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# Youth Matters: Next Steps

Something to do, somewhere to go,  
someone to talk to

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Every Child Matters  
Change For Children

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# Youth Matters: Next Steps

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# Foreword

Hello everybody,

This is the Children & Youth Board here. We are a board that was set up to help the Minister for Children, Young People and Families find out young people's views on issues that affect them, and I'm sure some of you have had us putting questionnaires in your direction every so often! We are made up of 25 members from across the UK. One of our big tasks this year was to carry out consultations on Youth Matters.

We would just like to start by saying thank you to all of the young people who filled in the questionnaires, gave their views on Youth Matters and even got other young people to give their views! It's fantastic that so many young people took part, what a great response – the biggest to ANY government consultation that has ever been carried out! That shows just how much young people **do** want to have their say.

A great deal of thanks also goes out to the various youth projects and young peoples organisations who ran events so that young people could have their say, and especially those who went out to find young people who may otherwise have missed their chance to take part.

Youth Matters is a very important proposal, full of new and existing ideas, which are combining to create a new relationship between young people and their services that will improve the lives of millions of young people across the country. Opportunity funds and more volunteering opportunities are just a few of the proposals that the Youth Matters consultation shows are popular ideas amongst young people.

We believe that it is vital for you young people to keep taking these opportunities presented to shape and influence policy and decision-making, not just nationally but locally as well. With the number of young people who responded to the questionnaire, we expect that more and more Government Ministers and their department officials will want to hear what **YOU** have to say. After all, why shouldn't they because it is you who are the future of this country!

Children and Youth Board  
2005-2006

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# Ministerial Foreword

## Youth Matters: Next Steps

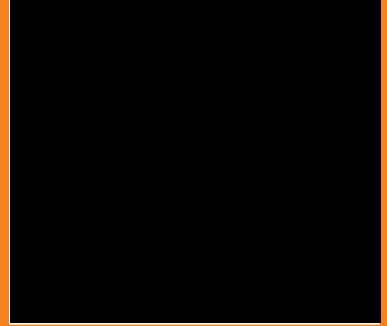
First of all 'thank you' for sending in your views in response to the Youth Matters consultation.

We received over 19,000 views from young people, which is a record response to a government consultation. Your opinions are important to us, and it was good to see from your responses that we seem to be heading in the right direction. You liked our plans to put more power into your hands and you are keen to see more opportunities locally for activities in your leisure time including volunteering.

During the consultation I went out to meet young people and ask your opinions personally. Your approach and ideas were refreshing and challenging. Interestingly too, you don't always agree with one another – and your parents and teachers don't always agree either. So we have had to consider all views carefully before coming up with our response in Youth Matters: Next Steps.

I want to make sure that everybody who took part in the consultation knows what the Government is doing as result and this document sets out for young people our plans to make the ideas in Youth Matter a reality.

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We made a commitment that you should influence and shape decisions about matters that affect you. That is the big message which I want you to hear. Our proposals will give you the power to make sure that services are the ones you say you want and are delivered in the way that you want.

We can only succeed in making life better with the support of you, your families, those who work with you and the communities in which you live. By working together we will ensure that you get the opportunities and support you deserve.

The Youth Matters consultation was part of a continuing dialogue between Government and young people. We will make sure that your voices continue to be heard.

**The Rt Honourable  
Beverley Hughes MP**  
Minister for Children,  
Young People and Families

# Key Words

Youth Matters is the name of a Government Green Paper, published in July 2005. A Green Paper sets out Government plans on a subject. The Youth Matters Green Paper says how the Government wants to make sure young people get the best information, advice, guidance and opportunities. The Green Paper covers all teenagers and young disabled people up to 25 years.

People were asked their views on the Youth Matters Green Paper. The deadline for sending in views was November 2005. Over 19,000 young people sent in their views – the highest number ever of young people to contribute to a Government consultation.

This summary sets out the main things people said, and it shows what the Government plans to do next. It was prepared by the Children's Rights Alliance for England on behalf of the Department for Education and Skills, to make sure that young people are kept up-to-date with developments in local services. It follows the order of the Government document. A short description of key words is included on the next page.

**Accreditation** – this is where a certificate or qualification is awarded by an external organisation. Accreditation confirms that the activities or course meet certain standards and that the person has met those standards.

**Children and Young People's Plan** – from April 2006, every local council must have a plan that shows that they understand what children and young people in their area need. The plan must describe how services will give the best help and opportunities. Children and young people must be involved in agreeing the plan.

