

# Ten Year Vision for Youth Work 2020-2030



## Our Commitment

**As a nation we need a clear commitment for young people to be safe and secure, treated fairly, confident in and ambitious for their future.** When young people have a sense of belonging, communities are stronger. Where they feel valued young people become partners and leaders in their own learning, to help them gain influence over issues they are concerned about and to engage them with democratic processes.

**At its heart, young people need access to and support from trusted adults with the knowledge, skills and experience for safe and effective youth work practice.** Yet the landscape for youth work has changed dramatically in recent years. Youth services have been cut by over 70% in less than a decade, youth centres closed down, training placements have been eroded and a loss of 4,500 youth workers since 2012. There has been a reduction from 75% to just 25% of the youth workforce holding qualifications in youth work, yet we are seeing a rise in the complex challenges faced by young people today. It is critical to reverse that decline. Bold moves are required, to be ambitious for youth work.

## What this looks like

### 1. **All young people have access to quality youth work and youth services.**

- Youth services will have a clear, statutory basis for to ensure a base-level of open-access youth services, supported by detached and targeted youth services.
- There will be a minimum requirement for at least two full-time equivalent professional, JNC qualified youth workers and a team of at least four youth support workers alongside trained volunteers, located within in each secondary school catchment area.
- To guarantee access there will be additional provision of detached and outreach youth work, digitised youth work and transport where needed to access opportunities.
- To increase levels of engagement and participation, young people will be involved to co-design and develop services in their locality (geographically and digitally).

### 2. **Youth work is recognised as a distinct form of education.**

- Youth work as an established strengths and rights-based approach, supported by a curriculum which focuses on personal and social development – the skills and attributes of young people – rather than to ‘fix a problem’
- Working in community settings and across sectors to support young people’s life chances, youth work equips young people with knowledge and skills for life, including social, economic and democratic engagement.
- Wrap around services for schools and colleges, in particular, for social and emotional skills and safeguarding, including outreach and alternative provision to reduce exclusions.
- A Youth Premium to help more disadvantaged young people to access high quality youth work, leisure activities and learning experiences from which they are otherwise excluded.

### 3. **Mobilisation and the professional development of youth work.**

- A national taskforce for youth work, comparable to previous reviews of social work and early years, to open up career pathways in youth work and related professions.
- Recruitment and training of 10,000 qualified youth workers, through youth work degrees and apprenticeships, and a youth work curriculum, professional register, national occupational standards, qualifications and safeguarding.
- A bursary programme for entry-level training for 20,000 youth support workers and mobilisation of volunteers up-skilled in youth work and safeguarding.

## How do we get there?

### 4. **A major programme of investment in youth services across England.**

- A realignment of £1.2bn annual funding (adjusted for inflation) from government ring-fenced for open-access youth services, alongside targeted and specialist youth work in other settings and related professions.
- A national census of provision, statutory and voluntary, to establish a clear baseline of youth work provision and kept updated for core funding of local youth services and a diverse range of providers as a flourishing eco-system of community-based youth work.
- Buildings that are fit for purpose through a major capital programme and funding to open up community facilities, including schools and college sites and the renewal of the high streets where required to secure access in some areas.

- Extensive day to day use of digital technology and resources to extend the reach, contact and engagement of young people in youth services to take young people's digital cultures and skills into account in youth work practices, and safeguarding.

## 5. Ensuring the quality and accountability of youth work and services.


- A Youth Covenant for a common language and shared outcomes across funders, commissioners and services in positive outcomes for young people.
- An annual report published by a Cabinet Minister and presented to Parliament on the topics, actions and impact relevant to the Youth Covenant; and a single Minister responsible for young people and youth work, for cross-departmental co-ordination.
- A ten-year strategy, six-year plan and annual statement by each local authority to oversee and coordinate youth services, with the support of all levels of local government.
- Local youth partnerships to bring together the public, private, voluntary and community sector to make the most effective use of all available funding and assets.
- A strengthened national body for youth work and an inspection regime and evaluation to ensure the quality of services, the safety of young people and identify gaps in provision; including a national safeguarding unit for contextualised help, guidance and training.
- The involvement of young people in decision-making and scrutiny at all levels, to shape policies and inform services – the location, design and running of activities - that reflect the experiences and ambitions of young people.


## Ambitious for youth work


### 6. By 2030 we will see:

- a) A diverse youth workforce, representative of the communities they serve – from frontline to leadership - and youth services and activities that represent the diversity and identify of the local community, including public space, volunteering pathways and leadership in youth work.
- b) Increased volunteering, work experience and sustained employment opportunities for young people.
- c) Reduced negative outcomes for young people across communities, in a Public Health Approach including youth violence, mental health and loneliness.
- d) Digital literacy and an end to digital poverty, for future-jobs and to access digitised services.
- e) Enhanced social mobility for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and areas (lowest 40% IMD), including their educational and employment outcomes.
- f) Increased levels of democratic engagement and young people actively involved in community leadership roles and decision-making across services and organisations.

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