**Responses to the Positive for Youth Consultation**

**June to September 2011**

**Overarching Narrative and Vision**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| The starting point for policy should be the welfare of young people and their entitlement to wellbeing and successful transition, rather than the effect that their behaviour has on others. | We agree – we are passionate about the wellbeing and welfare of all young people. But this has to include young people taking personal responsibility and respecting the rights of others. | We have a wide range of policies, all set out in the statement, for helping young people succeed and realising their potential – including education reforms, health reforms, the forthcoming participation strategy, and policies to support specific vulnerable groups. |
| Discussion papers lack reference to the fact that young people should have fun and enjoy their teenage years, developing positive relationships with peers and their own interests and aspirations. They need safe places to play and spend their leisure time, they need to have fun and not always be under pressure to succeed. | We agree the teenage years need to be fun. Young people also need to understand the risks if some fun gets out of hand. | We have modified the vision and narrative to reflect that young people have leisure time that needs to be safely enjoyed. We are funding Myplace and NCS to give young people constructive things to do in a fun way. |
| We need to stress far more the need for an integrated approach across sectors and professional boundaries to supporting young people – this is needed to address problems early, eliminate duplication and release cost savings, pool expertise, and build better links between community and specialist services. It would involve making the most of both capital assets, including schools, as hubs for a wide range of services, and the role of community volunteers and mentors. It would also need common outcomes to be developed and a common understanding of what makes the difference. All this will drive real reform and avoid simple salami slicing. A clear vision for what services need to look like would also inform the Community right to challenge. | We agree that everyone has a role to play in creating a society that is positive for youth. Reform is about more than just the role of public services. Good LA commissioning looks across and beyond public services, is joined up with other commissioners and takes into account the role of the VCS and communities.  | We have expanded on our original 4 reform principles to develop a fuller set of objectives that reflect what a good system of support for young people would look like. This includes a vision for a more integrated approach, with more shared responsibility across society for young people’s outcomes. We will expect LAs to promote a local offer for young people. We will not prescribe what the local offer should look like, but will help share good practice.We are retaining schools’ duty to co-operate with local councils on the wellbeing of children and young people. |
| There is a risk that statement raises expectations of a universal local offer, while offering no viable model for achieving it and not recognising the financial constraints. | We disagree. We will not prescribe the level of service that must be provided. We don’t expect the whole local offer to be funded by the public purse. | The vision in the statement aims to present a more viable and sustainable future for youth provision, setting out a reform story that is about more than the role of publicly funded services. |

**Young People’s Role in Society (Including Young People’s Role in Decision Making – to inform new grant)**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| The principle that young people’s direct involvement in shaping and making decisions on those issues that impact on their lives leads to better provision and take up was accepted without question. Formal mechanisms were valued and endorsed, but other ways needed to be found to engage young people, including from an earlier age. | Youth voice is at the heart of our policy for young people who have been actively involved and engaged at every stage of the developing Positive for Youth policy statement.  | Grant funding of £850,000 from October 2011-March 2013 has been provided to BYC to increase the quality and quantity of youth involvement in formal decision making. We will support a new national youth scrutiny group to enable young people to influence Government Ministers’ thinking directly. We are making clear that every local area is expected to have a youth decision making body and should offer opportunities for youth scrutiny of policies and services. |
| Concern about the negative perceptions of young people and the role of the media in exacerbating the situation. General agreement that projects and activities that brought different generations together played a valuable role in addressing this issue; youth “champions” who spoke positively about young people are also important, as are opportunities to celebrate achievements. | We share this concern. Through developing a cross Government vision and policy for a society that is positive for youth, we aim to help overturn such perceptions. | The whole Positive for Youth policy is focused on highlighting young people’s achievements and the valuable contribution they make to their communities. We are working with a range of organisations, including business, to explore ways to bring the generations together for mutual benefit. Through the grant funding for participation, we are encouraging and supporting young people to present themselves positively.  |
| To help young people to volunteer and engage in local decision making, the importance of effective advice, guidance and support was seen as critical. It should be easier to find out what opportunities are open to them and organisations need to be creative in how such opportunities are made known. Schools and youth sector organisations should link more effectively here. | We agree. | The statement outlines a range of funding streams supporting young people’s volunteeringNew DfE grant funding is being used to support and advise organisations on how best to engage and involve young people. It will provide a focal point for guidance and good practice to enable local areas to put in place or improve mechanisms to increase young people’s involvement. |

