

DCMS Youth Announcements Q&A notes

1 November 2023, 11:00-11:45 via Zoom

1) Welcome from National Youth Sector Advisory Board Chair – Tony Gallagher

- Tony welcomed the group, outlining that the meeting was another one of the NYSAB's thematic workshops that are run to connect the sector with government colleagues, with this session specifically focusing on DCMS' recent youth policy announcements.

2) DCMS Youth Announcement Updates – Fiona Stone (DCMS)

- Fiona presented on DCMS' recent youth announcement updates, emphasising that Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer is committed to doing more and more for young people and youth services.
- DCMS recently made a series of announcements grouped into three:
 - Progress on delivering the National Youth Guarantee – the Government's commitment that by 2025 every young person in England should have access to regular clubs and activities, adventures away from home and volunteering opportunities.
 - The first set of announcements on delivering the National Youth Guarantee are:
 - **Grants to over 60,000 youth opportunities for the #IWill awards** – this money has already gone out.
 - **Million Hours Fund** (new money and still live) – £19 million in funding to give extra support to young people in areas where they may be at risk of anti-social behaviour. If you've got a youth club in those areas, or adjacent to those areas, you can apply for straightforward revenue funding to do more of what you're already doing. The back end of the Million Hours Fund will be match funded by the National Lottery Community Fund so it could last for more years than if the funding was solely from DCMS.
 - **Another round of the Adventures Away from Home** – £1.5 million for this financial year (until March next year) to support over 7.5k disadvantaged young people access outdoor experiences. In a few weeks' time, DCMS will announce the new delivery partner who will administer the new set of bursaries which will open, if not this side of Christmas, very close to the other side of Christmas. This fund will largely be for the outdoor education providers to bid for because they are bidding for free places, but youth organisations might also want to bid to run some new activities programmes i.e. taking your young people on a trip (as long as it is adventurous in some form).
 - The second set of announcements were described as support for the youth sector. These are:
 - **Updated Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities** – DCMS have issued the new updated [Statutory guidance to Local Authorities](#) on their responsibility to ensure sufficient youth services in their areas,

including new money for more peer review support (money for councils to review their youth offer). DCMS had a conversation with 140 people in and around local authorities yesterday to explore the guidance. If you're providing youth services in your area, this guidance is a good prompt for working in partnership with local authorities in your area. You can also refer to the NYA's toolkit for navigating the updated Statutory guidance: <https://www.nya.org.uk/stat-duty/>.

- **Support for local and regional youth sector infrastructure** – over £500k for Local Youth Partnerships and Regional Youth Work Units.
- **Youth work bursaries** – £800k for more than 500 bursaries for youth work qualifications.
- Normally DCMS focuses on generic open access youth provision, but they have also made a third tranche of announcements of support for those that need it most:
 - **Building Futures Programme** – 5,000 young people will receive intensive mentoring and careers coaching through allocation of £15 million dormant assets funding to Youth Futures Foundation.
 - **Summer Jobs Programme** – joint funding programme with the Youth Endowment Fund to deliver mentoring and a three-year Summer Jobs Programme, providing six-week employment placements for 2,600 young people at risk of involvement in crime. This programme uses the Chicago model of targeting young people who may be at risk of youth violence or already involved in youth violence and is heavily focused on the development of the individual. DCMS are putting in £1.5 million and the Youth Endowment Fund are building that up to £8-10 million. The Summer Jobs programme will be starting for next summer. The Youth Endowment Fund have a webinar on Monday for a delivery partner (link below):
 - https://teams.microsoft.com/registration/OI31M7_V4EWTbpgLG-bDxg,h7DiXFI1eU6D1ZBKOpq7BA,RKw1ljXKi0qY0tuIW4gz5A,HJlMqrYyPEKZqcNd5tsz7g,jES8qJ23oUCTvNfBSvb3bQ,NEGTOzicUkSaTRpvmTvYqA?mode=read&tenantId=33f58d38-d5bf-45e0-936e-9a4b1be6c3c6
 - If you have any specific questions, you'd like to ask the YEF during the webinar, please email grants@youthendowmentfund.org.uk.
 - **UK Year of Service** – delivered by the NCS Trust. This programme was run last year and will be delivered again this year, offering mentoring and 9 to 12-month paid work placements for at least 100 18–24-year-olds. This is not funding you can access to deliver a programme but, if you are interested in having a young person join you for a work placement, you might want to consider reaching out to the NCS Trust.

3) Dormant Assets Overview – Michaela Wragg, DCMS

- Michaela gave an update on the Dormant Assets Scheme:
 - Overview of Dormant Assets:
 - Dormant Assets are funds that sit within accounts that haven't been accessed for 15 years or so. Banks have tried to reunite the funds with their rightful owner and haven't been successful. When that happens, banks can then decide to voluntarily transfer the funds into the

Reclaim Fund for use on charitable purposes (they are not obligated to do this).

