



National Youth Strategy FAQs

Overarching

Q. What is the scope of the Strategy? What age range and geographic areas does it cover?

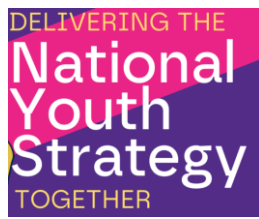
- The Strategy's primary focus is on youth policy, provision and support at a local, regional and national level across England for 10 -21 year olds (up to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities).
- The policy scope includes both fiscal and non-fiscal policies affecting young people and targeting one or more of the key outcomes identified by young people during our engagements.
- It is backed by **over £500 million** of new money over the next three years from DCMS for fun things to do outside of school, support when and where you need it, more youth clubs and trusted adults.
- The majority of the funding underpinning the first steps of the Strategy will be available from 2026/27. The strategy also includes policies we are intending to explore over the next decade.
- Youth policy is devolved and therefore the vast majority of policies included in the Strategy are focused on England. However, a small number of UK-wide policies have been included if aspects fall within the scope as set out above.

Q. What is the timescale of the Strategy?

- This is a 10-year strategy.
- It is backed by **over £500 million** of new money over the next 3 years from DCMS for fun things to do outside of school, support when and where you need it, more youth clubs and trusted adults.
- The majority of the funding underpinning the first steps of the Strategy will be available from 2026/27. The strategy also includes policies we are intending to explore over the next decade.

Q. Which young people will you target? How will you choose?

- Our funding will be targeted at supporting young people in currently underserved areas and those facing multiple barriers to accessing opportunities. We will share eligibility criteria for specific programmes in due course.
- The Strategy's primary focus is on young people in England over 10-21 year olds (up to 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), however some policies target specific groups within this. For example, DWP's [Jobs Guarantee](#) is being expanded to all eligible 18-24 year olds who are on Universal Credit and have been looking for work for 18 months to support.



Q. How did you engage with young people, ensuring you captured broad and representative perspectives?

- The National Youth Strategy was **co-produced** with young people and the sector. It draws together the voices of over 14,000 young people of the ages 10-21 and up to 25 for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who engaged in the National Youth Strategy Survey. It also makes use of insights collated through policy engagement, qualitative data collection and wider evidence collation.
- We engaged with young people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds and geographic areas, spanning the entire country from locations like Blackpool and Ipswich to Barking and Dagenham.
- We also organised deep dives with specific underrepresented cohorts of young people, such as those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, refugee and asylum seekers, and care experienced young people, to ensure we heard directly from them.
- This ensured a broad and representative range of perspectives were included.

Q: How will collaboration across the whole system be ensured, rather than limiting delivery to the youth sector alone?

- The strategy is intended to be cross-sector and cross-departmental in spirit, recognising that outcomes for young people rely on joined-up working across local government, health, education, employment, community safety and the voluntary sector. Local youth strategies play a crucial role in enabling this by bringing relevant partners together and encouraging local decision-makers to work collaboratively. Existing examples of locally led, joined-up approaches demonstrate the value of this model, and evaluation will support the sharing of learning on what has worked and how it can be adapted elsewhere.
- We are also developing an aligned way of measuring our outcomes across the government through a shared framework and metrics. This will allow us to establish a common way to track our impact across the outcomes for young people which are set out in the Strategy.

How can I access the data and insights which informed the strategy? Is the data available for my local area?

- We have published extensive research that informed the National Youth Strategy, including insights from qualitative data and the survey. See some links below. We have broken the data down into regions. Unfortunately, we cannot break this down into smaller locations as this would not be representative or robust.
 - [Youth Matters: State of the Nation](#) (see long version of the report, summary version, annex, appendix, and data tables)
 - [National Youth Strategy Research Project](#) (a summary version exists; parts of this project informed the State of the Nation report)
 - [The Big Ambition Analysis for the National Youth Strategy](#)



Funding

Q: This is not enough funding to solve the issues raised in the Strategy.