**Children's trusts** – this is a group of organisations in a local area working together to make sure children and young people get the best possible services.

**Consultation** – asking people their views on a subject.

**Empowerment** – people becoming more informed and involved. People who are empowered usually feel good about themselves and enjoy being part of making change happen – in their own lives, and in the wider community and society. Being respected is a big part of being empowered.

**Every Child Matters** – is the name of a Government Green Paper about making services better for children. Every Child Matters sets out five main things every child needs to have a good life. These are called the five outcomes. They are: **be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and have a good standard of living.** These five outcomes are now part of the law (Children Act 2004).

**IAG** – stands for Information, Advice and Guidance. This can be related to education and careers, but it can also relate to health and legal matters.

**Integrated services** – services like social services, education, health, leisure, youth offending teams and the police working together well.

**Integrated targeted support** – services working together to help young people that are living in especially difficult circumstances.

**Lead professional** – one main worker who co-ordinates support for a young person.

**Local area agreements** – an agreement between the Government and a local council to give more flexibility on local funding.

**Local offer** – all the things local services offer to young people in an area.

**Multi-agency teams** – groups of workers from different backgrounds working in the same team. A team could have a social worker, a teacher, a police officer and a health worker.

**Quality standards** – rules that set out how a service should be for young people.

**Respect action plan** – the Government's ideas for helping people in communities get on better, and reduce anti-social behaviour.

**Russell Commission implementation body** – a new organisation set up by the Government to promote more volunteering by young people.

**Statutory duty** – something the law requires.

**Statutory guidance** – Government guidelines that organisations must follow.

# The Main Points

The Government wants to improve the life of every young person in the country by developing and improving services and opportunities

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- People said that it is important that **all** young people have opportunities and the chance to use services
- A new law will be introduced that requires local councils to make sure young people can access facilities
- The Government will publish national standards to help local councils do the best for young people. Briefing will come out in Summer 2006; the final standards will be ready by the end of 2006
- £115 million will be invested over the next two years to support young people to influence opportunities and services for them (the youth opportunity fund and the youth capital fund)
- 10 areas will pilot the new youth opportunity card. Some areas will see what difference a £12 a month card makes; others will see what difference a £25 a month card makes. More thought is needed about how to use the card to encourage positive behaviour
- Young people will get a lot more volunteering opportunities. These could be accredited or valued in some other way by, for example, an award or certificate
- Children's trusts will be responsible for arranging information, advice and guidance for young people (learning from the success of Connexions and others)
- New standards will be published relating to young people's information, advice and guidance. The draft standards will be written by November 2006; the final standards will be ready by April 2007.



# 1 Introduction

“People think our area is affluent because it is 75 per cent parkland, and so the place does not receive much funding for sports centres and youth clubs, but actually it means most of the time we have nothing to do.”

Research shows that young people, parents and communities have one common request – they want more positive activities for young people and safe places for them to go. At the same time, there is a lot of concern about young people switching off from formal politics. Many young people living in very poor areas do not get the opportunities and help **they have a right to**.

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There was a massive response from young people to the Youth Matters Green Paper

The Youth Matters consultation shows that most people agree with the Government’s proposals. There are also some concerns. Some ideas need more thought and testing to see if they will work well.

## 2 Achieving the Vision

“We need to be involved in things first hand...We need to be given responsibilities”

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### Investing in young people

The Government plans to increase the money spent on young people:

£115 million will be spent in the next two years on two new youth funds. Young people will be involved in deciding how this money is spent in their local area.

Other organisations are also spending money on young people. For example, the Big Lottery Fund is putting an extra £100 million into its Young People’s Fund.

The Government wants to improve the life of every young person in the country.

The Government wants all children and young people to:

- **Be healthy**
- **Stay safe**
- **Enjoy and achieve**
- **Make a positive contribution**
- **Have a good standard of living.**

These things can only happen if everyone in a local area works together well.

The Government wants to improve the life of every young person in the country

## Opportunities for everyone

Opportunities and services must be available to all young people. Young people must not be seen or treated as one big group: their individual needs and wishes should always be taken into account. This was a strong message from the consultation. Young people living in the most difficult circumstances were especially clear about this.

## Empowering young people

Services must be based on the needs of young people, and young people must have a real say about how money is spent in their local area.

Giving young people the chance to make important decisions helps them to be active citizens and to act responsibly.

