

**Statutory guidance for Local Authorities on providing youth services: A call for evidence**

**Launch date** 3rd October 2019

**Respond by** 11:45pm, 1st December 2019

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# **Introduction**

The government is revising the guidance relating to Section 507B of the Education and Inspections Act, which sets government expectations of (upper tier) local authorities when they are securing services and activities for young people aged 13 to 19, and those with learning difficulties to age 24, with the purpose of improving young people’s well-being.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The current guidance was last reviewed in 2012.[[2]](#footnote-2) There have been many changes to how local youth services have been funded and delivered in the last seven years, therefore a revision of the guidance is required. We expect that the review will provide greater clarity of government’s expectations, including the value added by good youth work.

The review aims to focus attention on the positive role local authorities can play in the provision of youth services, and ensure the guidance is useful and accessible for those who need it most.

To help us understand better the strengths of the current guidance and where improvements could be made, the government has spoken with groups of young people, youth sector organisations and representatives from the Local Government Association. These conversations have helped to shape the questions in this call for evidence.

It is important to note that as a guidance document the review will not seek to determine exactly what services local authorities should secure nor is it linked to any funding local authorities get to provide services for young people.

This guidance does not place any responsibilities on any youth sector providers who are not part of local government e.g. uniformed youth groups, voluntary sector organisations or other civil society groups.

## **Who is this for?**

* Local authorities
* Other providers of local youth services
* Young people
* Young people’s families and carers

## **Issue date**

The call for evidence was issued on 3rd October 2019.

## **Enquiries**

Any enquiries about this call for evidence or the wider review should be addressed to: guidancereview@culture.gov.uk.

## **The response**

This call for evidence closes at 11:45pm on 1st December 2019. The results of the call for evidence and the government response will be published on GOV.UK in early 2020.

## **Confidentiality of your responses**

Information provided in response to this call for evidence, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you want all, or any part, of a response to be treated as confidential, please explain why you consider it to be confidential.

If a request for disclosure of the information you have provided is received, your explanation about why you consider it confidential will be taken into account, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will process your personal data (name and address and any other identifying material) in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and, your personal information will only be used for the purposes of this call for evidence. Your information will not be shared with third parties unless the law allows it.

You can read more about what DCMS does when we ask for and hold your personal information in our personal information charter (see [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-digital-culture-media-sport/about/personal-information-charter)).

## **How to respond**

Please return completed forms

* **By email:**

guidancereview@culture.gov.uk

* **By post:**

Local Youth Services Team

Office for Civil Society

4th Floor, 100 Parliament Street

London, SW1A 2BQ

# **Call for Evidence form**

## Section 1: About yourself

Before you start answering the questions in this call for evidence, please note that:

* It would be helpful if you would first give some information about yourself as context to your other responses. This information is confidential and we will not publish any information that could identify you without your permission.
* You may also want to answer all or just some of the questions. Please add more lines for your written responses as you need them; however do note that responses of more than 250 words will not be read in full.

**1. Name**

First Name …………………………………………………………………………………..

Last Name …………………………………………………………………………………...

Please note: It is helpful to have your name if we want to contact you about your answers to the questions in this call for evidence. You do not have to give your name, and your views will be considered whether or not you give your name.

**2. What is your email address?**

Email address: ………………………………………………………………………………

Please note: It is helpful to have your email address if we want to contact you about your answers to the questions in this call for evidence. You do not have to give your email address, and your views will be considered whether or not you give your email address.

**3. Are you happy to be contacted directly about your response?**

(Required)

Yes / No

We may wish to speak to you directly about your responses to help our understanding of the issues. If we do, we will use the email address you have given above.

**4. Are you responding as an individual or as part of an organisation?** (Required)

Individual / As part of an organisation

**5. If you are responding as an individual, how would you describe yourself?**

* A young person
* A family member or carer of a young person
* A local authority elected member
* An officer of a local authority
* Someone who works with young people (please specify)

…………………………………………………………………………………………

* Other (specify)

…………………………………………………………………………………………

**6. If you are responding for an organisation, what type of organisation is this?**

……………………………………………………………………………………………….