- We fully recognise the scale of the challenges faced by young people, as outlined in the State of the Nation report.
- We have prioritised where the Strategy should focus first to support young people. This includes investing in the youth sector and its workforce, funding spaces and activities for young people as well as reforming access to mental health support or prevention.
- However, we cannot do it alone and this is an opportunity to work together to support the delivery of the Strategy's ambitions.

Q. When will we be able to receive the funding?

- The majority of the funding underpinning the first steps of the Strategy will be available from 2026/27.
- We will be designing the funding and programmes in more detail over the next few months and will share more information in due course.
- The best way to stay up to date with our announcements on funding is by signing up to our monthly Youth Newsletter. We are also planning a series of webinars and information sessions about different youth programmes and funds.

Q: What does the National Youth Strategy mean for different places across the country? For rural areas?

- One of our key shifts is from national to local, rebuilding the capability and leadership of local authorities and taking a place-based approach to funding to empower local communities in delivering their local youth offers.
- This means that, although we have a clear, national direction for young people, it will look different in different local areas to align with the particular needs.
- This is also why we paid particular attention to supporting the system and infrastructure itself and making coordination of services easier. We also paid attention to transport to make it easier for young people in rural areas to access services including with:
 - Major investments in improving local transport systems, including bus services.
 - Extension of the £3 bus fare cap until March 2027 to ensure buses remain affordable and accessible to all.

Q: What other sources of investment could support youth provision?

- Wider society, not just government, benefits from youth services. Communities should be designed to drive investment from multiple sources.



- For example, the Government recognises that philanthropy is a vital part of the impact economy and has three priorities for philanthropy: to connect philanthropic investment with the places that need it most; to unlock extra philanthropic investment; and to partner with civil society, communities, donors and businesses to celebrate a culture of giving.
- As part of this, DCMS has published a [place-based strategy](#), exploring how the government can create an environment to encourage philanthropists to support local communities across the country and ensure philanthropy reaches the areas that need it most.
- We actively encourage funders and philanthropists to make youth services and youth organisations a priority for their long-term funding and to engage with young people to understand their priorities.

Q: How will funding be distributed so that it actually reaches local level?

- The Government wants to shift the balance so that more money reaches local level. We are working to improve our pre-market engagement and management of funding streams.

Q. How will the amount of funding and the "national to local" shift in implementation be managed to avoid exacerbating "postcode lotteries"?

- The strategy avoids a postcode lottery by taking a place-based approach to funding and delivery. Local areas design youth offers to meet their communities' needs, while we strengthen local infrastructure and coordination to ensure consistent access.
- Disadvantaged and underserved areas will get extra support through targeted investment, tackling barriers like cost, accessibility, and transport. This includes both direct delivery of activities but also local capability building programmes or funding for youth facilities.
- We will monitor and evaluate the programmes within the National Youth Strategy to ensure we regularly review our approach to place and equality of opportunities across the country.

People who care (Workforce, Trusted Adults, Local Authorities)

Q. What will the £15 million fund? Is it just for youth workers?

- We want to support all the incredible people who work with young people, whether they are paid or volunteer youth workers, mentors, sport coaches, faith leaders, community leaders, outdoor educators, and many more.
- We are investing £15 million over the next 3 years in youth workers, volunteers, and other trusted adults to upskill the existing youth sector workforce and increase the number of trusted adults providing safe support to young people.
- This will provide funding over the next 3 years to youth organisations to help them get and keep the staff and volunteers they need, covering training and qualification



bursaries, volunteer support, safeguarding, and new ways to help adults navigate the benefits and challenges of the digital world for young people.

Q. Which organisations will be eligible for the £15 million? Will this be long-term funding?

- Further work is underway to develop detailed plans for our workforce funding, in partnership with the youth sector and with young people. We will provide further detail in due course.
- This funding will cover the next 3 years. Further funding is dependent on future Spending Reviews. However, the Strategy sets a direction for the next decade and puts an emphasis on the importance of supported and trained trusted adults.