In the poorest communities, many young people do not see any point in getting involved in decision-making. They do not think they will be respected or heard, and they do not expect their views will make a difference. The people that responded to the Green Paper agree that this must change.

**All** young people must be given the chance to be actively involved in their local area and to influence the services that are there for them.

- Young disabled people want to take part in the same kinds of activities and opportunities as other young people but there are barriers to getting involved
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people often experience homophobic bullying, lack of recognition of their needs by people who run services and their family relationships can be difficult
- Young people who are homeless or in poor accommodation may be more likely to drop out of education. They may have experience of abuse and might not have anyone close to confide in
- Young people from some religious groups may have particular needs, for example single sex activities and clubs.

## Working together

Services will be better for young people if professionals work together. Schools, community organisations and children's trusts must work together very closely. The job of local councils will be to find out young people's needs and ideas and then to choose the right organisations to run these activities. Local councils will also support young people's involvement in decision-making in the community.

Parents need to have more of a say too. The Green Paper consultation shows that young people are most likely to ask their parents for information and advice. We need to make sure that parents have up to date information to support young people properly.

One of the big issues that came out of the consultation was the lack of transport for young people to attend clubs, leisure centres, guidance and support centres and volunteering opportunities. This is often a big problem in rural areas where services are more spread out and there is less public transport.

Local councils must look closely at the mix of young people in their area and work with them to provide access to a range of services that meet the needs of all young people. They must do everything they can to support young people in deciding what activities should be on offer in their local area. The Government will issue advice on how to develop services for specific groups of young people (for example young Muslims). It will change the law so that local councils have a duty to ensure access to activities by young people.

### 3 What People Said

“...don't patronise. We shouldn't be treated as lesser people – we have an option.”

The majority of people and organisations strongly supported the main idea in the Youth Matters Green Paper – that young people should have a real say in local services (what they are, how they are run, checking they are working).

The Youth Matters Green Paper covered four main topics:

- 1 Things to do and places to go
- 2 Volunteering
- 3 Information, advice and guidance
- 4 Support for those that really need it.

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My involvement with the Youthworks Green Paper consultation project has been very rewarding as it has allowed me to learn new skills such as compiling a questionnaire and analysing the data from it. Being asked to present Worcestershire responses was an honour and made me feel as if I had made a step towards a positive change. I am sure that the DfES will take responses seriously and I look forward to seeing what outcomes arise and what further opportunities young people like myself will have to shape the Youth Matters Green Paper's final outcomes.

Rowan Boyle, 16

## What people said about these four main topics:

### Things to do and places to go:

- 83% of adults and 85% of young people want young people to have more say in local services
- 68% of young people would like to be part of local council decisions about activities for young people
- 71% of young people said they would do up to four hours of activities in their spare time if they had the opportunity
- 73% of young people think that having more places for young people to go would help stop youth crime
- 83% of young people think that an 'opportunity card' that gives discounts and money to spend on activities will encourage them to do more in their spare time
- 33% of adults like the idea of an opportunity card but 46% are not sure about the idea.

Young people are very enthusiastic about the chance to influence what is on offer locally. They want to get involved through democratic processes (debating and voting options), consultation, running their own projects and inspecting local services. The main concern is that adults will not really listen to, or act on, their wishes.

The main suggestions for local things to do include:

- Somewhere to hang out - young people want somewhere to go where they will not be seen as causing trouble
- Sport - a really popular suggestion
- Other activities – a lot of people think it is very important to provide a range of things for young people to do, for example arts projects.

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### Volunteering:

- 60% of young people would get involved in the community if it was valued and led to things changing.

There was a lot of support for the Russell Commission recommendations (see page 18). But many believe that volunteering cannot on its own increase respect between young people and others in the community.

The responses to the volunteering proposals in Youth Matters said:

- More young people might volunteer if there was something at the end of it, such as a qualification or an award or certificate. This might help young people in their search for employment
- Others think young people will be motivated to volunteer so long as they know that their work is appreciated and what they do actually makes a difference
- A small number believe that young people should not expect rewards for helping out in their community.

Most young people support the idea of the opportunity card (see page 17). Over half think their parents will top up the card for them. Just over half of the young people who responded agree with the Government that those who behave badly should not receive the discounts or top ups. However, young people living in difficult circumstances are sceptical about whether the card (and the threat of losing discounts and top ups) will help them.

