A Youth Sector Summary of the Civil Society Strategy

Youth Work
Youth Participation
Funding for Young People
NCS
Youth Work

(Pages 41-42)

The government is committed to making sure all young people have opportunities to develop the skills, networks, and resilience that can improve their life chances, fulfil their potential, and to support them to avoid negative pathways in future, including those at risk of serious violence or exploitation.

...

The public funding of open access youth services has always been the responsibility of local authorities. The government recognises that despite the pressures on public sector finances new thinking has emerged, supporting innovation, new partnerships, and collaboration spanning public, private, and civil society partners.

...

While the government recognises the priority that local authorities must place on functions such as child protection, it also recognises the transformational impact that youth services and trained youth workers can have, especially for young people facing multiple barriers or disadvantage. The guidance which sets out the statutory duty on local authorities has not been revised since 2012. Much has happened to change the way these services are provided in the intervening years. **The government will therefore review the guidance which sets out the statutory duty placed on local authorities to provide appropriate local youth services. We expect that the review will provide greater clarity of government’s expectations, including the value added by good youth work.**

The government recognises that, to date, not enough has been done to identify and articulate the benefits of high quality youth work and is committed to improving the quality of the data and evidence base. Over the past four years we have set up and invested £1 million in the Centre for Youth Impact. The aim is to review and build the evidence base for the effectiveness of youth services to establish what works and develop a shared approach to evaluation and the understanding of impact. The government is also supporting a £1 million evaluation of over 90 projects across the UK, engaging hundreds of thousands of young people, through the Youth Investment Fund. As a result of this, **by the end of 2020 we aim to have a shared impact measurement framework for open access youth provision that uses data to improve services, measure outcomes, and predict likely impact. This will be supplemented by a solid evidence base of what works in open-access youth services.**
Youth Participation

(Pages 24, 45 + 99)

Participants also told us respect is essential. We heard that the government should respect and value civil society by engaging and listening, and feeding back what is being done as a result.

... The need to listen to young people’s voices also came through strongly throughout the engagement exercise. (pg 24)

It is essential that central government engages meaningfully with young people when it is creating policy or designing programmes which affect them. The government would like to change the culture of policy design and implementation so that young people are systematically involved in shaping the policies that affect them. As an individual put it during the engagement exercise: “Young people have a voice, we don’t need to give them one, we just need to listen more to the one they already have”.

The government is committed to working with the youth sector to develop more effective channels of communication between all parts of the sector, young people themselves, and central government. As part of the Civil Society Strategy, we have engaged with young people both through workshops and through the online platform and we are grateful for their input. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is ambitious to lead the way in enabling effective youth participation in national policy-making and to pioneer approaches which can be adopted across government.

A Civil Society Youth Steering Group will be set up within the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to oversee the development and implementation of policies affecting young people, including the plans set out above. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will also set up a national Young Commissioners and Inspectors Group to involve young people directly and meaningfully in the commissioning, monitoring and evaluation of national programmes affecting young people.

With respect to future policy, the government will build systems to ensure that young people both have their views heard and are able to play a role in delivery. As a first step, new digital solutions will be explored to enable large numbers of young people to play a role in consultations and programme design across the government. (pg 45)

The government will support the spread of ‘Citizen Commissioners’, local people supported to make commissioning decisions on behalf of their communities such as the scheme implemented by Sutton Council. This will also include young people. (pg 99)
Funding for Young People

(Pages 21, 32, 33, 41, 43)

The dormant accounts scheme demonstrates how effectively public, private and social sector parties can work together. Banks and building societies have voluntarily contributed more than £1.1 billion to the scheme, and hundreds of millions of pounds have been made available for good causes. The government is ambitious to build on these successes, and has allocated £135 million from dormant accounts to Big Society Capital to invest in providing homes for vulnerable people and to support local charities and social enterprises. The government will also work with Big Lottery Fund to direct £145 million from dormant bank accounts to two new organisations, both of which will be independent of government, with their own governance structures. With a small core team, they will be tasked with deploying this funding to tackle some of the most serious social injustices: youth unemployment and financial exclusion. (pg 21)

In June 2018, we announced £20.5 million of grant-funding for charities and community groups working to bring communities together. This is made up of the £11.5 million Building Connections Fund, a partnership between the government, Big Lottery Fund, and Co-op Foundation, plus an additional £9 Civil Society Strategy: building a future that works for everyone 33 million through separate funds run by the People’s Postcode Lottery and the Health Lotteries. (pg 32-33)

The government makes a significant investment in helping young people participate in culture and sport. The government has announced almost £500 million of funding between 2016 and 2020 for a diverse portfolio of music and arts education programmes that are designed to improve access to the arts for all children, regardless of their background, and to develop talent across the country. This includes £300 million for music education hubs, almost £120 million for the Music and Dance Scheme, which allows exceptionally talented children to attend specialist music and dance institutions, and over £16 million for cultural education programmes including Saturday Art and Design Clubs, the National Youth Dance Company and the BFI’s Film Academy programme.

Between 2016 and 2021, Sport England is investing over £194 million in projects focusing on children and young people. This includes specific funding for college and university students, as well as a £3 million Potentials Fund, which looks at ways to get young people aged between 10 and 20 involved in social action and volunteering using sport and physical activity. Up to £34 million will go towards Satellite Clubs: outposts of community sports clubs on school or college campuses which encourage young people to transition from school sport to being active in their own time.
The government and Big Lottery Fund are jointly investing £80 million until 2020, through the Youth Investment Fund and #iwill Fund, in voluntary and community organisations that work with young people. (pg 41)

Through the #iwill Fund, supported by the government and Big Lottery Fund, 20 new match-funding partners have created opportunities for young people to take action on issues they care about in areas such as environmental action, education, health, loneliness, and sport, along with opportunities in specific geographies. The government estimates that this will lead to at least 650,000 new opportunities for young people to take part, though this is likely to increase as we make further investment. This year the #iwill campaign has been working with NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care and wider partners to celebrate 70 years of the NHS. In 2019 the campaign will work with the Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs to focus on engaging young people in helping the environment and supporting the 25 Year Environment Plan. (pg 43)

**NCS**

(Pages 42, 43, 45)

A significant youth programme is the National Citizen Service, set up by the government in 2011.31 This year the National Citizen Service is expected to reach its 500,000th participant. The programme is helping to create a more responsible, more cohesive, and more engaged society. Consecutive independent evaluations show that following the National Citizen Service participants are more likely to use their time to help others.32 National Citizen Service will continue to support young people to develop vital skills, build confidence and resilience, and help to tackle issues they care about. The government wants it to be a key step in young people’s development that is fully embedded in the wider youth sector. In 2017, the National Citizen Service Act received Royal Assent and the National Citizen Service Trust was granted a Royal Charter. Together these changes will establish the National Citizen Service Trust as an independent public body that is accountable to Parliament and ministers, and give us Civil Society Strategy: building a future that works for everyone 43 the statutory power to fund this organisation to deliver the National Citizen Service programme. (pg 42-43)

We anticipate that there are opportunities to better coordinate existing national and local activities and support young people to access and shape them more effectively. This would include youth organisations, such as uniformed groups and youth clubs, as well as the National Citizen Service, businesses, and public services (pg 45)