

## Local Authority Youth Services Survey Context

The survey was submitted to 154 local authorities and we received responses from 98 (60%). Limited information is held by Central Government. The survey was undertaken to develop a broader understanding from frontline staff of how local authorities are meeting their statutory duty by securing services and activities for young people to improve their wellbeing [statutory duty below].

### Education and Inspections Act 2006

507B LEAs in England: functions in respect of leisure-time activities etc for persons aged 13 to 19 and certain persons aged 20 to 24

*(1) A local education authority in England must, so far as reasonably practicable, secure for qualifying young persons in the authority's area access to—*

*(a) sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities; and*

*(b) sufficient recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.*

The survey was sent to individuals within the local authority primarily responsible for young people's services. We discerned no noticeable pattern amongst youth services teams that did not respond. The survey consisted of 39 questions. Most were closed questions that were analysed using quantitative methods. Respondents were told that their individual responses would not be released publically.

There are certain caveats to this data which should be considered, these are summarised below.

#### *Response rate*

- Youth services teams from 56 local authorities did not complete the survey, therefore we do not have information on the how services are secured in these areas.

#### *Incomplete data*

- There were some questions that were not answered and/or were not fully completed by all local authorities. Preliminary work was undertaken to verify some of the information submitted, however this was not exhaustive.

#### *Accounting and categorisation*

- We recognise that local authorities define youth services in different ways, and although definition guidance was provided it can be difficult to make direct comparisons between local authorities and over time as these definitions differ at a local, and national, level.

#### *Uncertainty about the future*

- Several questions referred to future predictions around service delivery. We recognise that in a fast-changing landscape some of these predictions will have been made under conditions of uncertainty.

## Cabinet Office Survey on Youth Services – November 2013

1. Please tell us the name of the council you work for.

[Response withheld]

2. Please tell us your name and job title.

[Response withheld]

3. Please state whether you think the following aspects of young people's services, whether within your local authority or across the wider sector, have improved overall in terms of quality in the last three years.

Total Responses: 97

	Has got considerably worse	Somewhat worse	Neither improved nor worse	Improved	Considerably improved
Skills and professionalism of staff	3	8	31	46	9
Capacity to form partnerships	0	3	16	54	24
Focus on outcomes	0	3	11	66	17
Achievement of outcomes	0	6	34	48	9
Identifying need/targeting resources	0	1	21	58	17
Measurement of impact	0	5	37	49	6
Quality of experience for young people	1	7	40	42	7

4. How much does your council spend on universal services and targeted services for young people (as returned to the Department for Education under Section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Learning and Children's Act (2009))?

Total Responses: 97

	Total £s spent on targeted services across all responses	Total £s spent on universal services across all responses
2011-2012	214,835,258	265,257,976
2012-2013	227,500,261	199,293,254
2013-2014	195,871,400	177,285,841

5. Please estimate how much is spent by your council on the kinds of services listed below, as part of its spending on total services for young people, under Section 251 data returns.

Total Responses: 97\*

	Total £s spent in 2011-2012 across all responses	Total £s spent in 2012-2013 across all responses	Total £s spent in 2013-2014 across all responses
Youth work	156,681,216	173,613,743	124,464,377
Activities for young people	34,859,186	28,822,186	18,933,783
Services to support young people's participation in education or training	59,966,806	55,443,704	50,244,580
Substance misuse services	13,774,062	15,353,325	13,495,785
Teenage pregnancy services	6,618,057	6,640,666	7,540,854
Discretionary awards	7,347,965	2,661,000	1,600,000
Student support	661,400	1,433,002	1,289,000
Information advice and guidance	50,559,192	43,827,277	36,330,647
Young people's participation	11,043,607	11,839,483	13,384,148
Other	65,138,903	52,902,367	50,700,937

\*please note that many responses were incomplete or partial.

6. Does your council spend any money on open access youth work - that is, activities that can be attended by any young person and which are overseen by a youth worker of some kind?

Total Responses: 97

	Total
Yes	93
No	4

7. Approximately how much is your council spending on open access youth work in 2013-2014? Please include all spending, including money spent on direct delivery by the local authority, spending on grant aided work, and spending on commissioned contracts.

Total Responses: 87

Total across all responses: £113,390,813

8. **Open access youth work - spending on specific kinds of youth work:** Please estimate how much will be spent on the particular kinds of youth work listed below in 2013-2014.

Total Responses: 97\*

	<b>Total across all responses</b>
££s spent on youth work focussed on Sports	4,921,463
££s spent on youth work focussed on leisure (e.g. games, social events)	7,469,963
££s spent on youth work focussed on arts and culture (e.g. music, painting, drama, creative writing)	7,557,164
££s spent on youth work focussed on social action (e.g. volunteering, local campaigns)	4,337,610
££s spent on youth work focussed on learning (e.g. literacy and numeracy)	1,603,000
£s spent on youth work focussed on young people's participation (e.g. youth representation within the council)	9,217,955
£s spent on other Open Access	24,152,194

\*please note that many responses were incomplete or partial.

9. Does your council spend money on targeted youth work - that is, youth work targeted at specific individuals or groups and run by a youth worker of some kind?