I feel that our response to the Green Paper consultation (that we took directly to the DfES) was very successful and that our involvement in the process was beneficial both to ourselves and also to the county that I represent.

Hollie Jenkins, 20

### Information, advice and guidance:

- 90% of adults support new national standards for information, advice and guidance
- Young people mostly go to parents (60%) and friends (51%) for information, help and advice. Some go to teachers (25%), Connexions (19%) and youth workers (16%)
- 66% of young people think that the information, advice and guidance that they get at the moment is good or very good
- 63% of young people want to receive face-to-face information and advice on education and career choices; 45% liked the idea of receiving it through work experience; 30% via a website; and 25% by visits from young adults already in work
- 26% of adults agree with the proposal to make children's trusts, schools and colleges responsible for sorting out information, advice and guidance. 31% disagree with this proposal and 43% are not sure.

There is a lot of support for introducing standards to make sure that young people get good quality information, advice and guidance (IAG). Some people are worried about the idea to move IAG away from Connexions and into schools and colleges.

### Targeted support:

- 70% of adults agree that children's trusts should be responsible for making sure that services help young people who have additional needs
- 62% of young people would like one main person who they can go to for advice and information.

Adults and young people agree that organisations must work together to give extra support to young people living in difficult circumstances.

Young people like the idea of a lead professional – rather than talking to many different professionals they appreciate having one main contact.

There are concerns about how this will work in practice. Professionals will need a lot of training and support to make sure they work together well.



# 4 Empowering Young People

“People should listen to us more. They never do, they always do what they want anyway...If this is going to work, then councils really are going to have to listen to what people want.”

## What Youth Matters said:

Youth Matters said the Government would:

- 1 Introduce national standards for positive activities for young people; support local authorities in developing a ‘local offer’; and introduce a law so that local councils must ensure young people have access to things to do in the local area
- 2 Test out a new opportunity card to encourage young people to get involved in positive activities like volunteering
- 3 Introduce an opportunity fund in each local council, with young people in each area deciding how the money should be spent
- 4 Introduce a fund, which will enable young people to make decisions about local young people’s facilities.

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The Government is determined to give young people more opportunities that fit with what young people actually need and want. This commitment stretches across all the different Government departments. The Government will also work with national bodies like the Arts Council, Sport England and the Big Lottery Fund to make sure their youth projects fit with Youth Matters and local plans for children and young people.

## The youth opportunity fund and youth capital fund

Youth Matters proposed two local funds to give young people power over where money is spent in their local area.

- The **youth opportunity fund** will invest in activities which young people want in their local area
- The **youth capital fund** will improve and develop local facilities for young people, with young people steering how the fund is used.

There will be a total of £115 million for both these funds in the first two years. Government guidance will tell local councils how to run the funds. The Government wants local councils to concentrate on young people who live in especially difficult circumstances.

### Statutory duty and national standards

The Government will ask Parliament to pass a new law. This will place a duty on local councils to ensure that all young people get the chance to be involved in positive activities.

In addition, the Government will publish national standards for opportunities for young people. Statutory guidance will explain how the standards and the new law relate to each other.

The Government is determined to give young people more opportunities that fit with what young people actually need and want

## Youth opportunity card

The consultation responses were mixed about the card, but many young people are enthusiastic. A lot of local areas are keen to try out the card. The Government has decided to test it in 10 areas over the next two years.

The 10 areas will test out whether giving money to young people to take part in positive activities actually increases the number of young people who get involved in positive activities, especially from disadvantaged groups. The other test is to see whether the people that run services and activities start to provide more of what young people want and need.

Some people question whether the amount proposed for the card (around £12 a month for eligible young people) is high enough. As a result, the 10 local areas will test out two different amounts – some will test the impact of a £12 card, and others will test the impact of a £25 card.

There is support for taking away money from the cards of young people who misbehave a lot and who do not change their behaviour or accept support. The Government recognises that young people who behave badly could be helped by participating in positive activities. Taking away money from these young people could make matters much worse. A balance needs to be found between encouraging and punishing young people.

