



Outdoor Learning Sector

Stakeholder Group

Youth Strategy

UK YOUTH

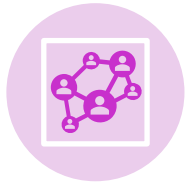
Agenda

- Introduction
- England Youth Strategy – Kayleigh Wainwright
- Northern Ireland Youth Strategy - Peter Parke & Julia Humphries
- Scotland Youth Strategy – Nathan Liddle
- Question
- Summary

UK YOUTH



Who are UK Youth?



UK Youth is a leading charity that exists to ensure **all young people are equipped to thrive** and empowered to contribute at every stage of their lives.



We work with others to ensure that the **youth sector** is strengthened, supported, and that provision is youth-led, evidence-informed and delivers high-quality outcomes.



For over a century, UK Youth has been a charity for young people, supporting them to learn the skills and competencies they need for life.



As part of our commitment to young people for over 78 years UK Youth has operated an **Outdoor Centre at Avon Tyrrell**, set within the New Forest National Park



We know young people want more access to the outdoors and trips away from home and they are increasingly experiencing challenges that include poor mental health, stress, financial pressures, and unemployment.



One of our **strategic aims is to increase the accessibility and quality of outdoor learning for young people** across the UK so that it is 'widely utilised as an equal and valuable part of the ecosystem that supports young people'

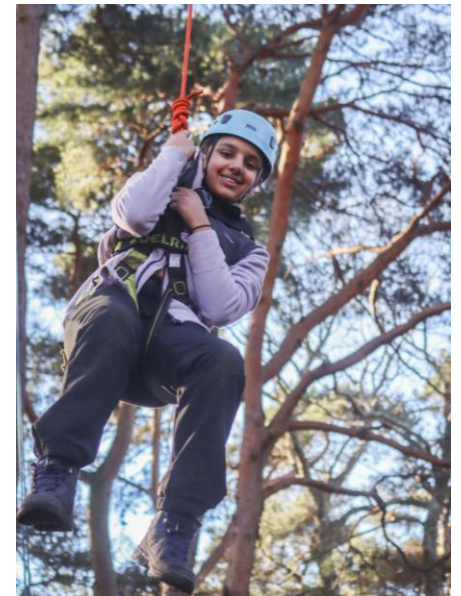
Young people sit at the heart of what we do

UK YOUTH

Outdoor Learning Youth Work

Outdoor Learning Youth Work as a purposeful and evolving professional practice. At its core, the Outdoor Learning Youth Work professional is a trusted adult, dedicated to fostering socio-emotional growth through intentional, relationship-based practice in dynamic outdoor environments.

In an era where the socio-emotional development of young people is increasingly recognised as critical to their overall wellbeing, the role of the Outdoor Learning Youth Work professional has never been more relevant.



How we define Outdoor Learning



Outdoor Learning is experiential learning within an outdoor environment to support a young person's personal, social, and educational development, improve health and wellbeing, engagement with physical literacy, and environmental awareness.

The outdoor space in which learning takes place is an integral part of the learning process.

Experience – Learn - Develop

Socio-emotional skills

To support young people, we intentionally embed socio-emotional learning into our work. These skills are essential for young people to navigate life confidently and meaningfully.

Why Socio-Emotional Skills Matter:

- Build Life Skills
- Promote Mental and Physical Well-Being
- Enhance Learning and Academic Success
- Encourage Environmental Stewardship
- Support Social & Emotional Development
- Foster Individual Growth

This is a Key Connection to Outdoor Learning Youth Work approach & Why the Youth Strategy Outcome Matters





Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

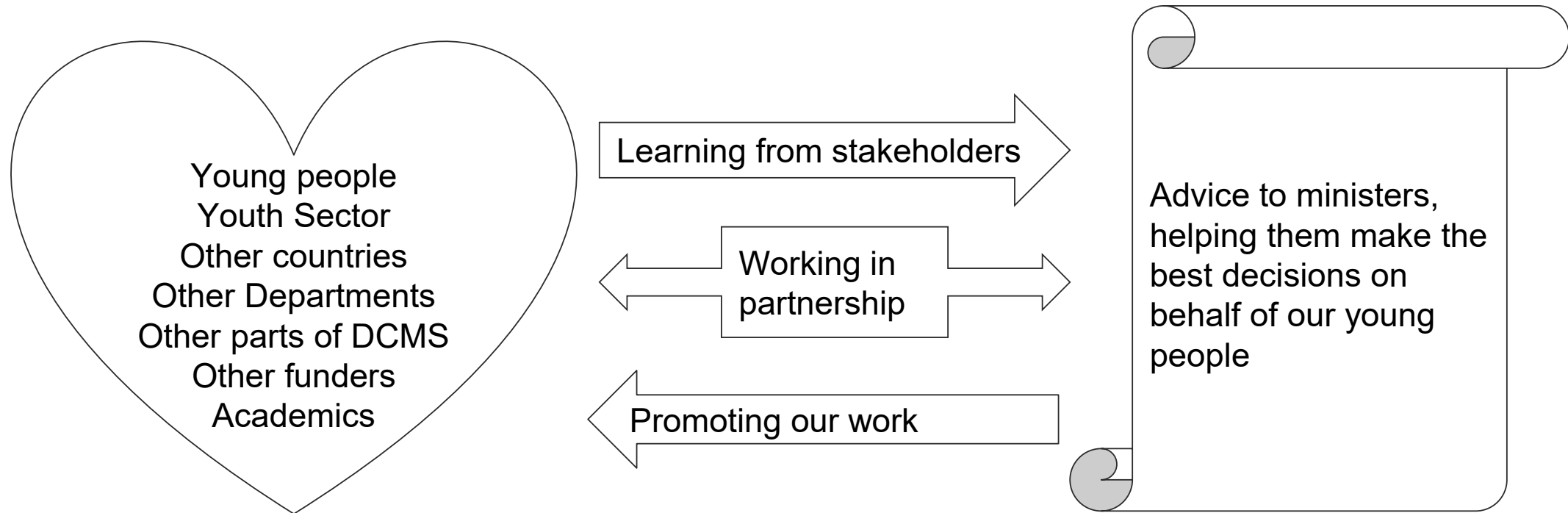
DCMS Youth Strategy and Services Update

October 2025



DCMS youth team

- ❖ DCMS responsibilities
 - Out-of-classroom youth services provision
 - LA statutory duty for youth services
 - Youth workforce standards, qualifications and regulation
 - (Increasingly) Coordination of wider government youth policy



National Youth Strategy



❖ Process

- Announced by DCMS SoS in November 2024
- Major **co-production** exercise (details on next slide)
- Expert and Youth Research Advisory Groups
- Products: 'Today's Youth, Tomorrow's Nation', Full Draft (plus young people's summaries)
- **Intergovernmental** development and governance (official and ministerial)
- Final stages: Final drafts with Ministers for approval, and comments incorporated
- Publication in the **Autumn**.

❖ Scope of the National Youth Strategy

- Strategy will set out an ambitious vision and **ten year** plan
- Mainly focus on **10-21 year olds** (up to **25 for SEND** young people)
- Mainly focus on **out-of-classroom support** for young people
- Mainly focus on **universal services and activities**, and those aimed at providing **early support and advice**, i.e. those that are open to all young people and act to reduce the risk of poor outcomes
- Covers England.

National Youth Strategy: content (draft)



❖ Focus and narrative

- Golden thread of **in-person connections** with peers, trusted adults and communities.
- Looking to give young people, no matter their background, the skills, opportunities and connections they need to thrive.
- **‘You said, we did’ responses** to young people’s priorities - including safe spaces, fun activities, trusted adults, online safety and mental health support.

❖ Doing things differently

- **Continued co-production with young people** with our Youth Advisory Group.
- **Cross-government approach**, setting a direction across departments for young people.
- Focus on partnerships, with a key shift towards **local empowerment and decision-making**.
- Setting out our **first funded steps** for the next Spending Review but also the longer-term vision and priority areas of work.

NATIONAL * YOUTH * STRATEGY

**Deliver
You**



What's **YOUR ORDER?**

Direct engagement with young people professionals from across sectors.