Total Responses: 97

	<b>Total</b>
Yes	94
No	3

10. Approximately how much is your council spending on targeted youth work in 2013-2014? Please include all spending, including money spent on direct delivery by the local authority, spending on grant aided work, and spending on commissioned contracts.

Total Responses: 84

Total: £121,087,234

11. **Targeted youth work - spending on specific kinds of youth work.** Please estimate how much your council will spend on the particular kinds of youth work listed below in 2013-2014.

Total Responses: 97\*

	<b>Total across all responses</b>
££s spent on youth work focussed on reducing the number of NEET young people/supporting NEET young people	22,588,202
££s spent on youth work focussed on improving health and wellbeing outcomes	9,411,725
££s spent on youth work focussed on reducing anti-social	6,179,125

behaviour	
££s spent on youth work focussed on social action (e.g. volunteering)	2,284,000
££s spent on youth work focussed on learning (e.g. literacy and numeracy, working towards a qualification, peer-to-peer learning)	1,919,000
££s spent on youth work focussed on participation work (e.g. youth representation within the council)	2,757,000
£s spent on other	29,872,500

\*please note that many responses were incomplete or partial.

12. How important are detached youth workers to achieving the outcomes for young people that your council prioritises? (Regardless of whether such workers are employed through direct delivery by the local authority, spending on grant aided work, or spending on commissioned contracts.)

Total Responses: 94

	Not at all important - we don't fund any	Somewhat important	Quite important	Very important	Extremely important
	10	12	21	32	19

13. When making decisions about which young people's services to fund, whether targeted or universal, how often does the statutory guidance play a role in your decision-making?

Total Responses: 97

	Total
Never	1
Rarely	2
Sometimes	20
Often	33
All of the Time	41
Unaware of statutory duty	0

14. Please estimate the percentages of your council's spending in 2013-2014 on universal and targeted young people's services (as defined under Section 251) that is spent on:

- services directly delivered by the local authority itself;
- services commissioned from voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations;
- services commissioned from the private sector.

Total Responses: 97\*

<b>Question</b>	<b>% spent on direct local authority provision</b>	<b>% spent on services commissioned out to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations</b>	<b>% spent on services commissioned out to the private sector</b>
Targeted services	44.88	23.53	8.87
Universal services	47.11	18.67	2.59

\*please note that the percentages above are calculated on the basis of average percentage splits in spending and do not represent percentages of total spending of respondents.

15. Please indicate the kinds of targeted services that are commissioned out to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

Total Responses: 62

	<b>Total</b>
Employment services and services for NEET young people	36
Health and wellbeing services	46
Services aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour	45
Services providing social action opportunities (e.g. volunteering)	28
Services focussed on learning (e.g literacy and numeracy)	21
Services focussed on participation work (e.g. youth representation within the council)	19
Other	24

16. Please indicate the kinds of targeted services that are commissioned out to the private sector.

Total Responses: 45

	<b>Total</b>
Employment services and services for NEET young people	32
Health and wellbeing services	19
Services aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour	18
Services providing social action opportunities (e.g. volunteering)	12
Services focussed on learning (e.g literacy and numeracy)	12
Services focussed on participation work (e.g. youth representation within the council)	10
Other	13

17. Please indicate the kinds of targeted services that are delivered directly by your local authority

Total Responses: 74

	<b>Total</b>
Employment services and services for NEET young people	62
Health and wellbeing services	61
Services aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour	63
Services providing social action opportunities (e.g. volunteering)	51
Services focussed on learning (e.g literacy and numeracy)	48
Services focussed on participation work (e.g. youth representation within the council)	63
Other	20

18. Of the amount spent by your council on targeted young people's services provided by voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, approximately what percentage is spent on grants and what percentage on contracts?

Total Responses: 61

	<b>100% grants</b>	<b>75% grants; 25% contracts</b>	<b>50% grants; 50% contracts</b>	<b>25% grants; 75% contracts</b>	<b>100% contracts</b>
	8	5	3	13	32

19. Of the amount spent by your council on universal young people's services provided by voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, approximately what percentage is spent on grants and what percentage on contracts?

Total Responses: 55

Question	100% grants	75% grants; 25% contracts	50% grants; 50% contracts	25% grants; 75% contracts	100% contracts
	17	7	2	7	22

20. Does the council you work for run any youth clubs itself?

Total Responses: 97

	Total
Yes	78
No	19

21. Does your local authority fund (either wholly or partially) any youth clubs that are run by external organisations or in partnership with external organisations?

Total Responses: 97

	Total
Yes	72
No	25

22. How important are different kinds of external organisations as providers of young people's services in your area (whether funded by the council or otherwise)?

Total Responses: 96



Question	Not at all Important	Somewhat important	Quite important	Very Important	Extremely Important
Voluntary organisations (e.g. charities)	0	5	7	44	40
National membership organisations such as the Scouts and Guides	0	9	22	37	26
Sports clubs	1	9	22	44	20
Schools	3	7	22	36	28
Youth participation groups	3	11	21	36	24
Community groups	2	14	15	43	21
Faith groups	0	17	29	34	14
National Citizen Service providers	7	27	16	30	12
Social enterprises	14	22	23	17	14
Businesses	14	34	20	11	10

23. How important, in your local authority area, are the following government and international programmes in terms of providing young people's services that contribute to the securing of the statutory duty?