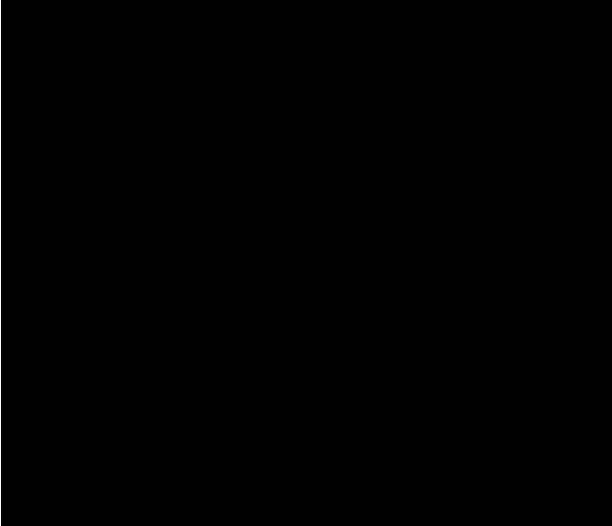
# 5 Young Citizens

“You get more respect being a volunteer.” “Four people would have left my college if there had not been a peer mentor. They would not have talked to their tutor about the problems.”

## What Youth Matters said:

Youth Matters confirmed the Government’s support for the Russell Commission recommendations.

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## Russell Commission

The Russell Commission was set up in 2004 to find ways of involving young people in volunteering. The Government asked the Russell Commission to look at how young people could benefit from a wide range of volunteering opportunities.

The following year, the Russell Commission set out its ideas for a national plan for youth volunteering. Some of the ideas were:

- More 'taster', part-time and full-time volunteering
- Getting young people more involved in designing and setting up volunteer opportunities
- Making sure there is an easy way of young people finding out about volunteering opportunities (for example through a national website)
- Recognising the achievement of young volunteers through qualifications or awards.

£600,000 has been awarded to 45 organisations for projects to develop volunteering

An implementation body has been set up to put the Russell Commission plans into practice:

- The body has a new chair (Rod Aldridge of the private company Capita) and has already raised £3.5million from private companies
- There is a youth volunteering committee made up of Government ministers and run by the Chancellor Gordon Brown to oversee the work of the implementation body
- £600,000 has been awarded to 45 organisations for projects to develop volunteering
- Seven organisations are being funded to set up taster and full-time volunteering opportunities; to get the word out to young people; to improve opportunities for young people living in very difficult circumstances; and to help organisations work together and raise money from the private sector
- Organisations will be invited to apply for money to set up a range of volunteering opportunities from Spring 2006
- The implementation body will look at ways in which young people can volunteer in public services, including in Government departments.

### **Peer mentoring**

In December 2005, the Chancellor Gordon Brown said the Government would be setting up mentoring schemes in 180 secondary schools. On top of this, 600 looked after children aged between 10 and 15 will get the chance to join mentoring schemes.

### **Rewards and recognition for volunteering**

The responses to the consultation show that much more needs to be done to improve the image of young people and to recognise the huge contribution made by young people to their local communities. The Russell Commission implementation body will look at different ways of recognising and valuing young people's volunteering.

In addition to this, over the next two years, the Government will be working with the Russell Commission and others to see how young people's activities (including volunteering) can be valued through the new Framework for Achievement (a system whereby qualifications and experience will help young people and adults get jobs).

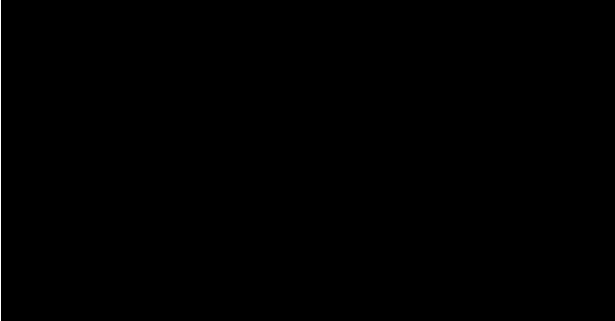
### **Children's trusts**

Children's trusts will have to work closely with the Russell Commission implementation body to make sure that good quality volunteering opportunities are available in every area.

# 6 Getting Help

“You need a set group of adults in your area that are there for the young kids to talk to. Someone if they need help or advice and they can’t talk to anyone else about it.”

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## What Youth Matters said

Youth Matters set out Government plans for improving information, advice and guidance for young people and their parents. The plans include:

- Minimum expectations – so that young people and parents in every area know what to expect
- A new set of standards to make sure all information, advice and guidance is of good quality
- New ways of getting information, advice and guidance to young people, with funding and responsibility given to local councils, working through children’s trusts, schools and colleges
- Easy access to an innovative ICT service.

