

An Agenda for Youth Engagement



Government response to the recommendations of the
Youth Citizenship Commission

FOREWORD

Dawn Butler, Minister for Young Citizens and Youth Engagement



This publication is a response to the final report of the Youth Citizenship Commission (YCC). I would like to start by thanking the Youth Citizenship Commissioners who worked hard to produce a report which was both informative and challenging.

Any report about youth engagement is full of contradictions: there are countless examples of engaged, dynamic young people, yet we are worried that young people are not engaged. There's also plenty of evidence showing strong levels of engagement and social and political activity from young people, yet the overall picture is a concern. In preparing this response to the YCC report I have been struck by the drive, determination and tenacity of the young people I meet. Young people have led the way in speaking out on issues such as climate change; but voting turnout for 18-24 year olds is in decline. So if the problem is disengagement then the solution must be re-engagement through information sharing.

And this is where this report is so invaluable; this report highlights that this Government has done a lot to support the engagement of young people. We have invested £220 million in the Youth Opportunities Fund, £1.2 billion in creating future jobs and £700 million in creating places for three million young people to go to. We have put a duty on local authorities to provide services for young people. We have also invested £4.5 million in the Youth4u young inspectors programme which gives young people the opportunity to shape public services. This is just a snap shot of initiatives, it is time for young people to grab the initiative and be vocal. There is more that the Government can do, we must engage young people in this decision but it is also up to young people to use their voice to tell us what they want.

If young people want to tackle climate change, or transform their communities, or change public services – then they need to tell us. If they think there are barriers stopping them being engaged that need government support to overcome – then they need to tell us. If they think we have missed great opportunities to communicate – then they need to tell us.

If young people want to show off their achievements through a national showcase, national awards or a nationally-recognised scheme – then they need to tell us. If they want help in engaging in activities through a national Citizenship Day – then they need to tell us. Or if they want a government-backed network of

debating societies, or a series of local freshers weeks for school and college-aged children – then they need to tell us.

This report focuses on what has been achieved in response to the Youth Citizenship Commission, every day I meet ordinary people doing extraordinary things, many of these are young people. I believe that young people are not just the future, I believe that they are the voice of now and it is for us in government to build, not break, their ambitions. I am only going to make one promise to young people for the future. We will be listening. This is your chance and your time to shine.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Butler', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dawn Butler, Minister for Young Citizens and Youth Engagement

INTRODUCTION

It is up to young people to decide how engaged they want to be as citizens, through activities such as politics, public service, volunteering and participation. The Government believes there are real benefits for them if they are involved and is committed to helping make youth engagement a reality. Whatever their future holds, young people do not need to wait until later in adulthood before shaping the world around them.

This document responds to the ideas and recommendations in the Final Report of the Youth Citizenship Commission¹. The Commission was created in 2008 to define what citizenship means to young people; to increase young people's participation in politics and promote active citizenship, reflecting the communication preferences of young people; and to lead a consultation on whether the voting age should be lowered to 16. Its final report addressed the first two of these questions. The Commission's remit focused on young people aged 11-19, but its work included young people up to 25.

The Government's ambition is to ensure that young people have more opportunities to engage with the issues they are passionate about, because we firmly believe they should be empowered as citizens, connected to the political process and offered a meaningful say in the decisions that affect them. This response to the Commission outlines how we have been

helping young people become more actively involved with their communities, and with politics and institutions. We want to enable young people to engage with public bodies and decision-making processes in ways that are relevant to them.

Young people are less likely to become engaged as citizens if they are unaware of the growing number of opportunities for getting involved. So we want young people to know what is on offer. This document seeks to do more than respond to individual Commission recommendations. It sits alongside [Join](#), the new youth citizenship information hub that is being launched on the Directgov website. Together they present an overview of initiatives across England which facilitate young people's engagement. This provides a platform from which to raise the profile of this important issue.

Join, the new youth citizenship information hub



¹ Making the connection, Building youth citizenship in the UK. Final report of the Youth Citizenship Commission. June 2009.

We recognise that families, carers, charity workers, volunteers and others play a key role in enabling young people to engage with public bodies and issues. This publication also aims to serve those individuals, as well as young people themselves.