**Rationale and Outcomes for Services for Young People**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| There is general support for outcomes and indicators proposed but some respondents feel they are too focused either on attainment or negative behaviours and there should be more recognition of the importance of softer outcomes such as self-regulation, relationship-building and decision-making although these are intrinsically difficult to measure. | Personal and social development is one of the three aims of publically funded services for young people along with participation and attainment, and avoiding negative behaviours, both of which we also continue to believe are critically important.  | We will set out our recognition of the importance of soft outcomes such as decision-making and relationship-building in the policy statement, and will elaborate on our support for the emerging outcomes framework being produced by Young Foundation.  |
| Open access and targeted services should be seen as part of a single system rather than separately. If open access provision is lost early intervention will be damaged and the costs of later more intensive interventions rise, as open access settings reach many disadvantaged young people when they are in deprived areas or where young people are happy to self-refer to non-stigmatising settings.  | We agree that high quality open access youth settings can be effective and will encourage local areas to look at good practice in projects such as Myplace centres. It will be for local areas to assess whether open access youth provision is the right solution for their area. Most referrals to targeted provision come from other sources, and there are other important universal settings such as schools and colleges.  | The policy statement will make clear the potential of high quality open access services, and that where these are located in disadvantaged areas they can provide a targeted service. We will demonstrate that we understand and value the distinctive contribution of youth work. However we will make clear our view that the status quo in terms of delivery is unlikely to be an option and that local partnerships will need stronger involvement of community groups, VCS providers and businesses in providing activities and personal development for young people. |
| Positive activities provision by the VCS can be enabled if regulatory burdens in contracting and grants are reduced, there are long-term funding agreements which are not financially onerous on the VCS providers, there is capacity-building through local intermediary bodies, and there is joint training with the statutory sector. | Conditions and length of contracts or grants are matters for commissioners to determine, and we believe local commissioners should have regard to the points made.  | We will set out in the document the support we are providing nationally through the VCS grant and funding to Catalyst to build VCS capacity. We will also set out the action Government is taking to improve LA commissioning including through new strategic guidance, good practice dissemination on new models of delivery, and skills training for LA youth commissioners.We have issued statutory guidance to LAs not to disproportionately cut VCS provision. |

**Commissioning (Including Priorities for Sector-led Support Funding via the Local Government Association)**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| Young people, in particular, but also families, professionals and the wider community should be involved in the commissioning (and decommissioning) of services for young people. | Completely agree. Young people have a critical role to play in local decision making and inspecting the quality of services.  | Funding BYC to support young people’s involvement in decision making at national and local level. Revised statutory guidance on the positive activities duty will make clear our expectation on YP’s role |
| In order to yield the best return the commissioning process should be clear, transparent and fair to all possible providers | Agree. We want to see greater contestability in the market for public funding, and a more vibrant and innovative VCS able to bid for contracts. | Objectives for reform set out in the statement will make clear our ambitions for contestability and a vibrant VCS. Revised statutory guidance on the positive activities duty will make clear our expectation that commissioners build open markets and local capacity.We are funding skills training to LA commissioners via LGA. |
| More robust evidence, tools and SROI methodology would help significantly reduce barriers to good commissioning.  | We agree with the need for more robust evidence. It is for the sector to determine the support and tools they need to improve their commissioning. | Sector-led improvement support to LAs via the LGG will include stronger social networks to share good practice.We are funding Centre for Analysis of Youth Transitions to set standards of evidence and analyse available evidence against it. |
| Models that encourage partnership working, consortium approaches and integrate levels of provision are likely to provide the best results. | Agree. Different commissioners and providers need to work together across sectors as part of integrated local approach to improving outcomes for young people. | Our objectives for reform make clear the need for an integrated approach across sectors. Through the LGA, we will fund a number of Youth Innovation Zones to exemplify and share lessons from innovative partnership based approaches to improving young people’s outcomes.LGA has itself commissioned NYA to produce an analysis of good practice in securing private and community funding for services to young people to highlight the contribution made by different partners. |
| A smooth transition from youth to adult services is imperative and this might be done through joint posts. | Agree. Services should be designed around the needs of young people – how this is done is for local people . | Ringfences have been removed to free local authorities to set their own priorities and integrate their planning and delivery of local services. |

