
Policy briefing



Youth Taskforce Action Plan Give respect, get respect – youth matters

Introduction

Launched on 18 March 2008 by Rt Hon Ed Balls MP, Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families, and Rt Hon Beverley Hughes MP, Minister for Children, Young People and Families, the *Youth Taskforce Action Plan: give respect, get respect – youth matters*¹ aims to combine tough enforcement, support and prevention to improve young people's lives and successfully deal with the problems that concern communities.

Potential issues for the Voluntary Youth Sector

NCVYS welcomes *The Youth Taskforce Action Plan*, in particular the emphasis on cross government working and the continued focus on the development of positive activities for young people. Although the voluntary and community sector does not feature strongly in the *Action Plan*, particular attention should be given to the dissemination of government and unclaimed asset funding by the Big Lottery Fund, the increased investment in the Youth Capital Fund (YCF) and the establishment of the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes (CfEO).

Report summary:

Chapter 1: Our vision for young people, building on success

Building on *Every Child Matters*² and *The Children's Plan*³ the *Youth Taskforce Action Plan* aims to set out how the government will support a more effective local response to young people who are involved with serious trouble, like anti-social behaviour, or are in danger of becoming involved. The response will combine a 'triple track' of:

¹ <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/ytf/actionplan?cid=ytfap&type=referrer>

² <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/>

³ <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrensplan/>

- **tough enforcement** where behaviour is unacceptable or illegal;
- **non-negotiable support** to address the underlying causes of poor behaviour or serious difficulties; and
- **better prevention** to tackle problems before they become serious and entrenched, and to prevent problems arising in the first place.

The Taskforce will help local services deliver the new Youth Public Service Agreement (PSA)⁴ aimed at reducing teenage pregnancy, substance misuse, the numbers of young people entering the criminal justice for the first time, the numbers of 16-19 year olds not in employment, education and training, and increasing the number of young people participating in positive activities. It will also support the delivery of the Home Office's safer communities PSA⁵ to tackle anti-social behaviour.

The *Action Plan* sets out 18 commitments that will be delivered supported by a total funding package of up to £218.5m.

Chapter 2: A deeper response to anti-social behaviour by young people

By April 2008 every area will have a neighbourhood policing team to respond to local concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour and build trust between the police and young people.

£99m will be invested over the next three years to support Youth Justice Board projects such as Youth Inclusion and Support Panels (YISPs), and Youth Inclusion Projects (YIPs).

Government will produce a Youth Alcohol Action Plan to reduce the level of drinking by young people and tackle the problems that this may cause.

The *Action Plan* will also look at what more can be done to protect young people and to support them when they are victims.

Action 1: Establish 20 Intensive Intervention Projects as an extension of the Family Intervention Project model that will turn around the lives of up to 1,000 of the most challenging and problematic young people every year. £13m will be spent over the next three years.

Action 2: Establish 52 Challenge and Support Projects to stop poor behaviour from escalating. £13m will be spent over the next three years.

Action 3: Help every local authority area to deliver the targeted youth support reforms by December 2008. This year £5m will be spent on providing support from the Training and Development Agency (TDA) to help local areas.

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

⁵ http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/3/D/pbr_csr07_psa23.pdf

Action 4: Ensure anti-social behaviour is tackled. The Home Office will invest £61m over the next three years through the Area Based Grant to fund local councils to support this. The Taskforce will put around £13m into this grant. The Taskforce will also invest £1m over the next three years to provide support via www.respect.gov.uk

Action 5: Evaluate the effectiveness of support measure alongside anti-social behaviour enforcement action. Interim findings will be published in 2009.

Chapter 3: Helping every parent do their best for their child

£16m will be spent on Family Pathfinders to test and develop ‘think family’ on the ground, targeting families with multiple and complex problems.

Action 6: Continue to deal with the most anti-social families by expanding the work of the Family Intervention Projects (FIPs) with ongoing funding of £18m over the next three years.

Action 7: Ensure that parenting support is used to address young people’s anti-social behaviour. Ongoing funding of around £12m over the next three years to support Respect Parenting Practitioners.

Action 8: Invest up to £60m to expand the successful Parenting Early Intervention Pathfinders.

Chapter 4: Positive activities, safer communities

Building on *Aiming high for young people: a ten year strategy for positive activities*⁶ and *The Children’s Plan the Action Plan* has been published alongside an *Implementation Plan for Aiming high*⁷. The Big Lottery Fund has been identified as the preferred agent for both Government and unclaimed asset funding and from this year Local Authorities (LAs), private bodies and third sector organisations will be able to bid for investment from them to ensure that all young people in their area can access positive activities.

The Youth Taskforce will support the overall vision of *Aiming high* by working with 50 local areas to target work and resources on the most deprived areas to increase young people’s participation in activities, provide facilities and bring young people and the community together.

Action 9: Invest £22.5m capital funding to improve youth facilities in areas where crime and anti-social behaviour are particular problems by increasing the Youth Capital Fund allocations in the 50 most deprived areas.

⁶ <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/tenyearyouthstrategy/>

⁷ <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/aiminghigh?cid=yamah&type=referrer>

Action 10: Increase young people's participation in positive activities. The Youth Taskforce will work with the same 50 areas to help them:

- map and publicise what provision already exists;
- ensure that activities are open at the times and places when they are most needed;
- bring young people and communities together to actively shape and drive activities in their local area; and
- make the most of the opportunity provided by capital investment

Action 11: Develop and implement a Community Audit tool to help local communities, young people and services resolve tensions. This will be done as part of the development of Community Charters and Neighbourhood Action Plans.

Action 12: Help LAs and partners promote interaction between young people and other sections of society.

Action 13: Run a national award scheme to recognise and celebrate those young people who successfully turn their lives around, or who make a significant contribution to their communities. This will link with cross-government work to celebrate and support communities in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Chapter 5: Improved delivery for young people everywhere

The Youth Taskforce will work within the framework of the local government white paper, *Strong and Prosperous Communities*⁸, and join up the work of different national and local agencies to improve services and outcomes for young people.

Action 14: Targeted action in Youth Priority Areas. In partnership with Government Offices, the Taskforce has already started work with ten Local Authorities (LAs) who need to improve their performance for young people.

Action 15: Disseminate good and innovative practice in improving outcomes. The government is establishing a Centre of Excellence and Outcomes (CfEO) in Children and Young People's Services, to be launched in July 2008.

Action 16: Train over 3,000 frontline practitioners by April 2009 and each year after that on effective ways of tackling anti-social behaviour and improving services for the most deprived and challenging young people.

Action 17: Feedback the lessons from frontline experience to inform future policy and strategy.

⁸ <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/strongprosperous>

Action 18: Bring together the separate forms of challenge and support on different youth issues.

Chapter 6: Developing this plan and working with partners

Description of how the plan was developed and details of how to register as a friend of the Youth Taskforce to receive updates on events, publications etc. You can also email the Taskforce via youth.taskforce@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

A shared vision shows sign-up from other government departments.

For more details about any aspect of this briefing paper, please email hannah@ncvys.org.uk
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