Unless otherwise stated, this document principally represents the actions being taken in England. However, the content has been reviewed by the Devolved Administrations and in full transparency with the Scottish Executive.

CHAPTER 1: EMPOWERED CITIZENSHIP

(Response to recommendations 1–6)

The Commission found that citizenship learning and experience needs to be embedded from a young age and that “real value needs to be placed on the pride associated with citizenship in order for people to feel a sense of identity, and ownership of their roles as citizens”. It concluded that citizenship education should have a greater focus on political literacy and should include practical experience in order to support classroom learning and give young people the encouragement and knowledge to allow them to participate later in life. It found that negative associations with politics exist because of its complexity, perceived lack of appeal or relevance, and personal negative experiences.

Six recommendations were made by the Youth Citizenship Commission, to promote empowered citizenship.

Recommendation 1

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the devolved administrations should ensure that the delivery of citizenship education is consistent and effective.

Recommendation 2

The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the devolved administrations should establish a universal system of strong, supported School and Class Councils working collaboratively.

Recommendation 3

Schools should have student representatives on the governing body.

Recommendation 4

Youth voice: National, regional and local public bodies should commit to holding at least two issues-based youth advisory panels per year composed entirely of representative samples of young people.

Recommendation 5

Parliament should sponsor and fund the UK Youth Parliament on a sustainable basis.

Recommendation 6

Government should encourage youth volunteering and also explore whether a compulsory programme of civic service for young people might be worthwhile.

The Government agrees with the Commission that young people have a huge amount to offer their communities and the country. That is why we have taken a number of initiatives to help empower young people to take action and make a difference to the society in which they live.

Over recent years, we have made significant progress in opening up local and national government to young people, giving them greater access to local and national institutions and more opportunities to exercise influence over the decisions made by politicians.

The Department for Communities and Local Government, as part of the Department for Children, Schools and Families [‘Youth of Today’ programme](#), is supporting the delivery of two programmes, [‘Ministerial Shadowing’](#) and [‘Local Councillor shadowing’](#), aimed at increasing young people’s knowledge of the political decision-making process.

The Ministerial Shadowing programme provides an opportunity for young people to understand the institution of national government and the key role that appropriate Ministers play in the decision-making process. The Local Councillor programme is targeted at a local level, enabling young people to develop their knowledge of Local Councillors’ work over a sustained period of time and to appreciate how those decisions affect local communities.

Empowered Through Education

Taking an active part in decision making is one aspect of being a young citizen in a democratic country. In a democracy everyone can make their views known and be part of the debates that influence decision makers. Learning about citizenship is thus a vital part of education, as the Commission points out. This is why the subject has been introduced into secondary schools across England, with an additional theme of identity and diversity since 2007. Citizenship is also embedded in the proposed new primary curriculum.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is helping all English secondary schools to implement the new citizenship curriculum. The support includes assistance for citizenship teaching, as well as overall curriculum design and classroom materials, to help pupils explore their shared identities and values as British citizens. At the same time, the [‘Who Do We Think We Are?’](#) project has supported schools in delivering lessons that are tailored to the interests and needs of their local communities.

[Ofsted’s recent report on citizenship](#)² recognises that schools have made good progress integrating the subject into the curriculum and that over half of secondary schools’ provision is good or outstanding. A small minority of schools still need to improve but overall there are firm foundations to build on. The best schools complement classroom teaching with opportunities for active participation in the community, often through close collaboration with local government and other organisations. Schools can work with their local authorities to encourage pupils to participate in decision making by providing feedback that can help shape local services.

2. Citizenship established? Citizenship in schools 2006/09. Ofsted 2010.

The Citizenship National Continuing Professional Development programme aims to improve the teaching of Citizenship. Since 2006 the Department for Children, Schools and Families has funded 11 Higher Education Institutions to provide continuing professional development courses for teachers of citizenship. Upon completion, course members either receive a Certificate or can be awarded a Masters level credit. The course is free and aims to train 245 people per year. DCSF is also investing in continuing professional development materials for local authority workers. This encourages local authorities to work in partnership with schools and helps them train teachers of citizenship so that the quality of education in this subject is maintained.