**Growing the Role of Voluntary and Community Organisations**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| Greater partnership is needed between commissioners and VCSOs pre-funding, particularly through investment to build capacity – business mentors can also help with this.  | Agree. We want to see LAs develop a more contestable market with a wide range of providers able to bid for funding. | The policy statement will make clear that good commissioners build the capacity of their market. This will be reinforced in the new guidance on LAs duty to secure youth activities.  |
| Infrastructure bodies also have an important role in supporting VCSOs to be commissioning ready and gathering and disseminating good practice. | It is for the sector to say what support they need. | Funding Catalyst to support VCS workforce development, and working with LGG and Catalyst to create stronger social networks for sharing practice.  |
| Concern that small VCSOs are squeezed out by their inability to respond to unrealistic bidding timescales and bureaucratic processes; and to bear the financial risk of PBR. | It is for local authorities to manage their own market of providers | We are funding Catalyst as our strategic partner for the voluntary youth sector.Training for commissioners under sector-led arrangements. |
| The need for more standardised approaches in key areas such as through a widely recognised framework of impact measures so that commissioners know what successes they’re looking for, and VCSOs are more aware of what to promote. | Agree. We want to see a common framework developed to describe the outcomes we seek for young people and bring consistency to how we measure impact | Funding The Young Foundation via Catalyst to develop an Outcomes Framework for young people. |
| Doubts about the relevance of social finance to small local organisations and a call for more information and brokerage to raise awareness, understanding and access. | Social investment can provide the capital funding that innovative VCSOs need to grow; it is not a replacement for lost revenue income. | Investing to raise awareness and build investment readiness through Catalyst, and setting up a specialist social finance retailer to lead to more social investment in youth projects. |
| NCS presents an opportunity for VCSOs, including through post NCS progression routes. But it needs embedding in, and linking to, other opportunities for young people. | As NCS grows it will provide increasing investment in organisations working with young people, including VCSOs | We are evaluating NCS to learn lessons and demonstrate impact. We are calling on LAs to engage with NCS and embed it into their local offer to help NCS graduates progress into other opportunities. |

**The Role of Business (Including Priorities for Business Brokerage – to inform our new grant)**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| Businesses have an important role in supporting young people outside education, but more needs to be done to achieve this. Brokerage needs to be more professional and subject to quality assurance, with more focus on volunteering outside normal business hours, and one to one mentoring.  | Agree. We want to see a greater sense of responsibility by business for the engagement and wellbeing of local young people. | We are awarding grant funding of £320k to a consortium led by Business in the Community over 2011-13 to support more businesses to come forward and get involved, including through better brokerage. |
| Strong partnership between business, the VCS, and the local authority is key at a local and community level. More businesses should have places on the boards of VSOs.  | Agree, there are good examples of business leaders bringing key leadership and business acumen skills to VCSOs | New grant funded activity will build capacity of VCSOs to engage with business, and promote the business case for cross-sector partnership. |
| There needs to be more effective communication of the benefits to businesses of investing in young people, and better signposting to a range of opportunities.  | Agree.  | New grant funded activity will strengthen and promote the business case.  |
| It was generally agreed that VSOs need to improve their ability to match their needs with the skills, talents and needs of employee volunteers. The benefits of using the recently retired as mentors was widely recognised.  | Agree.  | New grant funded activity will build the capacity of VCSOs to engage with businesses. |
| Consideration should be given to the introduction of incentives for volunteering and other support from business, such as supporting innovative financial models which result in tax efficiencies.  | We have no current plans to change the tax system.  | No new action |
| Although more needs to be done to promote positive perceptions about young people, this could be a natural progression as more businesses became involved and reported good experiences, and NCS has the potential to be transformative in this regard. | Agree. We want to create a society in which everyone, including business, is more positive for youth. | Pioneering innovative approaches through Myplace and NCS to give YP a positive and active role in their communities, and pioneer new approaches to delivery, including greater involvement of business. |

