
Policy briefing



Aiming high for young people: A ten year strategy for positive activities Implementation Plan

Introduction

Published on 18 March 2008 the *Aiming high for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities Implementation Plan*¹ highlights progress to date in implementing *Aiming high* and describes key actions to be taken over the next 12 months based on cross government department working.

Potential issues for the Voluntary Youth Sector

NCVYS welcomes the *Implementation Plan* which the voluntary and community youth sector (VCYS) has a key role in delivering. New funding programmes, workforce development plans and other strategies running alongside the *Implementation Plan*, including the *Staying Safe Action Plan*, all offer opportunities for VCYS engagement and role in planning and delivering positive activities for young people. Local VCYS organisations might find it beneficial to use the *Implementation Plan* in dialogue with LAs as a tool and reference point.

Report summary:

Chapter 1: Introduction

The *Implementation Plan* follows *Aiming high for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities*² and *The Children's Plan*. The focus of *Aiming high* is to increase young people's participation in constructive leisure time activities and has six key objectives:

¹ <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/aiminghigh/>

² <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/tenyearyouthstrategy/>

1. rebalance the public narrative about young people counteracting the negative perception of young people and celebrating their achievements;
2. empowering young people to increase their influence over the design and delivery of services;
3. increasing the number of local places for young people to go;
4. removing barriers and supporting young people to access local opportunities and services for them;
5. improving the capacity and quality of services for young people; and
6. supporting and developing the youth workforce to employ the very best practice in working with young people.

Achieving these objectives will be based on integrated services and partnership working by people including Local Authorities (LAs), sports and arts bodies (e.g. Sport England and the Arts Council), schools and colleges, third sector youth organisations and young people and their communities.

To carry out the *Implementation Plan* the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) will work with other government departments including the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the Department of Health (DH), Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office (OTS).

Chapter 2: *Aiming high* in contact

This chapter provides background on the policy landscape around and behind the *Implementation Plan*, the delivery of the Local Offer to young people, key challenges, new investment and the launch of the Youth Taskforce³.

Chapter 3: Delivering *Aiming high*: the story so far

This chapter identifies work that has taken place since the launch of *Aiming high* including:

- additional investment of £25m for the Youth Opportunity Fund as well as £173m continued funding for the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds until at least 2011;
- an additional £160m over the next three years for youth facilities, to be distributed by the Big Lottery Fund;
- investing up to £100m over the next three years through a new Youth Sector Development Fund;
- launched a *Call for Evidence*⁴ on youth sector support; and
- proposed a new national body for youth leadership.

³ <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/ytff/>

⁴ <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1525>

Chapter 4: Delivering *Aiming high*: Rebalancing the public narrative about young people

Chapter 4 identifies key actions in challenging negative public perceptions of young people:

Local youth-led celebration event pilots.

Pilot areas will be announced in the summer and DCSF expect the events to take place from the autumn and into early 2009.

Youth week.

The benefits and feasibility of a 'national youth week' is being explored by a sub-group of the Empowerment Working Group. The main aim of youth week should be to showcase and celebrate achievements of young people and national and local activity should be designed and led by young people. Strong contributions will be expected from local areas and although youth week will provide an annual focus for young people's achievements, activities should take place throughout the year. A feasibility report will be presented to Ministers in spring 2008.

National awards scheme.

The Youth Taskforce has committed to run a national award scheme to recognise and celebrate young people who successfully turn their lives around, or who make a significant contribution to their communities. Case studies showing examples of good practice will be promoted through the DCSF website in spring 2008.

Chapter 5: Delivering *Aiming high*: Empowering young people

Background is given on the emphasis within *Aiming high* on the need to build upon and embed arrangements which involve young people in the design and delivery of services. Key actions in this area are:

Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds (YOF/YCF).

LAs will continue to receive their baseline funding for YOF and YCF until March 2011. Both YOF and YCF will remain ring-fenced with conditions attached to the funding which will ensure young people continue to have control over how the money is spent in their local area. 50 deprived areas will receive part of an additional £25m for the YOF and now the YCF for the period 2008-2011. Revised guidance to support the delivery of the YOF and YCF will be issued in March 2008 and a good Practice Guide will be published by DCSF in April 2008.

Budget devolution

Aiming high stated that by 2018 25% of LAs' budgets for positive activities should be controlled and influenced by young people. DCSF has commissioned the Local Government Association (LGA) and the National Youth Agency (NYA) to undertake a sampling exercise to determine young people's engagement.

Youth Sector Development Fund

Support to third sector organisations will be given through the new Youth Development Fund (see Chapter 8).

A new national body for youth leadership

DCSF and Changemakers are currently consulting on the name, form and focus of the new national body but they know that:

- there will be a budget of £2m each year until at least 2011;
- it will consist of one or more of the best youth leadership organisations which will drive change across the sector; and
- it will be a virtual organisation

Proposals are expected to be issued early summer 2008.