Q. How do you define ‘trusted adults’? Who does that include?

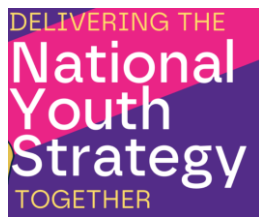
- For the purposes of the NYS, a trusted adult is a safe, respectful adult that is chosen by a young person as a trusted figure that listens to them and supports them.
- This could be an adult within a young person's family and home, an adult they interact with at school or in an education setting, or an adult that works with them outside of school, for example a youth worker, mentor or sports coach

Q. There has been huge reductions in the youth sector workforce - what are you doing to address it?

- We want to ensure that the adults supporting young people have the right skills to support them and that organisations have the support they need to invest in their paid and volunteer staff.
- Our workforce programme will focus on upskilling the existing youth sector workforce as well as supporting more diverse pathways and career progression into the youth sector workforce with the right standards.
- To achieve this, we are investing £15 million over the next 3 years in youth workers, volunteers, and other trusted adults. This is part of wider work to increase young people's access to trusted adults in different spaces.
- We will continue to fund the National Youth Agency to provide support and coordination across the youth sector workforce.

Q. Will you create standards for local authorities regarding the workforce?

- We want to support local authorities to deliver for young people. That is why we are launching a significant programme of local service transformation, spending close to £70 million over the next 3 years.
- We will also embed accountability mechanisms to check young people are getting the levels and quality of service they deserve. This includes particular outcomes and measures in the Outcomes Framework for local government as well as exploring



reviewing the current local authorities' statutory duty for youth services and considering the appropriate regulation of those services.

Q. How will you raise the profile of the youth sector workforce?

- Youth services work because of the incredible people who work in them, whether they are paid or volunteer youth workers, mentors, sport coaches, faith leaders, community leaders, outdoor educators, and many more.
- Through the National Youth Strategy, we will deliver better recognition for paid and volunteer youth workers as well as more fit-for-purpose training, qualifications, and employment routes into the youth sector.
- We will invest £15 million over the next 3 years to ensure that the adults supporting young people have the right skills to support them and that organisations have the support they need to invest in their paid and volunteer staff.
- We will continue to fund the National Youth Agency to provide support and coordination across the youth sector workforce.

Q. Will you give youth workers statutory status?

- Youth services work because of the incredible people who work in them, whether they are paid or volunteer youth workers, mentors, sport coaches, faith leaders, community leaders, outdoor educators, and many more.
- The Strategy sets out a decade-long ambition for the youth workforce and we will develop long-term plans to develop and grow a skilled and sustainable youth sector workforce, with the highest standards to meet young people's needs.
- As a first step, our investment in the youth workforce will help to deliver better recognition for paid and volunteer youth workers as well as more fit-for-purpose training, qualifications, and employment routes into the youth sector.
- In the longer-term, we will explore reviewing the current local authorities' statutory duty for youth services to empower them to better deliver on their responsibilities for youth services.

Q. What is the accountability for local authorities?

- Local Authorities have a statutory duty to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient provision of youth services in their area. We will explore reviewing this duty as part of a wider review of local statutory duties.
- We are highlighting, in the Local Outcomes Framework, the importance of young people achieving and thriving and the role that local authorities and youth services play in supporting positive outcomes and preventing young people from going down the wrong path.
- We will consider further ways to co-design a clearer accountability process with local authorities and the youth organisations they work with to increase consistency and quality of delivery across local areas.



Q. You say you want to build back local authority youth services, but where is the funding to support this? Will you provide more funding for local authorities to deliver youth services?

- In order to provide local authorities with more flexibility and sustainability, we will simplify grant funding for local authorities and consolidate local funding for young people and their families where possible.
- On top of that, we will invest nearly £70 million to help local areas better support young people and develop a network of up to 50 Young Futures hubs by March 2029. We will also take a place-based approach to funding to empower local communities in delivering their local youth offers.
- In the longer-term, we will explore reviewing the current local authorities' statutory duty for youth services to empower them to better deliver on their responsibilities for youth services.