**The Role of Parents and Families in the Lives of Young People**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| Strong support for the general principles of the value and importance of families in the lives of young people and an integrated whole family approach providing the most effective and efficient support for families and young people. | Agree. Parents and carers have the primary influence and responsibility to support young people. Services can only be partially effective if they ignore this context. | Statement will make clear parents’ responsibility, and promote whole family approaches while respecting young people’s growing sense of independence and personal responsibility |
| Early intervention is needed to provide support to young people and families to prevent critical support being needed once problems have escalated. But clarity is needed to ensure that early intervention is not confined to early years. | Agree. Early intervention is crucial to breaking cycles of disadvantage and preventing problems escalating. | Statement to make clear that early intervention must start in the early years but continue through the teenage years since many issues can’t be predicted and other persistent ones may recur. |
| Concern about the reduced funding available for children and families services and the potential impact of this on attempts to deliver an effective whole family approach.  | We are committed to reducing the deficit left by the last Government. This means there are difficult decisions to make, but we have given local areas as much flexibility as possible. | The Early Intervention Grant replaces previously ring fenced funds for services for children, young people and families. The statement will set out objectives for fundamental reform of services for young people as an alternative to salami slicing existing services. |
| Concern about the stigma attached to some services which stops some parents and children from accessing them without feeling judged. | Acknowledge the concern. It is for local people to make decisions about services in response to local needs. | Sharing good practice for example on youth-friendly health services. |
| A 'Parenting a Teenager' course should be available through all secondary schools who could fund this from their Pupil Premiums as an evidence-based cost-effective early intervention. | It is for schools to decide how to use the Pupil Premium to support the attainment of their pupils. Good schools know how important it is to support young people’s wellbeing and personal development. | The Pupil Premium will be worth £2.5bn by 2014-15. Greater freedom for schools means they have flexibility to pursue alternative approaches to supporting their pupils.Many other partners provide parenting courses, including faith and community groups, and LAs (who can draw on funding from the Early Intervention Grant and Revenue Support Grant). |

**Helping Young People to Succeed in Learning and Find a Job**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| Government has a key role in engaging employers to get them to provide work experience and jobs for young people. Communities and local businesses can help inspire young people and prepare them for the world of work. | Agree. Positive role models and other contact with the world of work can be inspiring and motivating for young people. | The Government has launched business Social Mobility Compact.Statement will urge communities and business to take greater responsibility for engagement and wellbeing for local young people. |
| Data sharing between agencies is a key barrier | Agree. There is a lack of understanding amongst professionals about what information can and cannot legitimately be shared | We will explore providing guidelines for services working with young people on the current legislation and summarising the national protocols that are in place. |
| A disproportionate number of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are NEET. | Agree. We must ensure young people with SEN or disabilities get the help they need to participate. | We recently published the SEN Green Paper, which sets out radical plans to reform services for this group of young people. |
| Support for early intervention across this agenda and crucial role of Multi-Agency Teams. This needs to include links between education, social care, parenting and family support, and health and justice professionals. | Agree. It is for local areas to collaborate and design services around the needs of young people. | Greater freedom including through EIG and Community Budgets means LAs and other local agencies are able to work more closely together. Statement will emphasise role of youth workers in multi-agency teams. We are bearing down on absence from schools, including by tightening the threshold for persistent absence from 20% to 15%. |
| Ensuring regular school attendance is a vital precursor to success and future employment. All schools including Academies need to be aware of their responsibilities around behaviour support. | Agree. We know that those with poor school attendance, or who do not achieve good GCSEs at 16 are at significantly greater risk of becoming NEET.  | Taking a range of measures to restore the authority of teachers and head teachers, with new powers for teachers to deal with poor behaviour. Toughening the current penalty notice system to discourage parents who refuse to engage with schools in addressing their children’s poor attendance or who condone their truancy. |
| Foundation Learning is too firmly based on qualifications. The role of youth work and youth workers is under-valued in supporting young people’s achievement. | The Wolf Review made a similar point, suggesting that Foundation Learning was too driven by small qualifications and vocational education for 16-18 year olds needs to move to substantive programmes of study. | We are consulting on 16-19 programmes of study. From 2013/14, we propose that provision is funded on the basis of the learner, not the number of qualifications. Low attaining 16-18s should focus on English and maths, good quality work experience and a qualification of substantial size, as well as personal and social development. |

