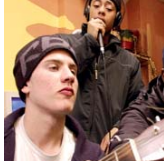


SUMMARY

# Youth Matters: Next Steps

Something to do, somewhere to go, someone to talk to



Every Child Matters  
Change For Children

# Youth Matters: Next Steps Summary

Something to do, somewhere to go,  
someone to talk to

1. Youth Matters set out a vision to transform the lives of every young person through a radical reshaping of provision. The response from young people – over 19,000 gave us their views - was the largest ever to a Government consultation. Over one thousand organisations, professionals and parents offered views too.
2. The proposals in Youth Matters were welcomed overall. The vast majority of people strongly supported its main theme – the engagement of young people in shaping local services. The responses have, however, highlighted the need to ensure access and opportunity for **all** young people.
3. The proposals in Youth Matters responded to four main challenges.

# Things to do and Places to go

## What the Consultation Told Us

- 68% of young people would like to help decide how local councils spend money on providing activities for young people
- 71% of young people said they would do up to four hours of activities in their spare time if they had the opportunity
- 73% of young people thought that having more places for young people to go would stop some teenagers getting into trouble
- 83% of adults/organisations and 85% of young people supported proposals for empowering young people to shape local services
- 83% of young people thought that a card that gave discounts and money to spend on activities would encourage them to do more in their spare time
- 33% of adults/organisations agreed with the proposal to introduce an opportunity card but 46% were unconvinced

## What We Will Do

### Statutory Duty and National Standards

4. Subject to Parliament, a new duty on local authorities will ensure that young people have access to a wide range of positive activities. There will be a strong local offer of 'places to go and things to do', in the context of national standards. We will set out in statutory guidance how the national standards relate to the new duty. Statutory guidance will not be issued until late 2006 but we aim to produce briefing by Summer 2006. The annual local offer about the opportunities and activities available in an area will be covered in the statutory guidance.

### The Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund

5. These initiatives will put funds directly into the hands of young people to spend on activities in their local area. They will work together at local level so that young people can develop projects using both streams of funding. A total of £115m is available over the next two years. There is separate guidance on the funds, stressing the importance of focusing on disadvantage.

### Youth Opportunity Card

6. We have decided to pilot the Card in 10 areas over the next two years. We will test two different amounts, one at £12 a month and another in selected areas at £25, to identify the most effective level. Our main aim in testing the Card is to find out whether giving young people spending power to engage in positive activities increases take-up and makes providers more responsive to young people's needs and wishes. We will develop the pilots to address concerns from the consultation.

# Volunteering

## What the Consultation Told Us

- 60% of young people would get involved in the community if it was recognised in some way

## What We Will Do

### Russell Commission Implementation Body

7. The new Body is making good progress:

- £600,000 has already been awarded under a small grants programme to 45 organisations
- Seven organisations are being funded to support capacity-building
- Organisations will be invited to bid to deliver a range of volunteering opportunities from Spring 2006 as the first stage in commissioning provision
- The Implementation Body will look at ways in which young people's volunteering efforts are recognised. We will explore with the Implementation Body, the Learning and Skills Council and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority how to accredit volunteering activity through the new qualifications framework



- We will encourage children's trusts through guidance to work closely with the Implementation Body in ensuring that volunteering opportunities are available in each area

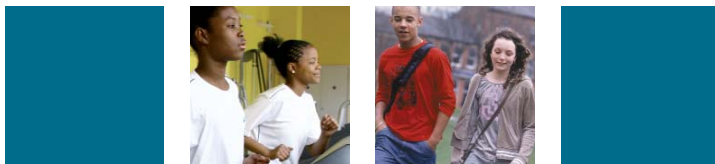
### Peer Mentoring

8. We are setting up peer mentoring schemes for young people in 180 secondary schools.

# Information, Advice and Guidance

## What the Consultation Told Us

- 90% of adults/organisations supported new national quality standards for information, advice and guidance (IAG)
- Young people told us that they mostly went to parents (60%) and friends (51%) for information, help and advice. Some went to teachers (25%), Connexions (19%) and youth workers (16%)
- 66% of young people thought that IAG was good or very good
- 63% of young people wanted to receive information and advice on education and career choices face to face; 45% liked the idea of receiving it through work experience; 30% via a website; and 25% by visits from young adults already in work
- 26% of adults/organisations agreed with the proposals to devolve responsibility for IAG to children's trusts, schools and colleges; 31% disagreed; 43% were not sure



## What We Will Do

### Wider Access

9. We will build up an integrated service that gives young people access to a variety of channels for information, advice and guidance, whether in learning, in the community or on the internet. We are developing a simple, innovative service for young people using modern technology and including a helpline. We welcome the recommendations of the Women and Work Commission to improve IAG and we will ensure that they are reflected in the quality standards.

### Quality Standards

10. We will consult widely during the development of new quality standards, produce draft standards by November 2006 and a final version in April 2007.

### Partnership

11. We want children's trusts, schools and colleges to work in partnership and agree new arrangements for delivering these services. We will keep the IAG arrangements under review to provide assurance about its quality and impartiality.

# Targeted Support

## What the Consultation Told Us

- 70% of adults/organisations supported bringing together within children's trusts responsibility for commissioning different services which provide support to young people with additional needs
- 62% of young people would like one professional person to go to for advice and information

## What We Will Do

12. We are already testing out how integrated targeted support might be delivered:

- we are running *targeted youth support pathfinders* in 14 local authority areas
- we are carrying out a *short intensive review* of issues facing children's trusts in delivering targeted support
- we will take the action in the *Respect Action Plan* and the Social Exclusion Report *Transitions* to support vulnerable teenagers.

13. Once these projects have reported over the course of this year, we will issue more detailed guidance on integrated targeted support.

# Making it Happen

14. We confirm that implementation will be completed by April 2008. Local partners will work through children's trust arrangements and plans for young people will be included in Children and Young People's Plans.

15. The children's trust will provide the local strategic vision and leadership for all policies, services and activities relating to young people. We offer a framework to guide them in doing that.

16. The critical factors for achieving change include commissioning and contestability (including working with a range of partners including the voluntary and community sector and private sector) and the smooth transition of Connexions into the new arrangements. We must engage parents too.

17. Workforce development will be an important factor. The Children's Workforce Strategy supports delivery of Youth Matters. Professionals will need to work in different ways but it will be vital to preserve existing skills and expertise. We will support the development of the workforce through leadership and management development, and through guidance on multi-agency working and the role of the Lead Professional.



18. We will monitor local progress against our plans through the improvement cycle for children’s services. Central Government and Government Offices will provide advice and support in addressing youth issues.

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