Q. It is good to have more trusted adults but what safeguarding assurances and support will you provide?

- We want to support all adults working with young people to have the skills and support they need to be a safe, trusted and positive influence for the young people they work with. This includes supporting those trusted adults to adhere to safeguarding standards.
- As part of our £15 million investment in the youth workforce, we will increase the number of trusted adults that are equipped to provide safe support for young people.
- We will also work with the National Youth Agency to support youth work to be safe for everyone through its online safeguarding and risk management hub. We will implement the outcomes of our call for evidence on safeguarding to ensure adults working with young people are able to engage safely with them.
- Further work is underway to develop detailed plans for our future workforce funding, including on safeguarding assurances and support for trusted adults, in partnership with the youth sector and with young people.

Q: What role do families and those with parental responsibility play as stakeholders in the youth strategy?

- Families and carers are recognised as an important part of young people's lives and wider community support. Evidence highlights the importance of positive relationships with families in supporting young people's wellbeing and development. At the same time, youth work is valued as a 'third space' – separate from home and school – where young people can build independence, confidence and trusted relationships with adults outside their family.

Q. How will you support youth sector infrastructure?



- We will work with youth organisations to support them in collaborating and providing strong organisational support at the local and regional level, with a budget of over £5 million to spend over 3 years. This will help us:
 - Understand what youth services exist and what is missing
 - Share information on how to improve the quality, effectiveness, and safeguarding of services.
 - Support the creation of strong local partnerships and encourage collaboration at the regional and sub-regional level.
 - Deliver the changes needed to the digital and data infrastructure to improve services.

Q. How will you support local partnerships? Both with youth organisations and beyond?

- Partnerships help move beyond isolated efforts and reach more young people, particularly those who are more vulnerable and disadvantaged.
- We will launch a 'Local Covenant Partnerships' programme which will support civil society organisations to work collaboratively and in innovative ways with local authorities and public service providers.
- We will also encourage education settings to work with local partners in their communities and work across government to strengthen existing multi-agency partnerships and build new ones where needed. This could be between specific, preventative services as well as with the sports, arts, and culture sectors.

Be Seen and Be Heard (Youth voice and empowerment)

Q. How will you engage with young people in the design of policy? Who will you engage with? Is this a commitment across government and for all programmes?

- In DCMS, we are creating a new 'Youth Policy Network' to ensure that whichever part of the government is making decisions, if they affect young people, a diverse range of young people can take part. We will also make it a requirement of DCMS youth funding for programmes to be co-designed with young people unless there is a good reason why not.
- Across government, each department has their own process to design their programmes so there will not be a one-size-fits-all approach. However, young people's views will be at the core of what we do as part of the National Youth Strategy. We have been supporting other government departments to effectively engage with young people, avoiding tokenism. This has included supporting DSIT on the consultation on growing up in an online world.
- We are also promoting our [guidance for youth voice in policymaking](#) which is applicable for many different organisations.
- At a local level, we will start a 'test and learn' project to understand the best ways young people can influence funding decisions at a local level and implement this



more widely.

Q. How many new Youth Councils will you establish?

- We will be engaging with local authorities across the country to understand the opportunities to amplify youth voices on the issues that matter most to them.
- This may look different in every place, and we are eager to explore how to make Youth Councils and other forms of representation work on the ground for young people across England

Q. Will young people actually be able to make funding decisions? Both nationally and locally? How would that work?

- This Strategy will put young people from all backgrounds in the driving seat when it comes to decisions that affect their own lives.
- At a national level, we will create a new 'Youth Policy Network' to ensure that whichever part of the government is making decisions, if they affect young people, a diverse range of young people can take part. We will also make it a requirement of DCMS youth funding for programmes to be co-designed with young people unless there is a good reason why not.
- At a local level, we will start a 'test and learn' project to understand the best ways young people can influence funding decisions at a local level and implement this more widely. We also expect local areas in receipt of youth funding to work directly with young people to co-produce policies and make decisions.