**National Citizen Service**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| The principles of personal and social development, social mixing, and social action were strongly supported. | Reassured that commitment to core principles is widely shared. | Proceeding to expand pilots in 2012. |
| Concern over value for money based on the high costs estimated by the Select Committee and quoted in the press, and that the funding could be better spent on year round youth work. | Funding for NCS is in addition to LA funding, and aiming to offer a high quality personal and social development opportunity to all young people, including those not currently reached by LAs. | Full evaluation of NCS costs and value for money will inform the long term delivery model. |
| Concern that scaling up quickly would be too difficult for the sector, including in relation to residential capacity, and that quality could be compromised if it were not done properly. | We agree and think that quality is key. This is why we are growing the programme gradually.  | We are growing the programme gradually. There will be up to 30 000 places available in 2012 and we are planning to deliver 90 000 by 2014. Quality will be safeguarded through this |
| There should be more consultation with the voluntary sector to make full use of its experience and expertise. | We agree. | We are setting up a stakeholder engagement framework for NCS involving many VCSOs in recognition of the expertise in the sector.  |
| A clear strategy is needed for NCS alumni | Our alumni programme will establish a pathway to ongoing social action, skills development and work placements. | We have begun to develop opportunities for NCS alumni working with a variety of organisations including through support from the Social Action Fund.  |
| Investment in the NCS workforce is needed.  | The NCS workforce is the heart and lungs of the programme and is crucial to its success at every level.  | Workforce development activities will support the 2012 pilots and will continue this in consultation with the wider sector to build capacity for future years.  |
| Provision needs to meets the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. | We agree. We want to support young people to overcome barriers to participation.  | Providers already have plans to support vulnerable groups and we will consider how successful this has been, and what more we might do, when we look at the evaluation findings.  |
| Increased awareness and understanding of NCS is needed within society.  | We agree and believe this will happen over time.  | Providers are building awareness locally, participants are speaking to their friends, and local media are celebrating the great work that young people are doing on local projects.  |

**Workforce**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| The importance of having a skilled workforce and the diversity of the workforce being an essential part of its ability to successfully deliver outcomes for young people. | Agreed. | The statement will explicitly acknowledge the diversity of the workforce and the value this delivers for young people.  |
| Concern about the overuse of the expression “professional” and the tendency to focus on youth work at the expense of wider work with young people. | Volunteers have a valuable role to play alongside professionals | Statement recognises the valued role of volunteers as well as professionals |
| The need to secure improvements in the training of both professional and volunteers, full time and sessional and part time staff. | Workforce development is important for all those working with young people | Funding Catalyst to support VCS workforce development, and funding via LGA for sector-led improvement support to LA commissioners |
| Workforce development was widely accepted as the responsibility of employers, though there was some suggestion that commissioners share some responsibility too. | It is employers’ responsibility to develop their own workforce, and commissioners’ role to build the capacity of their provider base. | Funding Catalyst to support VCS workforce development, and funding via LGA for sector-led improvement support to LA commissioners |
| Some employers may need support or incentives to take the lead on workforce development, and if they fail to do so the Government should be prepared to intervene. | The quality of services is a matter for providers to ensure and commissioners to monitor – workforce quality is a key aspect of this. | Funding Catalyst to support VCS workforce development, and funding via LGA for sector-led improvement support to LA commissioners |

**Equality and Diversity Issues for Services for Young People**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| Recognition of the diversity agenda is welcomed. We must promote equality of opportunity not just for the full diversity of different groups, but for individual young people. | We are committed to equality of opportunity for all. | The statement makes clear that services need to respond to the needs of individual young people and be accessible and non-discriminatory.We won’t prescribe what should happen locally, but will help share good practice. |
| Need to educate and inform young people and the wider public to enable them to see and challenge unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation. | The youth workforce has a key role to play in tackling and challenging prejudice and discrimination. | The statement will highlight the important role of the youth workforce in promoting equality, challenging discrimination, and prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people |
| The importance of compliance with equality legislation and the equality impact assessment process. | We are committed to ensuring that government policy is equitable. | The statement addresses specifically the needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. |