An empowered, educated young citizen must also have a clear understanding of their country's judicial system and how the rule of law underpins the key concepts of democracy and rights and responsibilities. To this end, the Ministry of Justice (and partners) have produced an online educational resource called [Your Justice Your World](#). The website was launched and rolled out nationally in 2009 as part of Inside Justice Week. While it is foremost a teaching aid for use with an electronic whiteboard, its interactivity and lively visual presentation of information lends itself to independent learning at home and in other non-conventional educational settings. It aims to demystify the judicial system for young people (covering civil, family, criminal and administrative

justice in equal balance), and sign-posts the reader to other existing resources. Your Justice Your World has the potential to become the first port of call for learning about justice in England and Wales (a Welsh version is provided). The website is another strong example of empowerment through education by seeking to increase respect and understanding of the law, and inform young people about how to gain access to justice, welfare and self-help services when needed.

In a separate initiative to improve young people's engagement with citizenship and their understanding of the rule of law, the Attorney General's Office has begun work on establishing a [Youth Network](#). This Network will ensure that young people have the right opportunities to learn about the legal and justice systems and will provide opportunities to develop skills, such as debating, which enable their participation.

An Attorney General's Youth Advisory Council of members, aged 14-18, has been established, in line with Commission recommendations. At Council meetings, the members will discuss with the Attorney General their opinions and ideas on legal matters that affect young people nationally and in their local communities, as well as helping to inform the Youth Network's programme as it develops.



Empowered to Have a Voice

It is right that young people have a voice on matters that affect their lives. So we welcome moves by local, regional and national public bodies to facilitate engagement and dialogue with young people from all sections of society and at all levels. The UK's democratic processes should involve young people from all backgrounds – this was the thrust of recent youth empowerment policies in [‘Aiming high for young people; a ten year strategy for positive activities’](#).

We see providing young people with opportunities to discuss and influence issues as a way to encourage their greater long term participation in public life. In this context it is important to give young people the appropriate forums to debate the issues that matter most to them. National, regional and local organisations are best placed to identify which methods of engagement will have the greatest impact on bringing young voices into decision-making processes. These may include youth panels, board membership, or other mechanisms for dialogue about policies that have an impact on young people.

For many young people, this dialogue starts at school, where pupils can become active citizens by getting involved in issues that affect their daily lives. School councils run by students are now an accepted way of involving pupils in management decisions, and are found in 95% of schools, in line with the Commission's recommendations³. At grass roots level, such

engagement can result in a wide range of benefits: relationships improve within the school, morale is higher and pupils gain confidence.

We are also revising and improving guidance brought in through ‘Working Together – Giving Children and Young People a Say’ which was designed to help schools to:

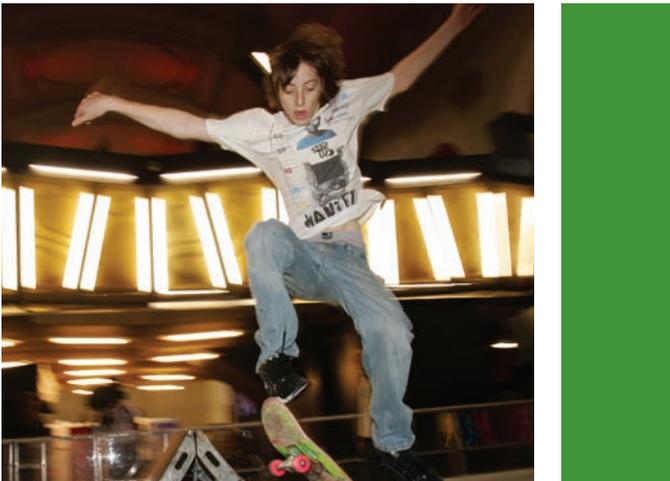
- offer children and young people opportunities to develop their skills as active citizens, and
- organise how children and young people can become involved in the running of the school.