- **Survey:** over 14, 000 responses
- **Express Order:** 980 responses
- Focus groups: over 2000 young people engaged
- **School assembly and group session pack** 4000 young people participated
- **Hacks** taken place in Blackpool, Gateshead, Manchester, Ipswich and Bristol.
- **Sector focussed deep dives**- care experienced, young carers, SEND, arts, sports, culture, criminal justice, young asylum seekers.
- **Sector engagement workshops** - 1, 500 professionals

#WhatsYourOrder #DeliverYou

#WhatsYourOrder #DeliverYou



HM Government

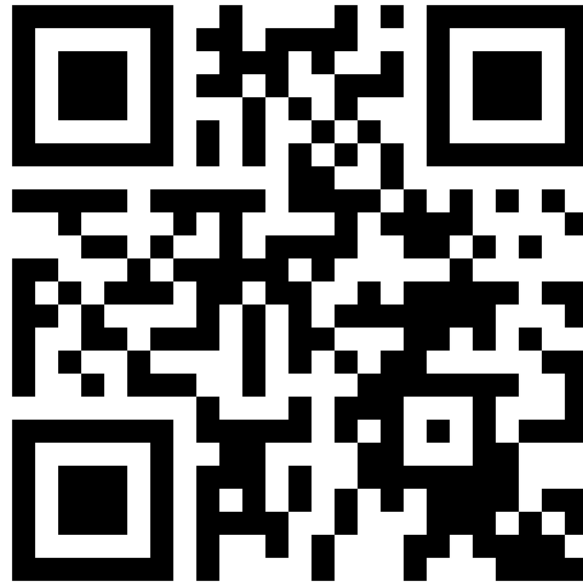
#iwill
movement

MY LIFE
MY SAY

Savanta:

Thank you!

Scan to sign up for the DCMS Youth Team Newsletter!



The background of the slide is a dark, slightly blurred image of a bulletin board. On the left side, there are several colorful sticky notes in shades of orange, yellow, and pink, some of which are torn or folded. On the right side, there is a grid of small, square photographs or cards, some of which are also slightly blurred. The overall aesthetic is creative and youthful.

Priorities for Youth

OCTOBER 2025

Current Policy - Overview

- ▶ Priorities for Youth (PfY) published in October 2013
- ▶ Uniqueness of youth work
- ▶ Connection with education priorities
- ▶ Positive contribution of youth work to education, employability and life skills for young people

Current Policy - Priority Areas

1

Raising Standards for All

2

Closing the Performance Gap, Increasing Access and Equality

3

Developing the Non-Formal Education Workforce

4

Improving the Non-Formal Learning Environment

5

Transforming Governance and Management of Non-Formal Education

Current Model: Education Authority Responsibilities



Planning and commissioning youth services: Developing local area youth development plans that reflect assessed need and align with departmental priorities.



Funding distribution: Administering funding transparently and equitably, ensuring resources are targeted to areas and groups of greatest need.



Support and capacity building: Providing guidance, training, and support to youth work providers to strengthen delivery and improve outcomes.



Monitoring and evaluation: Implementing systems to assess the effectiveness of youth work provision, feeding into continuous improvement and accountability.



Stakeholder engagement: Facilitating meaningful participation by young people and collaboration with voluntary and community organisations.

PfY Policy Review – Overview

- ▶ Commenced in September 2023
- ▶ Assess the effectiveness of PfY
- ▶ A changing context
- ▶ Objectives:
 - ▶ consider the effectiveness of the current PfY policy and associated services on children and young people;
 - ▶ explore options for improvement; and
 - ▶ develop new policy proposals.

Co-Design Approach to the Review

Co-design...by design

- ▶ voices of young people were kept at the centre
- ▶ young people, youth sector representatives (Statutory, Regional Voluntary & Local Voluntary) and academia

Structures

- ▶ Young Person's Reference Group
- ▶ Policy Reference Group
- ▶ Cross-Departmental Group
- ▶ Project Board

Next Steps/timeline

Submission to the Minister

Discussion

Draft policy

Consultation – early 2026

Implementation – 2026 onwards





Any Questions

I'm Enough



Young people are the unique factor that binds us

Questions



UK YOUTH