**Young People’s Health and Wellbeing**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| The health reforms offer potential for a more integrated, horizontal, approach to addressing the health needs of young people. But the journey to the vision needs to be clear. Young people – separate from children - need explicit focus in all aspects of the reforms. Decision makers need knowledge and expertise to secure young people’s interests in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, joint health and wellbeing strategy and subsequent commissioning plans. They should include mortality of young people from road traffic accidents and suicide. | We agree and recognise the risk that children may be interpreted as early years. We have taken a lifecourse approach to all aspects of the health reforms which highlights the teenage years. We accept the need to improve the knowledge on adolescent health and the interdependencies with other poor outcomes.  | Statutory guidance and wider resources to support health and wellbeing boards in undertaking JSNAs and joint health and wellbeing strategies will emphasise covering and understanding the needs of the whole life course. We are working with early implementers to explore how they can operate across health and care services to improve effectively outcomes for children and families, including young people.  |
| HealthWatch has potential to engage young people systematically in scrutinising, shaping and improving local services. But engagement must be meaningful and inclusive of marginalised groups, with the impact and outcome of participation work measured. HealthWatch should build on existing examples of effective participation. | We agree. Young people engagement must be meaningful and rigorous in addressing diversity. We recognise the excellent examples from VCS and professional organisations. | DH/Care Quality Commission Programme Board is clear that diversity must be properly integrated in HealthWatch nationally and locally. An equalities and diversity workshop is concentrating specifically on children and young people. Some HealthWatch pathfinders are focusing on engaging children and young people. |
| Good quality PSHE in schools is essential for giving young people knowledge and skills to manage risk and lead healthy lives. There are significant concerns about the quality and patchy provision of PSHE to young people.  | The Schools White Paper highlights the importance of PSHE. We are addressing quality in our PSHE review.  | The PSHE review is focused on improving quality, including defining the outcomes of PSHE and using levers such as Teaching Schools and the use of experienced external agencies to support schools.  |
| New media has huge potential to give young people easy access to health information and advice when they need it. Young people need a clear route to accurate and reliable information they can trust. Government social marketing campaigns should link to existing trusted VCS sites. | We agree. The digital age provides unique opportunities to provide universal and personalised health advice to young people.  | We will be developing a new social marketing campaign for young people from 2012. Part of the campaign will help give young people trusted, clear and accurate information about their health concerns and needs.  |
| All services should be young people friendly, with specific efforts to reduce the stigma around seeking advice on sexual health or mental health. The benefits of integrated youth and health services should be recognised and promoted.  | Seeking early advice should be seen as normal. Services should be sensitive to needs of young men and women and to teenagers with chronic health conditions. | *You’re Welcome* criteria provide the commissioning framework for young people services. Local areas can involve young people to develop their own local service brand. We will explore how *You’re Welcome* can be applied to secondary care. |