National Youth Volunteering Programme

The OTS is funding v to build a new national youth volunteering framework. In June 2007 v announced investment of £75m in involved – the first national youth volunteering programme which created involved⁵ teams in every local area. From April 2008 involved teams will provide capacity building support, advice and information to local organisations.

Empowering communities to improve services for young people

Aiming high emphasised the important role that communities need to play in holding LAs to account for the accessibility, choice and quality of services and activities they provide for young people. Government will respond to an independent report by the Councillors Commission, *Representing the future*⁶ in spring 2008. The Young Advisors⁷ scheme has been introduced throughout the country and a CLG Community Empowerment White Paper will be published in June 2008 which will include proposals to allow more young people to have an influence in their community.

Young people and adults tackling common issues

DCSF has set out an expectation that LAs bring together young people's and adult's participation forums to develop common solutions to common problems. The Youth Taskforce will undertake a sampling exercise to identify good practice for wider dissemination. There is also a commitment to make funding available to build the capacity in intergenerational volunteering; the OTS is currently consulting with volunteering organisations, further details will be announced in autumn 2008. In spring 2008 Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister for Children, Young People and Families, will be leading a seminar with experts from the field and Ministers across government to explore the promotion and increased use of intergenerational practice.

⁵ <http://www.wearev.com>

⁶ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/councillorscommission/publications/representingthefuture/>

⁷ <http://www.youngadvisors.org.uk>

Chapter 6: Delivering *Aiming high*: Places to go

Background is given on commitments made in *Aiming High* and *The Children's Plan* to funding and developing places to go for young people. Key actions in this area are:

DCSF investment

DCSF has been working with the Big Lottery Fund and key public and third sector stakeholders to develop a model for delivering DCSF investment in places to go. An open competitive process will be established and DCSF expect to launch the fund at the beginning of April 2008 and open the fund to applicants in early May 2008. All bids must demonstrate the active participation of young people and genuine partnership between public and third and/or private sector organisations. Bids must also demonstrate financial sustainability to ensure projects' long-term viability.

Unclaimed assets

The Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill⁸ is currently going through Parliament. Subject to approval, DCSF plan to start work later this year on how dormant account money is to be invested. The first funds are expected to be transferred for distribution by the end of 2009.

Strategic planning

LAs and their partners should begin work now to identify the best local opportunities for DCSF and unclaimed asset investment.

Accelerating progress in the most deprived areas

As previously mentioned DCSF is committed to increase YOF allocations to the most 50 deprived areas and it will enhance the 2008-09 YCF allocations for the same 50 LA areas by a total of £22.6m - £24.6m from the £60m youth facilities budget announced by *Aiming high* together with £8m from within other existing baselines. The Youth Taskforce will provide support and challenge in these areas.

Chapter 7: Delivering *Aiming high*: Removing barriers and supporting access

Over the next six months DCSF will focus on implementing the commitments in *Aiming high* around ensuring that all young people are able to participate in positive activities. Key actions are:

Targeted activity programmes

All LAs should have robust procedures for identifying and supporting vulnerable young people. *Aiming high* committed investment of £221m over the next three years in targeted and intensive activity provision for the most disengaged young people. All LAs will continue to receive baseline funding over the next three years with additional funding from April 2009. DCSF expect provision to be delivered by strong local partnerships, in

⁸ <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/dormantbankandbuildingsocietyaccountshl.html>

particular increased use of the most effective third sector partners, who often lead the way in engaging the most marginalised young people. Young people should be consulted about all opportunities. In 2008-09, £6m will be invested in 15 trailblazer priority areas to lead the way in expanding the availability of year-round targeted activities.

Residential activity provision

£15m will be invested over the next three years to expand the availability of residential opportunities, building on the success of Do it 4 Real. DCSF are currently exploring options for future arrangements with the YMCA, other providers of residential activities, LAs and young people. DCSF intend to run a procurement exercise for the delivery of the scheme on this basis in 2009-10 and 2010-11. This should conclude in autumn with the new arrangements in place by the end of 2008.

Removal financial barriers

From April 2008, one year Empowering Young People Pilots will run in nine LAs testing a range of ways to subsidise positive activities for young people and test whether this has an impact on levels of participation. Further details of the pilots are given.

Reaching out

Recognising that it is often third sector organisations that lead the way in reaching out to engage marginalised young people, DCSF has committed to invest up to £100m over the next three years to support such organisations to secure sustainability and grow their provision.

Improving information

From 2008-09 funding will be allocated to LAs as part of the Local Authority Formula Grant to support LAs in fulfilling their statutory duty to publicise and keep up to date information on local activities and facilities for young people. Further details of support for LAs in providing accessibly information is given.

Improving transport provision

DCSF is currently working with the Department for Transport to improve guidance, support and challenge to children's trusts and transport planners to encourage joined up planning and commissioning of local transport. DCSF has also asked the NYA to develop guidance for children's trusts on how improving local transport provision can support young people's access to positive activities. The guidance is due to be completed by December 2008.

