

SOMEWHERE TO GO? SOMETHING TO DO?

How would you make life better for teenagers?

www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/youth

How would you make life better for teenagers?

The choices you make now – and that includes what you choose to do in your spare time – will affect what happens later in your life. Are there things you want to do where you live but can't? And do you know where to go for information and advice about making decisions in your life?

We want to improve local opportunities to help you make the most of your teenage years. We have lots of ideas about how to improve things, but we need to know what you think. Do you agree with our suggestions? Are there things we haven't thought about?

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We want you to have more positive things to do and better places to go in your spare time. We think you want to be involved in deciding what's available and how it's run. If we gave your council some money to improve things for young people in your area, we think you would like to decide how that money is spent.

We are thinking of helping your local council to develop a card that entitles you to discounts, works as proof of age, and can be topped up by you or your parents with money to spend on sports and other activities. If you're 13–16 and your parents don't earn much, the Government is also thinking about topping up your card. We think that young people who abuse opportunities or commit crimes should not be given these top-ups.

We would also like you to get involved in your local community, for example by doing voluntary work. We think young people who help out like this should be recognised and rewarded.

We want you to be able to get all the information, advice and guidance you need to make choices in your life, from leading a healthier life to making learning and careers decisions. We think you want this provided in a number of different ways, including through your school, on websites, by email and by text messaging.

Some teenagers experience difficulties in their life that mean they need more support than others. We want to change things so that young people receive help before their problems get too big. We want to make sure that help comes from one person they know and trust.

This is your chance to shape your future. Fill in the questionnaire and help us make life better for you and for other teenagers. **You can also fill in the questionnaire online at www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/youth**

Who else are we talking to?

Everybody, but because our plans affect teenagers, we particularly want to hear from you. We're asking parents, teachers, people who work with young people and other members of the public what they think through a longer version of this leaflet – called a Green Paper. The Green Paper gives more detail about the Government's plans for young people. If you want to read that too, visit www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/youth

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What is a Green Paper?

A Green Paper is a report saying how the Government intends to change the law about a particular subject. The contents of a Green Paper are debated and discussed before a final decision is taken.

What happens next?

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We need all replies to the questionnaire by 4 November 2005. We can't promise to action everything you suggest, but your comments will shape our final proposals for young people.

Thanks for taking the time to give us your views. Keep an eye out for the Government's final proposals in the coming months.



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This leaflet is also available in alternative formats:
Braille (1609-2005DOC-EN), audio CD (1610-2005DCD-EN),
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SOMEWHERE TO GO? SOMETHING TO DO?

How would you make life better for teenagers?

It's your life, so have your say

- ▶ Read the ideas in this questionnaire.
- ▶ Give your views by answering the questions and returning the questionnaire in the pre-paid envelope supplied with this leaflet.
- ▶ Or fill in the questionnaire online at www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/youth
- ▶ Send us your replies by 4 November 2005.

A BETTER FUTURE FOR TEENAGERS

Something to do

'Round by where I live, there's nothing to do. We get bored or we go round a mate's house and watch TV. It would be better if someone organised things for us to do. You'd need different activities, because not everyone likes the same thing. Some sport, music, art or maybe just a get-together with your mates.'

1. What activities do you do in the evenings or at weekends?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Play sport | <input type="radio"/> Dance or drama |
| <input type="radio"/> Watch sport | <input type="radio"/> Watch TV |
| <input type="radio"/> Music – playing or DJing | <input type="radio"/> Help out in your community |
| <input type="radio"/> Shopping | <input type="radio"/> Nothing |
| <input type="radio"/> Cinema | <input type="radio"/> Other (please tell us) |
| <input type="radio"/> Meet friends | |

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2. What activities do you wish were available in your area but currently aren't?

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3. If you had the opportunity to do up to four hours of activities, including sport, in your spare time each week, would you make use of it?

- Yes No Not sure

Somewhere to go

'People sometimes give us grief for hanging around on the streets. They think we're going to cause trouble. But there's nowhere to go! Things would be better if there was somewhere to go, easy to get to, and where you can chill out or do something, depending on how you feel.'

4. Where would you like to be able to go to meet friends?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Youth club | <input type="radio"/> Local park |
| <input type="radio"/> Community centre | <input type="radio"/> Mobile youth centre |
| <input type="radio"/> Café/coffee shop | <input type="radio"/> Sports centre |
| <input type="radio"/> Shopping centre | <input type="radio"/> Other (please tell us) |

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5. If there were more places for young people to go, do you think it would stop some teenagers getting into trouble?