**7. What is the name of your organisation?**

……………………………………………………………………………………………….

**8. What is your role in the organisation?**

……………………………………………………………………………………………….

**9. In which local authority are you located?**

……………………………………………………………………………………………….

We are interested in knowing what the situation is in different parts of the country. Knowing the local authority in which you or activity is situated will help us to understand the context of your responses. If you are a national provider, or if you are not based in any particular local authority (for example a national charity), then please state this.

## Section 2: The existing guidance

**10. Prior to hearing about this call for evidence were you aware that local authorities had a statutory duty to secure services for young people with the purpose of improving young people’s well-being?**

Yes / No

**11. Prior to hearing about this call for evidence, were you aware that guidance existed for local authorities on how to carry out that duty?**

Yes / No

**12. The existing guidance is meant to advise local authorities on what to take into account when deciding what services and activities to secure for young people. How well do you think the existing guidance achieves that?**

* Very well
* Quite well
* Not well
* Very poorly

**13. Is there anything in the existing guidance which is particularly useful for local authorities when deciding what services and activities to secure for young people?**

Yes / No

**If yes, please give details:**

……………………………………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………………………………………………….

## Section 3: Updating the guidance

**13. We would like to know in what ways the guidance could be improved. Please tick any of the suggestions below and/or add you own.**

**I believe the guidance needs to address:**

* The leadership role of local authorities in convening key stakeholders, and securing sufficient services for young people in their local area.
* The role of qualified youth workers in leading positive activities for young people as part of a local youth offer.
* The role that other providers, such as the voluntary and civil society sector, can play in providing services for young people.
* The role of partnerships between local authorities and other key partners in providing a comprehensive offer to young people.
* Whether local authorities should have a clear statement of what they think a sufficient offer is for activities and services for young people in their area and how they plan to secure it.
* The quality of the services and activities available to young people as part of their local youth offer.
* The role of young people in deciding what a sufficient local offer is for these services.
* Up-to-date examples, contacts and resources that help local authorities and their communities decide what would work in their area.
* How often local authorities should review their youth offer.
* Expected outcomes for young people and how these could be measured and evaluated.

**Please list any missing key areas that you feel the guidance should address here and say why they are important:**

……………………………………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………………………………………………….

**14. We would like young people to be able to engage meaningfully in decisions regarding a local offer for services. Do you agree?**

Yes / No

**If yes, please answer the following questions:**

1. **At what stage of the decision-making process will engagement with young people have the greatest impact?**

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. **How would you recommend young people are brought into the decision-making process?**

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**15. We would like the guidance to provide more clarity on how the services and activities on offer to young people in their local areas contribute towards improving their well-being. Do you agree?**

Yes / No

(Question 15 continues on the following page)

**If yes, please answer the following questions:**

1. **What outcomes do you think are most important for young people?**

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. **What types of opportunities, activities or environments should these services provide to help achieve these outcomes?**

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

## Section 4: Case studies

**16. Do you have any examples you would like to share of any of the following:**

* Local authorities showing clear leadership in setting out what provision will be made for young people in their community and ensuring the delivery of this
* A partnership model working effectively to deliver youth services
* Local authorities meaningfully engaging with young people

**Please provide your examples below:**

…………………………………………………………………………………………………

## …………………………………………………………………………………………………

## …………………………………………………………………………………………………

## Section 5: Using the future Guidance

17. How should any future guidance be more widely publicised?

* On a government website
* On other national youth body websites
* On the website of every local authority covered by the duty
* In spaces for young people e.g. youth centres, community hubs
* Some other way, please specify:

…………………………………………………………………………………………

## Section 6: Summary

18. Are there any other reflections or feedback you would like to give?

…………………………………………………………………………………………………...………………………………………………………………………………………………….

…………………………………………………………………………………………………..

Thank you for completing this form. Please return to:

* **By email:**

guidancereview@culture.gov.uk

* **By post:**

Local Youth Services Team

Office for Civil Society

4th Floor, 100 Parliament Street

London, SW1A 2BQ

1. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/507B> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-guidance-to-improve-young-peoples-well-being> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)