



## THE NATIONAL YOUTH AGENCY

### NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD for YOUTH SERVICES

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1. Why the National Advisory Board for Youth Services

- 1.1 The NYA works closely with influencers across England with interest in services for young people. We are aware there are many different views points across the sector – we welcome and champion this.
- 1.2 The government highlighted to the NYA that there are a plethora of organisations who government engaged with (which is to be welcomed), but this leads to an equally complex miasma of requests and demands of government departments. Funders often highlight the same challenges with such a complex sector.
- 1.3 The Advisory Board is the NYA's way to engage key sector partners in influencing the voice and direction of the NYA. The NYA is free to reach its conclusions but encourages ideas, debate and challenge as this discourse furthers our mission.
- 1.4 Both the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Local Government Association define the NYA Advisory Board as their key method of engaging the youth sector as a group (this of course does not exclude unilateral engagement).

#### 2. Purpose

- 2.1 The National Youth Agency developed the concept of an Advisory Board for Youth Services as a way to connect the occasionally fragmented youth sector behind two goals:
  - (A) To join the broader youth sector together behind priority policy areas of interest to the youth sector as a whole. To provide clarity of the sectors asks of local and national government (plus other public and private bodies and corporate CSR etc).
  - (B) Provide advice and guidance to the National Youth Agency as the national body for youth work – to advise on sector development priorities.
- 2.2 The board is a way to get key leaders within the youth sector together twice a year to share and collaborate.
- 2.3 The NYA wishes to empower the sector to build in each partners existing priorities by collaborating on a set of national priorities which all partners can use when engaging with key decision makers. The NYA is clear that the diversity, discourse and vibrancy of the youth sector is one of its strengths; it also holds us back when we contradict each other.



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2.4 The advisory board can make the difference in providing additional expert knowledge and finding balanced, unbiased answers for important future developments of the NYA and youth sector-wide positioning/thinking.

2.5 The meetings offer a space to share upcoming developments at the NYA and for partners to support our sector-wide engagement and positioning moving forward.

2.6 The board covers all aspects of youth services/services for young people and is not a youth work specific initiative.

### 3. Membership

3.1 The membership of the National Advisory Board comprises key CEO's (or representatives), high profile sector funders and regional and national policy representatives. Both the Local Government Association and Office for Civil Society representatives are also invited.

3.2 The meetings are to be led by an independent chair appointed and funded by the National Youth Agency to provide unbiased leadership of the board.

### 4. Meetings

4.1 The National Advisory Board shall meet at least two times each year, usually in London with rotating organisations hosting. The meeting follows a networking lunch.

4.2 There may be occasions where sub-groups of representatives of participating organisations may come together in between meetings to focus on specific projects or policy areas.

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