National Youth Sector Advisory Board (NYSAB)

Tuesday 8 September 2026, (ONLINE)

Notes of the meeting

1. Welcome and introductions

Opening the meeting, the Chair welcomed members, partners and government representatives. Reflections were shared from the previous meeting, including progress on the Youth Matters Strategy, Young Futures Hubs, youth workforce development and youth participation. Members also highlighted the importance of discussing the implications of the forthcoming Milburn Review recommendations for young people and the youth sector.

2. Ministerial update

Minister Vicky Foxcroft, from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport joined the meeting and outlined government priorities for young people. These included:

- Listening to young people and the youth sector
- Rebuilding and strengthening youth services
- Embedding inclusion across government policy
- Improving cross-government collaboration on issues affecting young people

The Minister also emphasised the importance of direct engagement with young people, youth workers and voluntary sector organisations.

3. Youth Matters Strategy progress update

Officials from DCMS provided an update on delivery of the **Youth Matters Strategy** and associated programmes.

Recent developments include:

- Continued delivery of the Trusted Adults programme in partnership with the King's Trust
- Progress towards the launch of the Youth Matters Fund
- Expansion of the Young Futures Hub programme, with eight hubs currently operational and further locations due to be announced
- Ongoing support for local authorities through the Local Youth Transformation programme
- Work to strengthen youth voice and participation across policy and programme delivery

- Collaboration across government on youth employment, mental health, education and youth justice priorities

Members also received updates on technical education reform, devolution and emerging opportunities linked to future participation in Erasmus+ programmes.

Board members raised a range of issues affecting young people and the youth sector, including:

- The government's response to the Milburn Review of Youth Employment
- Digital inclusion and access to funding opportunities for youth organisations
- Safeguarding in out-of-school settings
- Ensuring employment support is accessible for young people with disabilities, long-term health conditions and mental health needs
- The importance of consistent youth provision across local areas

4. Social media restrictions for under-16s

Officials from DCMS provided an update on the government's proposals to strengthen online protections for children and young people.

Measures under consideration include:

- Restrictions on access to certain social media platforms for under-16s
- Additional protections relating to stranger contact and livestreaming
- Stronger default protections for 16 and 17-year-olds
- Greater use of age-assurance measures by online platforms

Board members highlighted the important role social media can play in helping young people access information, support networks and opportunities, particularly for those who may experience isolation or barriers to participating in face-to-face activities.

5. Closing remarks

Closing the meeting, the Chair thanked members for their contributions and emphasised the importance of continuing to support delivery of the Youth Matters Strategy. Members were encouraged to raise emerging issues with the Board as policy developments progress.

The next NYSAB meeting will take place on **9 December 2026**.