## What will happen now

### Wider access

The Government wants young people to be able to get information, advice and guidance from different places – including schools, youth services and over the Internet.

- **In learning:** most teenagers are in learning so it is really important that schools, colleges or work based learning schemes offer information, advice and guidance
- **In the community:** young people who are not in learning want to be able to receive information, advice and guidance outside of schools and colleges. Even young people in learning may prefer to get advice and support from someone outside their school or college. Any new information, advice and guidance services must build on existing networks of one-stop shops and drop-in facilities provided by Connexions, youth services and the voluntary and community sectors

Some people who responded to the Green Paper said that this proposal has risks. Services could become fragmented, with different organisations offering different things to young people. This could be confusing for young people and parents. Also, young people might stop using services if they think they are connected to their school or college.

The Government will try to reduce these risks by asking regional Government offices to check that the arrangements are working well; and by asking Ofsted to review what is happening on the ground. Where provision commissioned by schools and colleges is not meeting quality standards, funding could be taken away by children's trusts.

### **Supporting parents**

Young people usually turn first to their parents for information and advice. The Government plans to give parents accurate and up to date information to support young people properly in making career and life choices.

- **On the Internet:** work is in progress to set up a simple and innovative ICT and helpline service for young people.

### **Quality standards**

People who responded to the Green Paper strongly support new standards for information, advice and guidance. Once these standards come into force, Ofsted will check to see that services are putting them into practice.

### **Local councils will be responsible for information, advice and guidance**

Youth Matters said that local councils would get responsibility for deciding who should provide information, advice and guidance to young people in the local area. Local councils, children's trusts and schools and colleges must work together to agree how young people will receive information, advice and guidance.

# 7 All Young People Achieving

## What Youth Matters said

The Green Paper said the Government wants to improve support for young people living in especially difficult circumstances. It said that young people with additional needs should have one main person who can co-ordinate all the help they receive. This person is called a 'lead professional'.

## What will happen now

- 14 local areas are working hard to change the way services are offered to teenagers. Some are helping young children and families, to avoid them needing a lot of support in the future. These 14 areas are called 'pathfinders'. Others will be able to learn from their successes (and mistakes)
- The Government is looking at how things can be improved across the whole country. Over the next two years, there will be more energy invested into trying to help young people who are living in especially difficult circumstances. All parents will get advice but there will be a special focus on supporting the parents of teenagers who are living in very difficult circumstances.

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# 8 Making it Happen

“All that is outside my house is road.”

All the ideas in Youth Matters will be put into practice by April 2008.

## Key points

- Children’s trusts must have a clear focus on young people
- Local organisations must work together well. The arrangements for how this will happen will be set out in the local Children and Young People’s Plan
- The children’s trust must find out what young people want and need, and arrange services that fit this. The voluntary and community sectors have good experience of working with young people living in especially difficult circumstances
- Children’s trusts have four main challenges: to ensure that young people have things to do and places to go and that these facilities meet national standards; to encourage and support voluntary action by young people in their local communities; to ensure that young people can access high quality information, advice and guidance; and to ensure young people living in especially difficult circumstances get the support they are entitled to

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- Work must continue on supporting all those working with young people, to make sure they can work together well for the benefit of young people. There will be a new qualifications framework for people working in this way
- The Government will issue guidance to local councils and others on how to put all these plans into practice.

I felt that being heavily involved in the Youth Matters Green Paper Consultation was a huge benefit personally and to the government in seeing what young people in Worcestershire really think. Collating over 600 responses was a lengthy process and it was great to be involved in such a high profile process and we were all made to feel important and that what we were doing was worthwhile.

Kayleigh Fitzgerald, 19

- Children's trusts must keep track of young people's progress, and do all they can to make sure improvements are made
- Connexions have a lot of expertise in offering information, advice and guidance. Young people rate Connexions: they especially like one-stop shops and specialist support for those who need it. All these things need to be protected when local councils take on responsibility for arranging information, advice and guidance

# Annex A: Framework for Young People's Services

Children's trusts are currently being developed in all areas of the county. A children's trust is a group of organisations in a local area working together to make sure children and young people get the best possible services.

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## Core functions of children's trusts

The Government expects children's trusts to:

- Assess the needs of local young people from all backgrounds and communities
- Match services that are currently available to young people's needs
- Develop a plan for making sure that children and young people get the best help and opportunities possible from services in the local area. Services should fit children and young people's needs and must work together if necessary.
- Redesign existing services and provide money for organisations to develop new ones depending on the needs of children and young people in the local area.