Addressing safety issues

The *Staying Safe Action Plan*⁹ will be implemented with guidance to be launched in summer 2008. The *Youth Crime Action Plan* will also be published in summer 2008.

9

Chapter 8: Delivering *Aiming high*: Improving capacity and quality of services for young people

Improving partnership and collaboration

Children and Young People's Plans (CYPP) should set out how local services will respond to the demand from young people for positive activities and places to go and children's trusts should continue to embed good practice in working with Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs).

Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) are to pool with local youth support services 10% of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) funding for young people's prevention initiatives and all Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) are to pool their budgets for preventing poor adolescent health outcomes with LAs. DCSF has decided to run a three year pilot in which a small number of YOTs will pool with their LA their YJB prevention grant during the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period. DH will launch a Children's Health Strategy in 2008-09 which will look at pooling budgets.

The DCMS will provide national leadership to promote champions for positive activities at regional and local levels. To take this forward a new Youth Culture Trust will be set up to collate and disseminate examples of good practice from the cultural sector.

The delivery of the *5 hour PE and Sport for Young People Strategy* will be supported by the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England through the School Sports Partnership network, County Sport Partnerships, County Sport Networks and LAs.

Investing in the third sector

DCSF has committed up to £100m over the next three years through a new Youth Sector Development Fund (YSDF) to support third sector organisations that can demonstrate effective approaches to engaging and empowering young people, particularly the most disadvantaged. The funding will be a mixture of large and small grants and expert business support to help these organisations sustain and grow.

The YSDF will also build the capacity of third sector organisations able to support young people who have ideas for establishing projects to provide positive activities to other young people and with a proven ability to work in partnership with LAs to support marginalised young people to influence services.

The YSDF will be managed by an external body which is expected to be in place later this year. Five YSDF pathfinder organisations have been selected which will benefit from funding from April 2008; Kids Company, Speaking Up, Fairbridge, UK Youth and Leap.

The OTS will invest more than £515m over the next three years in third sector programmes as set out in its July 2007 strategy¹⁰. This includes an investment of over £85m in Capacitybuilders to support third sector infrastructure. During 2008-11 Capacity

10

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/the_future_role_of_the_third_sector_in_economic_and_social_regeneration.pdf

builders will be asked to increase their efforts to ensure that infrastructure organisations can support the smallest third sector organisations by building capacity at a community level. Capacitybuilder's new funding streams will be available from April 2008¹¹.

The OTS is investing £130m in the new Grassroots Grants programme which includes an £80m small grants fund for community organisations and a £50m endowments programme to enable local funders to generate additional match-funded donations and invest them in endowments. It will be run by the Community Development Foundation which is currently seeking local third sector funders to manage the scheme at a local level. Grants of £250-£5,000 will be available from summer 2008 for organisations with an annual turnover of under £20,000.

The OTS is investing in a new national centre for third sector research and issued a call for proposals for the £10.25m centre (closing date 27 March 2008).

The OTS is also funding the National Programme for Third Sector Commissioners which will provide training for key commissioners. The programme will be extended through the 2008-11 period.

Clarifying priorities and strengthening accountability

Highlights Public Service Agreement 14 – increasing the number of young people on the path to success¹².

DCSF is committed to work with IDeA and the LGA to develop ways to build elected members' understanding of the value of positive activities and the role of LAs as strategic commissioners.

Facilitating effective practice and innovation

DCSF has published a Call for Evidence – Youth Sector Support¹³ which looks at existing youth sector support arrangements.

Chapter 9: Delivering *Aiming high*: Supporting and developing youth workforce

DCSF is committed to:

- introducing a new leadership and management initiative to support the development of a shared set of skills, knowledge and behaviour;
- looking at ways of encouraging new people into the workforce whom teenagers can relate to, including a new post-graduate recruitment scheme and promoting and developing existing youth apprenticeships and undergraduate courses;

¹¹ <http://www.capacitybuilders.org.uk>

¹² http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/4/8/pbr_csr07_psa14.pdf

¹³ <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1525>

- exploring with the national third sector youth organisations how best to support the training needs of staff working in the third sector and volunteers;
- exploring how disengaged young people could be offered a mentor to advise and support their transition to adulthood;
- working with partners to introduce a common platform of skills and training for those across all sectors who work with young people;
- producing a training programme for doctors and nurses that work with young people; and
- working with the NYA to identify skills and competencies in delivering good health information, advice and guidance that youth workers need, so that these can be included in youth work training in the future.

Key actions in this area are:

- investment and reform to drive up the quality of the youth workforce;
- reforms to lead to the development of a clear professional standards for the youth workforce and potentially the introduction of a new status of youth professional;
- workforce programme to be led by Children's Workforce Network (CWN) and working with other government departments and key stakeholders including the NYA and NCVYS;
- CWN to report back with results of the scoping work in March 2008 and from April a clear programme of work across all the commitments in *Aiming high* will have been agreed and then delivered by the CWN; and
- DH working with NYA to embed health skills and knowledge in youth work and non-formal education.

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