



Department for Culture, Media & Sport

Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP
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Dame Caroline Dinenage MP
Chair, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

INT2025/04920/DC

Dear Caroline,

I am writing to draw your attention to the Written Statement I set out today to Parliament detailing my department's 25/26 youth budget.

On 12 November, I announced the wind-down of the National Citizen Service programme, and closure of the NCS Trust, and committed to a co-production of a new National Youth Strategy that is fit for the decade ahead and ensures every young person can live the richer, larger life they deserve.

To provide stability to the youth sector and ensure young people can continue to access opportunities, I committed to increase funding for existing youth programmes, as we transition to the new National Youth Strategy.

Today I set out investment of over £145 million in youth programmes, which includes:

- Over £28 million to increase access to more and better enriching activities, to ensure that young people can continue to access opportunities, no matter where they are from. Through these programmes, we will continue to support the fantastic organisations who engage with young people, day in and day out.
- Over £3 million to increase sector and workforce capacity to ensure we are recruiting and training the youth workers who are a lifeline for young people.
- £8.2 million to improve local youth offers – local authorities play a key part in delivering youth services, reflected in their statutory duty to provide sufficient leisure-time activities and facilities in line with local needs. We know that some areas have faced challenges in meeting this duty – and yet they are key to enabling young people to unlock their potential.
- Over £107 million to further invest in ensuring safe, welcoming, fit-for-purpose youth centres



Since November, we have conducted one of the biggest engagement exercises, reaching and engaging with young people across the country, to better understand their needs and priorities. This included a national survey, which collected over 14,000 responses, several face-to-face and online focus groups, regional roundtables as well as innovative hacks. We will be publishing an interim report, 'Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Nation', which will present those insights in the coming weeks.

Young people's needs have never been more complex, but together, we will drive the transition to a future in which young people have choices and chances and local communities are empowered to support a generation to succeed.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Lisa Nandy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and the last name "Nandy" clearly distinguishable.

Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport