



Department for Culture, Media & Sport

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Helen Hayes MP
Education Committee
House of Commons
London
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Dear Helen Hayes MP,

YOUTH MATTERS: YOUR NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

Today we have published 'Youth Matters: Your National Youth Strategy' - this is a 10 year plan to ensure every young person across the country has people who care, places to go and things to do, and are seen and heard.

The Strategy outlines cross-government support for young people aged 10-21, and up to 25 for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We heard from over 14,000 young people, close to 1,500 cross-sector experts, and worked closely with close to 200 officials from over 10 departments to develop this Strategy. The insights gathered have been published alongside the strategy in the 'Youth Matters: State of the Nation' report, highlighting 4 key themes:

- **Community, connection, and belonging:** Young people want stronger connections to their communities, safe and welcoming spaces, and trust in adults and institutions.
- **Physical, mental, and digital wellbeing:** Young people want access to timely mental health support and healthcare, alongside tools to navigate digital lives and also boost their confidence and sense of self.
- **Skills and opportunities for life and work:** Young people want better preparation for their future careers through quality education, training, and meaningful job opportunities.
- **Safety and security:** Young people are concerned about safety, crime and online security, and need trusted adults who can offer support to them.

In response, the National Youth Strategy prioritises 10 actions for us to take across Government over the next 10 years:

1. **Trusted adults** - supporting more trusted adults to guide young people and embedding them where young people are, including through sports programmes or Young Futures Hubs.
2. **Supporting and improving the workforce** - investing £15 million of DCMS funding over 3 years in youth workers, volunteers and trusted adults, to better support young people. In addition, we will invest £70 million of DCMS funding over the next 3 years to build better local youth offers with Local Authorities and develop a network of up to 50 Young Futures Hubs by March 2029.



3. **Friends and relationships** - helping young people develop positive social connections and reduce isolation in school and in their communities. In addition, supporting Ofcom to meet its updated duties to protect young people from harmful online content and improve media literacy.
4. **Richer Lives** - investing £22.5 million over 3 years to create a better enrichment offer in up to 400 schools. Investing £60 million over the next 3 years for a new Richer Young Lives Fund, creating activities and youth work opportunities in areas that need it most. More support for young people to be physically active including the new School Sport Partnerships and a £250 million investment over 5 years from Sport England into local sport and physical activity.
5. **Good work** - delivering on the Youth Guarantee to ensure access to further learning, jobs, or apprenticeships for young people, expanding the number of employment Youth Hubs and guaranteeing a job for those on Universal Credit who have been unemployed for over 18 months.
6. **Keeping young people safe** - restore neighbourhood policing, providing support through Young Futures Hubs and introducing mandatory training for bus staff to help young people feel safer on the bus.
7. **Places to go** - building and renovating youth centres with a new £350 million Better Youth Spaces programme as well as investing £400 million in new and upgraded grassroots community sport facilities which promote health and wellbeing. We will also improve local transport for young people to get to activities and services.
8. **Health and wellbeing** - we will roll out mental health support teams in schools and colleges to reach full national coverage by the end of 2029 and ensure young people have access to wellbeing support in the Young Futures Hubs.
9. **Delivering with young people** - giving young people power to share their views, and enact change in their communities and in society. This includes lowering the voting age to 16 as well as funding to empower young people to be change makers and co-design policies that impact on them.
10. **Holding us to account** - we will measure our outcomes across government through a shared framework and metrics and will publish an interim delivery report in 2027.

Youth policy is devolved to the home nations and therefore the vast majority of policies included in the Strategy are focused on England. However, a small number of UK-wide policies have been included in the Strategy.

There is no single quick fix to these problems, but by acting now and taking a radical new approach, led by young people, we can turn this around. The development of this Strategy marks a new approach for involving young people in policy development and I look forward to working with you to share learning and best practice in this space.

Yours sincerely,



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