new funding opportunities for the sector.

The Department for Education's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) grant awarded roughly £60 million a year to voluntary organisations working with children, young people and families.[92] Young people were one of six grant themes, and 19 organisations received roughly £16.5 million in funding for 2011-12. A consortium co-ordinated by NCVYS and supported by partners the National Youth Agency (NYA), Social Enterprise Coalition (SEC) and the Young Foundation, were appointed as the Strategic Youth Partner as part of the grant programme. Other recipients of the funding included NCVYS members Catch22, Children Our Ultimate Investment (Teens and Toddlers), Clubs for Young People, the Diana Award, Endeavour, Foyer Federation, KIDS, Media Trust, Prince's Trust (and Fairbridge), Princess Royal Trust for Carers, UK Youth and v. The fund is intended to help organisations adjust to new funding arrangements.

The Cabinet Office has provided funding to the youth sector through the National Citizen Service pilots. Its Business Plan Quarterly Data Summary in July showed that the department has budgeted £63m for the National Citizen Service (NCS) pilot projects taking place in 2011 and 2012.[93] This is an increase on the £50m that the Conservative Party suggested the scheme would cost for 2011 and 2012 in its policy paper in 2010.[94] NCVYS members Catch 22, the Challenge Network, the Prince's Trust and v (the National Young Volunteers' Service) are among those delivering the pilots. Concerns about the cost of the NCS in comparison to cuts to other youth services have been made by young people at an APPG meeting, as well as in the Education Select Committee's inquiry into services for young people.[95] [96]

The Cabinet Office has also provided funding to voluntary and community youth organisations through its Transition Fund of £107million (including £7 million from the Department of Health). The Fund aims to help civil society organisations "which deliver high quality public services to be more resilient, agile and

[90] *OFFA decisions on 2012-13 access agreements*, Offa (12 July 2011) http://www.offa.org.uk/press-releases/universities-and-colleges-to-increase-their-spending-on-access-to-600-million-a-year/
[91] *Fact Check: University Tuition Fees Set To Run Riot*, Channel 4 News, (30 March 2011) http://blogs.channel4.com/factcheck/factcheck-university-tuition-fees-set-to-run-riot/6118
[92] *Voluntary and community organisations awarded £60 million grant*, Department for Education (4 March 2011) http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/pressnotices/a0074906/voluntary-and-community-organisations-awarded-60-million-grant
[93] *Business Plan Quarterly Data Summary*, Cabinet Office (July 2011) http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/business-plan-quarterly-data-summary
[94] *National Citizen Service - policy paper*, The Conservative Party (April 2010) http://www.conservatives.com/~/media/Files/Downloadable%20Files/NCSpolicypaper.ashx?dl=true
[95] *Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2011*, APPG on Youth Affairs http://ncvys.org.uk/UserFiles/Notes_APPGYA_8Feb2011.pdf
[96] *Services for young people*, House of Commons Education Committee (June 2011)

able to take opportunities presented by a changing funding environment." Funding has been awarded to hundreds of organisations including many youth organisations and NCVYS members.[97]

The Cabinet Office Giving White Paper also includes financial support for the voluntary and community sector.[98] This includes £40 million over the next two years for volunteering and social action, made up of £30 million for a local infrastructure fund, and £10million for a Social Action Fund to support the most promising ideas for growing giving in priority areas in England and boosting levels of engagement over the next two years. This is alongside the £80 million Community First programme, which is made up of a £30 million Neighbourhood Matched Fund Programme to provide financial support for community-led projects and a £50 million Endowment Match Challenge which aims to build local endowments through philanthropic donations. The White Paper included £1 million to support NCVYS member Youthnet which runs the volunteering website www.do-it.org.uk.

Evidence that youth organisations have found alternative sources of funding is shown by a CYP Now survey of 18 youth associations and clubs, compiled in conjunction with UK Youth, which revealed that while 67% said they or their members had been affected by cuts, 72% said they had been able to access alternative sources of funding.[99] These sources may include the funds outlined above, or could include funds such as the Department of Health's £6m Volunteering Fund National Awards, or the Big Lottery Fund's £30m Youth in Focus funds for vulnerable groups of young people.[100]

The Big Society Bank is also expected to provide support for youth projects, with its first investment an in principle award of up to £1m to the Private Equity Foundation to support its mission of helping disadvantaged young people into employment, education or training.[101] The Bank, now officially named Big Society Capital, will have an estimated £400million in unclaimed assets left dormant in bank accounts for over 15 years and £200million from the UK's largest high street banks to grow the social investment market.

7. NCVYS comment

The evidence presented above explains our concerns that the voluntary and community youth sector, which provides vital services for young people, is facing serious challenges owing to the reduced investment in the sector. Structures that supported young people to engage with their communities, and to be supported in their personal and social development, are disappearing as organisations struggle to cope in a new funding landscape. It is no wonder that our members have been campaigning against cuts. Youth Action Network's YouthQuake campaign has highlighted what will be lost as a result of imminent cuts in funding to support for youth volunteering.[102] The British Youth Council, UK Youth and Media Trust have supporting the Choose Youth campaign in support of young people's services.[103] The Scouts, supported by Girlguiding UK, has launched *Don't raise our rents!*, calling on local authorities to ensure any rent increases are "fair and affordable" and to continue to provide scouts with discretionary rate relief for scout-owned properties.[104]

Young people have been involved in organic protests defending youth work across the country, from Oxford to Haringey and Rotherham. The British Youth Council (BYC) and the union Unite have together written a letter defending youth services to Prime Minister David Cameron, which has been signed by

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[97] *Transition Fund recipients part 3*, NCVYS Financial Monitoring Blog (June 13 2011) http://ncvyspolicy.wordpress.com/2011/06/13/transition-fund-recipients-part-3/

[98] *Giving White Paper*, Cabinet Office (May 2011) http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/giving-white-paper.pdf

[99] *Youth groups find alternative funding to make up for government spending cuts*, CYPNow (14 June 2011) http://www.cypnow.co.uk/go/news/article/1074694/youth-groups-find-alternative-funding-government-spending-cuts/

[100] *Funding for NCVYS members*, NCVYS Financial Monitoring Blog (June 3 2011) http://ncvyspolicy.wordpress.com/2011/06/03/funding-for-ncvys-members/

[101] *Big Society Bank launched*, Cabinet Office (29 July 2011) http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/news/big-society-bank-launched

[102] http://www.stoptheyouthquake.org.uk/

[103] http://chooseyouth.org/

[104] http://www.scouts.org.uk/rent/

nearly 2,000 young people.[105] The letter says that they are "deeply concerned about the impact [the] government's spending cuts are already having on our youth services" and it highlights a number of areas where "deep cuts are already ripping the youth service apart".

We know that our members need support to fulfil the needs of the young people in our communities and that investment in these services deliver significant cost savings to other areas.[106] We welcome statements such as that of Local Government Minister Bob Neill, who said in response to the Scout campaign, "It is unacceptable for councils to unilaterally hike charges on scout groups without consultation. This is a false economy, as without scout groups, local authorities and the police would end up spending more money on tackling anti-social behaviour and on paying for the services which Scouts provide for free." NCVYS will be using our response to the Department for Education's Youth Policy statement to urge the Government to develop a cohesive view for a range of services for young people and to ensure that youth services do not continue to suffer. We know that new partnerships need to develop, taking advantage of new funding opportunities, yet as the recent *Growing interest?* report from the Young Foundation for the NCVYS-coordinated Catalyst consortium found, social finance is not a substitute for public sector or voluntary funding and many youth sector organisations will struggle with this transition.[107]

8. Contact details

For more information on any element of this paper and to feedback your experiences of cuts, please contact NCVYS's Policy Officer, Dom Weinberg, at dominic@ncvys.org.uk or on 020 7278 1041.

[105] *Letter to David Cameron*, British Youth Council (BYC) and Unite, (17 January 2011) http://offlinehbpl.hbpl.co.uk/NewsAttachments/PYC/Young Peoples letter.pdf
[106] See http://www.ncvys.org.uk/resources.html for evidence
[107] *Growing interest? Mapping the market for social finance in the youth sector*, Young Foundation (August 2011) http://www.ncvys.org.uk/UserFiles/Growing%20interest.pdf