## Meeting the four challenges

As part of the core functions the Government expects children's trusts to:

### **Make sure that they carry out their legal duty to provide positive activities for young people by:**

- Developing a 'local offer' on positive activities in the area
- Involving children and young people in deciding how money and resources are spent on services.

### **Promote and encourage young people to get involved in volunteering in their communities by:**

- Working with the Russell Commission Implementation Body
- Promoting opportunities for involvement through the Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds
- Developing active citizenship projects in schools.

### **Carry out work related to Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG), by:**

- Consulting with schools, colleges and young people to find out what they think about current IAG services
- Agreeing new plans for delivering IAG in the local area
- Making decisions about funding for these services
- Making sure that all young people have access to high quality IAG
- Ensuring that IAG is not just about career choices but all aspects of a young person's life.

### **Manage services working together to provide the best support for young people living in very difficult circumstances by:**

- Identifying young people at risk early on
- Making sure that they do not have to tell their story to lots of people
- Providing support quickly with one professional taking the lead
- Making sure that services are available in an environment that is safe and comfortable for the young person
- Having one, clear process for accessing help for a young person, which all organisations and schools must be told about.

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## Progress and Improvement

### Children's trusts will have performed well if:

- They meet their targets for supporting teenagers, particularly those not in education, employment or training and reduced substance misuse and teenage pregnancy
- Schools can publish evidence of what year 11 students have gone on to achieve by the age of 19
- They can follow the progress of young people, making sure that they have access to the services that they need
- Agree on areas that may need improvement and develop action plans to make positive changes.

## Other Functions

### Children's trusts have other functions, which include:

- Meeting their legal duties
- Working closely with important partners – schools, Youth Offending Teams, the Learning and Skills Council and the Russell Commission Implementation Body
- Involving young people in designing, funding, delivering and evaluating services
- Making sure that services for children and young people work together well.

My involvement in the Green Paper Consultation as a young person, I feel, has been very beneficial to me and also to the consultation. I was involved from the beginning as I filled in a questionnaire and helped to collate the information. I also took a key role in delivering the presentations and giving interviews afterwards. I think that the DfES would not have been fully aware of the problems arising from the paper without us.

Lauren McClure, 15

# Annex B: Implementation Plan

Aim: to have the new 'offer' for children and young people in place by 2008

## Proposals

**Legal duty to arrange positive activities for young people (In Education Bill)**

## Plans

- Legislation should receive Royal Assent by November 2006
- Duty should come into force from January 2007
- Briefing will be issued in Summer 2006 to help local councils understand the law and to help them develop national standards
- Full guidance will be available by late 2006

**Youth Opportunity and Capital Funds**

- Guidance issued in March 2006
- £115 million will be available across England between April 2006 and March 2008
- Evaluation in 2007 and 2008

**Youth Opportunity Pilot Cards**

- The 10 areas where the card will be piloted will be announced in March 2006

**Volunteering**

- Launch of Russell Commission Implementation Body
- Peer mentoring pilots start April 2006
- Framework for Achievement tests and trials to 2008, with evaluation in 2007 and 2008

## Proposals

## Plans

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### Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

- Draft IAG standards produced by November 2006 for consultation
- Final version of standards produced in April 2007

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### Targeted Support

- Targeted Youth Support Pathfinders over next two years
- Case studies and toolkits published from Autumn 2006
- Guidance following pathfinders reports

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### Making it Happen

- Reform of system completed by April 2008
- Guidance on joint planning arrangements by Spring 2006

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### Equal Access and Opportunity

- Disability Discrimination Act: a new Duty on all Public Authorities comes into force December 2006
- Make available good practice examples on improving transport for young people
- Make available resources to meet the needs of **all** young people, including those in rural areas
- A homelessness code of guidance for local authorities that includes meeting the needs of families with young people

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### Improving Physical and Emotional Health

- Adolescent health demonstration site pilots from 2006
- Support parents and professionals to understand and promote emotional well being

If you want more information on any of the plans in this document check out the following websites:

[www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/youth](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/youth)

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

You can visit the Children's Rights Alliance for England at:

[www.crae.org.uk](http://www.crae.org.uk)

**You can download this publication at:**

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk)

**You can download this publication or order copies online at:**

[www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications)

Search using ref: 0262-2006DOC-EN

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