**Preventing Youth Crime and Substance Misuse**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| Commissioners should not consider issues in isolation but address all the needs of those displaying risky behaviours. More needs to be done to ensure the integration of multi-disciplinary services, including housing, employment, child protection, mental health etc, and the integration between youth and adult services. | We agree – the most effective services are designed and delivered around a holistic view of young people’s needs.  | Health and wellbeing boards will bring together the key commissioners of children’s and adult services We won’t prescribe how LA should deliver services, but we will help by strengthening the evidence base and ways to share practice. |
| More should be done to involve young people in the design, development and delivery of services. More could be done to involve young people who had been through the criminal justice system to feed their experience into the development of youth justice policy.  | We agree – we recognise that young people, especially those with experience of the system, have a lot to contribute.  | New grant funding will support advice to local areas on involving young people in decision making.We are considering the regulations and requirements around criminal records and vetting and barring to remove barriers to YPs’ involvement. |
| More should be done early to change the attitudes and behaviour and build the resilience of young people – by understanding the root causes of criminal activity and/or substance misuse, and adopting whole-family approaches. | We agree that early intervention is the best way to influence the attitudes and behaviour of young people and their families.  | LAs now have flexibility to design services to fit local needs, we won’t prescribe. We will support them by developing the evidence base and ways for sharing effective practice.Addressing needs of families with multiple problems.The Drug Misuse Declared survey (part of British Crime Survey) measures attitudes to drug taking amongst 16 – 24 year olds. |
| Government policy and budgets should be more joined up. Ringfenced funding is needed to prevent the current reduction in prevention and early intervention services, and ensure longevity for programmes so that we can track impact and build the evidence base.  | Local people are best placed to decide on the priorities and services needed locally. We are committed to reducing ringfencing and increasing flexibility. | There is already a cross government drugs strategy, cross-department funding for the FRANK drug information service and joint DfE and DH funding for the national treatment agency.Community Budgets which are freeing LAs and partners agencies to improve outcomes. |
| Schools have an important role in delivering drug education. They should be encouraged to do so by bringing in specialists. Drug education should be part of the curriculum. | Good schools work with partners to warn YP of the risks of certain behaviours and know education is key to prevention. | Drug education is delivered as part of PSHE and national curriculum science, both of which are currently under review. |

**Capital Infrastructure for Services for Young People**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| There are concerns about the sustainability of large dedicated youth centres. | We recognise the financial pressure many youth centres face. Bolton Lads and Girls Club and OnSide are proving that with local authority buy-in and a cornerstone revenue funding, large dedicated youth centres can be viable enterprises in which the local community and private sector sees the benefit of investing in. | Over the next year we will build a strong network of Myplace leaders to share practice and build capacity within and beyond the Myplace network.Myplace centres have had to demonstrate a robust business and revenue model to secure funding from government.  |
| Multi-use facilities (i.e. those shared with other sectors of the community) have limitations in terms of their work with young people. | We agree that there are limitations but good examples show that multi-use centres can work if young people’s needs are taken into account when the facilities are designed | We will fund an evaluation to report in April 2013 to look at the impact that Myplace centres are having and the extent to which they are central to local authorities emerging strategies for: early intervention; alternative provision and how they are supporting Big Society principles. It will also look at the issues associated with multi-use facilities and co-location, as well as at sustainable models of delivery. |
| On balance. the benefits of co-locating youth services within schools and colleges outweighs the challenges. | It is for local people to make decisions reflecting local needs. But, we agree that youth centres can be successfully co-located with schools, and have funded a number of Myplace centres on school sites (in Tower Hamlets, Carlisle, Stockton, Trafford and Hartlepool). |
| The importance of designing an infrastructure that is in line with what young people need and want, that has buy-in from the local community and that is delivered through strong partnerships. | We agree and youth engagement is central to Myplace and to the schemes previously funded through the Youth Capital Fund. | The statement will make clear the important role of young people in decision making and inspecting services. |

**Brain Development**

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| **Key points made through the consultation** | **Government’s position** | **Action Government is taking** |
| There is widespread interest in and support for engaging with the developing field of brain research. A number of responses draw attention to further academics and research publications not currently captured by the Department’s review. | The Department is keen to develop a full understanding of the evidence base and welcomes further dialogue with leading academics.  | We will add additional material from the key responses to the research overview and look to update it as new evidence becomes available.We will engage directly with key groups, such as Catch 22 and Nottingham University, to learn more about their new work.  |
| There is a feeling that both practitioners and parents would benefit from a fuller understanding of young people’s development. This would promote a better understating of typical development pathways and enable parents and practitioners to support better young people’s development. | The Department is keen to see this learning more widely shared to support more effective parenting approaches and more effective youth work. | Emphasising the responsibility of employers to develop the skills of the young people’s workforce. |
| The research highlights the need for a range of support for adolescents, from low level support and guidance to more specialist services. This means maintaining open access services and promoting confidence through recognising achievements. In addition, need to ensure wider community factors are considered and approach does not become too ‘medical’. | The Department considers local areas best placed to decide the range of intensity of support they offer young people.  | The statement emphasises the need to recognise and celebrate young people’s achievements. It also sets out the merits of a wide range of support for young people including in schoools and colleges and through specialist services. |