The guidance outlines how governing bodies can seek pupils' views and engage them in strategic decision making. The new guidance will also identify the types of issues on which pupils most want to have a say. We hope it will prompt many schools to think imaginatively about the most helpful ways of involving their pupils. We are also consulting on new duties for schools to have a system for consulting pupils, and to consult them on particular issues.

The Children Schools and Families Bill now before Parliament introduces a new pupil guarantee. Among other commitments, this will offer pupils a say on how their school is performing and how it can be improved. This guarantee should be in place by September 2011.

Outside of schools, at a local level, young people's voices are increasingly being heard. A network of over 400 youth councils in England are supported by local authorities and the British Youth Council to enhance youth engagement and participation.

³ Institute of Education study into student councils September 2007



OPEN, myplace project, Norwich

There are numerous examples of successful projects that have given young people new opportunities to directly influence decisions in their communities.

- [The Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds](#) have shown how this can work at a local level. In the first 3 years (2006-08), panels of young people have approved over 39,000 grants for projects put forward by their peers to provide positive activities and facilities in their localities. These have ranged from the refurbishment of youth centres and sports facilities, to providing equipment for music or film workshops and sports participation. There is now at least one decision making panel in each local authority area and more than 2.5 million young people have been involved in, or benefited from, these funds.
- Through Youth Capital Fund Plus, additional funding of £22.6 million was allocated to the 50 most disadvantaged areas in 2008-09 to work with the Youth Taskforce to put in place over 100 new or refurbished youth facilities/mobile units, which are expected to be open by March 2010.
- The Department for Children, Schools and Families' [myplace programme](#) is delivering world class youth facilities, driven by the active participation of young people and their views. Locally, projects must demonstrate the real participation of young people, particularly those who are disadvantaged, in the development, design and future running of the project. Nationally, young people make up half of the committee which decides the myplace investments, worth a total of £272 million from 2008 to 2011.
- Prior to the Commission's report, the Councillors' Commission had already recommended that local authorities should be required to engage meaningfully with young people. The Commission's recommendations are the next step in encouraging a more democratic process of youth engagement. Building on recent youth empowerment policies, local authorities are expected to expand the success of Youth Opportunity, Youth Capital Funds and myplace by progressively extending young people's influence so that by 2018 they are shaping decisions on at least 25% of budgets that fund activities for young people.
- The [Youth4U-Young Inspectors](#) pilot is working with successful existing models to help marginalised young people engage their peers in influencing local policies and services. Teams of young people in up to 36 local authorities will inspect services and report their findings to local authorities and service providers. The types of services inspected will cover a wide range of issues including health, neighbourhood renewal and transport.

- We have also launched [The Youth of Today](#), a consortium of leading youth organisations focused on increasing the quality, quantity and diversity of youth leadership opportunities. This creates specific opportunities for young people to take on leadership roles at national and local level. It also includes ministerial and local councillor shadowing schemes, and a new fellowship programme.

The [Young Advisors](#) initiative was developed within the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) in 2005 to empower young people to have an influence on decision making and services in their communities. Young Advisors aged between 15 and 21 are trained to work as consultants advising adults, community leaders and agencies on how better to engage young people in community life and local regeneration. CLG actively seeks to involve Young Advisors in debating and discussing wider national policy proposals that have an impact on young people. One example is developing the National Tenant Voice. This involved Young Advisors from areas of social housing attending a workshop with officials and tenants to discuss how to break down age barriers within tenants' organisations to increase the involvement of young people.

To date, 70 myplace projects have been awarded funding, the first of which – 'OPEN' in Norwich – opened its doors in October 2009. OPEN is a Grade II listed building that provides young people in Norwich with a wide range of activities such as a large indoor climbing wall, film and media workshops, an IT suite and a versatile hall that can be transformed into a skateboard park, an ice rink or many other uses. A further ten myplace projects are due to open by the summer.

"It's been very exciting to go so quickly from nothing to opening a world class youth centre, myplace has helped us deliver a wonderful and versatile venue for the young people of Norfolk that gives them a safe place to go and a wide range of things to do. We're delighted to be blazing the trail for all the other myplace centres that will be delivered across the country."

Russ Dacre, Project Director of OPEN.