Total Responses: 96

Question	Not at all Important	Somewhat Important	Quite Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	Never heard of it
Troubled Families Programme	8	4	9	25	50	8
Youth Justice	4	9	5	32	45	4
Traineeships	6	19	18	24	24	6
Youth Contract	9	18	23	26	17	9
European Social Inclusion Fund	14	11	22	20	15	14
National Citizen Service	10	26	23	23	13	10
Ending Gang and Youth Violence programme	24	18	14	9	11	24
Our Place	30	13	8	8	7	30
Unlocking Talent	11	12	10	6	2	11

24. Please indicate the importance of various other local commissioners in terms of commissioning young people's services.

Total Responses: 96

Question	Not at all Important	Some what Important	Quite Important	Very Important	Extremely Important	Never heard of them
Schools	3	10	13	40	28	3
Health and wellbeing boards	2	11	19	35	28	2
Clinical Commissioning Groups	7	12	15	34	24	7
Directors of Public Health	1	8	22	42	23	1
Police and Crime Commissioners	4	11	22	35	22	4
Probation Trusts	14	20	21	18	8	14

25. Does your council do anything to find out what young people think of the services on offer to them in your area? If it does, please say how it does so. If it does not, please choose the last option.

Total Responses: 97

	Total
Looked after children's representative	88
Youth forum	79
Members of the UK Youth Parliament	76
Youth council	71
Youth cabinet	32
Youth mayor	13
Other	68
We don't gather the views of young people	0

26. Does your council publicly publish its Youth Offer?

Total Responses: 97

	Total
Yes	83
No	14

27. How does your council publish its Youth Offer?

Total Responses: 82

	<b>Total</b>
Council website	74
Meetings with representatives of young people	56
Yearly publication	20
Other	55

28. To what extent do you think young people's services are integrated with other services within your council?

Total Responses: 97

<b>Question</b>	<b>Not at all Integrated</b>	<b>Somewhat Integrated</b>	<b>Quite Integrated</b>	<b>Very Integrated</b>	<b>As Integrated as they could be</b>
	0	13	44	38	2

29. Who in the council provides strategic leadership for young people's services (or youth services)?

Total Responses: 97

	<b>Total</b>
Director of Children's Services	39
Assistant Director	13
Head of Service	24
Principal Officer	3
Other	18

30. How much of a priority are young people's services within your council?

Total Responses: 97

Question	No priority	Some priority	Quite a high priority	A high priority	A very high priority
	1	12	15	41	28

31. Please indicate how highly valued you believe young people's services to be within your council.

Total Responses: 97

Question	Not valued at all	Somewhat valued	Quite well valued	Highly valued	Very highly valued
	1	9	22	37	28

32. In which department does the person responsible for the strategic leadership of young people's services (or youth services) sit?

Total Responses: 97

Answer	Total
Children and Young People's Services	67
Education	0
Other	30

33. Is there a dedicated young people's services (or youth services) team within your council?

Total Responses: 97

Answer	Total
Yes there is	88
No there is not	9

34. Which of the following options would you consider pursuing in the immediate future?

Total Responses: 96

<b>Answer</b>	<b>Total</b>
Adopting a common outcomes framework	78
Collaborating more with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector	87
Transforming into an employee-led mutual (public service mutual)	24
Using impact measurement tools	79
Joining additional networks in order to share best practice	77

36. Please indicate what you think will be the most important trends in young people's services over the coming five years.

Total Responses: 96

	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Quite important	Important	Very Important	No idea
Collaborative approaches to delivering services	0	1	6	5	77	4
Youth-led approaches	0	4	7	18	67	0
Working with schools	0	6	9	14	66	1
Integrating services within the council	4	7	3	16	64	0
Cutting all or nearly all funding for young people's services	5	5	7	23	48	4
Involving more volunteers	0	9	15	25	47	0
Commissioning VCSEs	3	9	16	19	45	1
Housing associations providing more services	7	17	19	22	17	9
Commissioning the private sector	18	23	22	12	10	4
Employee-owned mutuals (public service mutuals)	21	25	15	14	7	6
Social impact bonds	11	16	13	14	7	27

37. Please estimate what you think the balance of spending between universal and targeted young people's services funded by your council will be, in percentage terms, in three years' time.

Total Responses: 91

	<b>100% on targeted services</b>	<b>75% on targeted ; 25% on universal</b>	<b>50% on targeted ; 50% on universal</b>	<b>25% on targeted ; 75% on universal</b>	<b>100% on universal services</b>	<b>There will be no budget at all</b>
	34	41	11	5	0	0

38. Please estimate whether you think the budget in your local authority for young people's services will go up, down or stay the same in 2014/2015.

Total Responses: 97\*

Decrease/increase in percentage terms -16.26%

\* please note that percentage above represents the average percentage reduction of 97 respondents. It does not represent a percentage reduction in the total amount of money spent by these councils on youth services.