

**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

# **Introduction**

Local councils have a responsibility to make sure young people can access services and activities in their local areas. These services and activities should improve young people’s wellbeing.

The document that helps local councils know what the government expects and also helps them decide what services and activities to provide to young people is quite old and hasn’t been updated in a few years. We know that a lot has changed for youth services over the last few years, so we want to update the guidance document now to make sure it is up to date.

As well as making sure the document is useful for local councils and youth organisations, we also want to make sure that it is something that young people can read to understand what you can expect from your local council when it comes to youth services and activities in your local areas.

We would really appreciate your thoughts on how we can make this document better and how we can make it something that young people would use. You can fill this form out yourself as an individual; or use it as a tool to have conversations with groups of young people and fill out the form together.

**Enquiries**

If you have any questions about this review, you can email Katie from the Local Youth Services team at: guidancereview@culture.gov.uk.

## **The response**

This call for evidence closes at 11:45pm on 1st December 2019 so please make sure you send something in before then. The results of the call for evidence and the government response will be published on GOV.UK in early 2020.

## **Confidentiality of your responses**

The information you give us in this form, including your personal information, may be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. We will publish the results of this review on the GOV.UK website, but we won’t publish any of your personal details.

If you want any of your information 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:

* None of the questions are compulsory, you can choose which questions to answer and what information you want to give us.
* It would be helpful for us to have your name, email address and the area you live in, in case we want to contact you to talk more about the information you’ve given us. You don’t have to give us this information though and we will still read your responses and take them into account if you don’t want to give us your name and contact details.
* We have only given a line or two for responses so that this document isn’t too long when you first download it, so please add more lines for your written responses as you need them.
* Please try not to write more than 250 words for each question.

**Name**

Name …………………………………………………………………………………..

**What is your email address?**

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

**Are you happy for us to contact you if we want to talk more about anything you write in this form?**

Yes / No

**What area do you live in? (or local council area if you know it)**

……………………………………………………………………………………………….

##

## Section 2: Updating the guidance

**1. We want the new guidance document to do a good job of helping local councils decide what services and activities to provide to young people. What should we put in the document to make sure it is useful?**

……………………………………………………………………………………………….

**2. We would like to know how the guidance could be improved. Please tick any of the suggestions below or add you own.**

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

* Advice to local councils about clearly saying what services and activities they will offer young people and how they decided what to provide.
* Something about the quality of the services and activities available to young people.
* How young people will be involved in deciding what services and activities will be offered to them in their local area.
* How often local authorities should review their youth offer.
* What goals we want these services and activities to help young people achieve and how we will measure this to know they have been successful at doing this.

**Anything else?**

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

**3. When should local councils talk with you about the services they could provide to young people? (e.g. before they make any decisions? when they have the final package to show you? all the way through?)**

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**4. How and where should local councils talk to you about this? (e.g. would it be better for someone to come to your school? through your youth worker? etc)**

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**5. We want the new guidance to say how services and activities will help young people meet their goals. What goals are important to you?**

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**6. What would help you reach your goals? You could think about the types of activities, people, services and opportunities that help you do this.**

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**7. Do you have any examples of good youth services or youth projects in your local area you would like to share?**

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**8. Do you think your local council does a good job of talking to and listening to young people about what you need in your local area? If you do, could you tell us a bit about it?**

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**9. We think it's really important that young people see this new guidance document and know where to find it. Where do you think we should put the document?**

* In schools/colleges
* In youth club/youth groups
* In other services that young people access (e.g. mental health services, council buildings
* Libraries
* On the council website
* On other digital platforms (e.g. social media)
* Other …………………………………………………………………………………………

**10. Is there anything else you think we should know?**

……………………………………………………………………………………………….…**.**