- Yes No Not sure

Talking about what matters to you

'I hate it when people think they know what young people want. How can you know what we want if you don't ask? Involve us in stuff that's meant for us. Ask for our ideas. Then you're more likely to get it right.'

6. How would you like to be involved in improving things for teenagers in your area? (Tick any that you would like to be involved in.)

- Take part in an inspection of how good local activities and services are
- Help decide how your local council spends money on providing activities
- Don't think young people should get involved in these kinds of decisions
- Other (please tell us)

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7. How would you like to tell your local council what you think about activities and services for teenagers?

- Attend a meeting
- Fill in a questionnaire
- Have your say on a website or by email
- Through your school or college
- Don't want to be involved
- Other (please tell us)

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Encouragement

'What I need is a card that gives me discounts on things to do and in the shops, and lets me prove my age. If it could also be topped up with money to spend on activities, then I'd have more choice in what I do. I'd also help out more in my community if my contribution was recognised in some way.'

8. Would a card that gave you discounts and money to spend on activities encourage you to do more activities in your spare time?

- Yes No Not sure

9. Do you think your parents would top up your card with money for you to spend on activities?

- Yes No Not sure

10. We think young people who misbehave or commit crimes should not get these discounts and top-ups. What do you think?

- Agree Disagree Not sure

11. Would you help out more in your community if what you did was recognised in some way?

- Yes No Not sure

12. What kind of recognition or reward would encourage you to help out more in your community? (Tick any that would encourage you to get involved more.)

- An award or certificate
- Things like CDs or ringtones
- Extra top-ups on your card to spend on activities
- The chance to win the opportunity to go to big events or meet important people
- Other (please tell us)

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Information and support

'I want to know about my options for the future such as whether to go to college or university and what career I should do. It's really important that I can find this information and advice easily.'

13. Who do you go to now for information, help and advice? (For example: parents, friends, teachers, Connexions, youth worker, social worker, helplines.)

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14. What do you think about the information, help and advice you receive?

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15. How would you like information and advice on your future education and career choices to be provided?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Face to face | <input type="radio"/> Work experience |
| <input type="radio"/> On a website | <input type="radio"/> By text messaging |
| <input type="radio"/> Over the telephone | <input type="radio"/> Other (please tell us) |
| <input type="radio"/> Visits from young adults already in work | |

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Who to talk to

'I've had quite a few problems in the past, and every time I went for help I had to see someone different. It's like starting again each time. I wish there was just one place you could go to for help about anything and you saw the same person every time.'

16. If you were experiencing problems in your life, would you like to have one professional person you can trust to go to for advice and information?

- I would prefer this
- It wouldn't make any difference to me
- It would be worse

We've got lots to give

'I coach a junior football team. I love it – the kids look up to me and I can pass on my skills. I don't see it as volunteering – it's fun.'

17. Do you currently help out in any of the following ways?

- Helping younger pupils at school or college
- Coaching younger people in a sport or other activity
- Doing things to help out people in your area
- Other (please tell us)

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18. Would anything make you want to get involved helping out in your local area or with younger people?

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Your thoughts

19. Is there anything else you think we should consider to make life better for teenagers? (Continue on another piece of paper if you need to.)

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ABOUT YOU

It would help us to know a bit about the people who have answered our questions. We don't need to know any personal details, and we won't try to find out who you are.

20. Age (please tick)

- 13–16
 17–19
 Other (please tell us)

21. Are you:

- Male
 Female

22. Are you disabled or do you have any special needs?

- Yes No

23. What is your ethnic group?

White

- British
 Irish
 Other (please tell us)

Black or black British

- Caribbean
 African
 Other (please tell us)

Mixed heritage

- White/black Caribbean
 White/black African
 White/Asian
 Other (please tell us)

Asian or Asian British

- Indian
 Bangladeshi
 Pakistani
 Other (please tell us)

Chinese

- Chinese
 Other (please tell us)

Other

- Ethnic group (please tell us)

24. Where do you live?

- London
 South East (outside London)
 South West
 East Midlands
 West Midlands
 North West
 North East
 Yorkshire and Humberside
 Eastern England
 Other (please tell us)

25. If you are a young people's organisation, school or other group, please tell us who you are and where you are based.

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Thanks for taking the time to give us your views. Keep an eye out for the Government's final proposals in the coming months.