- The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) is the distributor for Dormant Assets funding, and they distribute across all four nations, while the Oversight Trust is responsible for overarching governance and responsibility.
- Originally there were three main causes for Dormant Assets funding are social investment, financial inclusion and youth. The youth cause is currently focused on tackling youth unemployment.
- In 2022, legislation went through parliament to expand the Dormant Assets Scheme to a wider range of financial assets. It is estimated that this expansion over the next 10 years, could release a further potential £1 billion for causes.
- A public consultation on the causes led to a fourth cause of Community Wealth Funds being added to the existing three.
- There has recently been a debate in the House of Lords on Community Wealth Funds and we anticipate one coming up in the Commons in the next few weeks.
- The key principles of the Dormant Assets Scheme are voluntary participation, reunification first, full restitution in perpetuity and additionality (where DA funds can't be used to replace something government-funded or something government should be funding – additional to government funding).
- Dormant Assets funding is much more long term than government funding as it is not bound by Spending Review cycles and doesn't have to be spent by the end of the financial year.
- Announcement:
 - DCMS are expecting to release £350 million for England over 2024 and 2028. This is going to be split equally between the four causes meaning £87.5 million for the provision of services, facilities or opportunities to meet the needs of young people. £15 million has already been allocated for Building Futures Programme in 2023 which means there is around £72 million in the youth pot. DCMS will be publishing a Statement of Intent early next year for 2024-2028 outlining the broad policy direction for each of the four causes' proportion to be spent on.
 - DCMS is exploring Mental Health and Wellbeing, Youth (Un)employment and nature-based learning as potential areas for Dormant Assets Youth funding, following engagement with the sector over the Summer. There will be an evidence review in these areas with opportunities to have conversations with DCMS to feed in.

Q&A

- Q: Chloe Allen, Girlguiding – *“With Adventures Away from home, how will the timeline work if applications open after Christmas and spend is before end of March? This is a tight turnaround”*
 - A: There is a bit longer than last year and some of this might be open to manoeuvre. Expectation is it might be half-term, Easter activities or even the

weekend. The delivery partner will be announced in the next few weeks and will provide more details.

- Q: Chloe Allen, Girlguiding – *“Is it likely that we will see several funding opportunities come from the remainder of that £87 million or when you say you're exploring those opportunities, will it land on one key area? If it is going to be several funding opportunities, will they be released early on in the 24 to 28 period or will they be drip fed throughout that period?”*
 - A: Michaela said that there will be £72 million across 2024-2028 for youth. DCMS will be considering whether to focus on one area or several as the more they add to the funding the less impact it will have in one particular area. Dormant Asset funding has previously been made available in tranches for multi-year programmes, rather than being committed all at once, but it will be for spend organisations (TNCLF/YFF presently) to decide how and when funding is spent in line with the broad parameters in the Statement of Intent,
- Q: Chris Martin, The Mix – *“The Mix is not a place-based organisation – if I want to access this additional funding, do I need to talk to YFF and/or TNLCF?”*
 - Michaela answered that DCMS don't direct the funding to individual organisations so YFF and TNLCF would be the best to talk to in order to discern the types of programmes that are available to apply for.
- Q: Sharon Long, Partnership for Young London – *“Local authorities are struggling to understand where funding is coming in from local areas that will help them to fund their local youth offer. There is a job to do on the Million Hours Fund to flag where it's being allocated. How can we put a lens across this to ensure that any funding coming out is flagged to local authorities so they know what funding is going out in their area?”*
 - A: Fiona answered that she will look into this. There may not be a quick answer, but it is definitely on Fiona's list as DCMS recognises that it's really hard for local authorities to know what is funded in their area. The Million Hours Fund will list the grantees, but it's not the full answer to the issue.
- Q: Bethia McNeil, YMCA George Williams College – *“Interested in how each of the various announcements and funding pots will be evaluated holistically. It is a welcome investment into much needed bits of the ecosystem, but what's the plan for how it will be evaluated for broader and collective impact?”*
 - A: Fiona said each programme was being evaluated in line with Government standards plus there is additional evaluation looking at everything that's been carried out in the National Youth Guarantee.
- Q: Jacob Diggle, UK Youth – *“Culture Secretary spoke about cross-governmental responsibility for supporting youth work with CYP Now. How can we all support DCMS in cross-government influencing?”*
 - a. A: Fiona said common metrics and collective impact evaluation across the youth sector is the best way to increase impact and awareness across government. Even basic figures around how many disadvantaged young people the youth sector is reaching would be useful. Strongly suspects we're over indexing as a sector on the types of young people as a sector that we work with, but we don't have the data and it's not collected in the same way

across organisations. Fiona also encouraged participation in the [NYA National Youth Sector Census](#) so we can map the youth work ecosystem. DCMS is increasingly working with the DfE in lots of different ways – their next push is how youth services can help with attendance. Fiona asked any project, however small, that has quantitative evidence of impact should get in touch with her (fiona.stone@dcms.gov.uk).

4) Close

- The Chair closed the session, thanking Michaela, Fiona and attendees. He also mentioned the National Youth Sector Advisory Board's [Roadmap to a National Youth Strategy](#) published in October as a useful tool for members to use for collective influence and advocacy.
- Details will follow shortly on the next NYSAB meeting taking place in the New Year.