OPEN, myplace, Norwich



The Government continues to invest in these and other local youth empowerment programmes and this will help achieve the overall aims of the Commission's recommendations. As experience grows, it will be important to share good practice in engaging young people across the system, based on evidence from the delivery of existing policies, in particular the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds. While the Funds have been successful in achieving their objectives, it is clear that local authorities can do even more to extend their reach and impact. The Department for Children, Schools and Families will be challenging and supporting local authorities to improve delivery of the funds in a range of ways, including regional good practice seminars during 2010. Further ideas, advice and guidance can be found on [Join](#), the youth citizenship hub, set up on Directgov as a resource, pointing young people to information about citizenship.

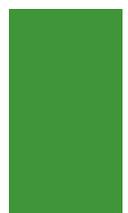
The Government supports and works with five youth volunteering charities – the British Youth Council, the Citizenship Foundation, the National Youth Agency, Youth Action Network and YouthNet. Office of the Third Sector provides funding over three years ending 2011, of £3.16 million to support youth participation in government volunteering policy. These partners were selected for their ability to involve young people and allow them to influence the national debate on youth volunteering.

At a national level, young people's voices are also being heard. This includes through their engagement with Parliament itself – the political institution that holds the Government to account and creates new laws.

The [UK Youth Parliament](#) is a real success story and the Government is fully behind this initiative to put young people quite literally in the centre of UK politics. The Youth Parliament plays a role in involving young people in formal and informal politics through strong links with Parliament and Members of Parliament (MPs). This is a platform from which the councillors and politicians of the future can learn about the cut and thrust of robust debate, which is the bedrock of the British political system. The Government is aware that the Youth Parliament is trying to strengthen its financial backing. Parliament is exploring the possibility of providing it with sustainable funding, in line with the Commission's recommendations.

The Department for Communities and Local Government recognises the achievements of the Youth Parliament and is working closely with it to establish a panel of representative young people that will provide advice to Government on topical issues of interest to young citizens.

300 young people for UK Youth Parliament take over the House of Commons



Youth Parliament has engaged with a wide range of young people, it has gone some way to reaching out to those facing disadvantage. The challenge now is to strengthen its representation in hard to reach areas of the community. [The citizenship information hub](#) will help in this endeavour by providing a central point that can link together all the organisations involved in reaching out to disparate groups of young people.

Policy areas where young people are making a significant contribution include:

- Commonwealth Games 2014 Legacy consultation – where the response of over 5000 young people has led to a distinct Youth Legacy being developed
- National Conversation on the future of Scotland – where over 7000 young people responded
- Under-age drinking – where a Youth Alcohol Commission is conducting a year-long investigation and will report to Ministers in Spring 2010
- [The Young People's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities](#) – this guide has been put together by young people based on the issues in the Green Paper: Rights and Responsibilities.

Empowered to Make a Contribution

As the Commission recognised, a major contribution to young citizens becoming more empowered is formal and informal volunteering.

Volunteering and community engagement opportunities allow young people to make a personal contribution, sharing their time and talents to make a tangible difference. Community engagement activities also help young people to develop an awareness of issues affecting their communities, raise their aspirations, make new contacts and recognise that they can change their world for the better.

It is important that young people recognise, particularly in the current economic climate, that volunteering can lead to further career opportunities. In many cases it can be used to gain valuable life skills and work experience to help set up for future life plans.

That is why the Government is increasing volunteering opportunities for everyone, with a special focus on young people. Three million young people already offer their time to their communities every year. Our aim is that all young people should be given the opportunity to take part in some form of service to their communities, in line with the Commission's recommendations. The Prime Minister has set out his expectation that, in time, all young people will contribute at least 50 hours of community action by the age of 19.

This ambition is being delivered through a number of initiatives:

- The Government is investing up to £117 million in the '[v' youth volunteering charity](#) which is recruiting one million new young volunteers.
- The Youth Community Action programme is promoting community engagement and contributions for 14 to 19 year olds. £128 million is being invested in 20,000 16-19 year olds a year undertaking community action alongside personalised Entry to Employment/ Foundation Learning programmes.
- In the Youth Community Action programme a further £18 million is being used to support initiatives for the 14-16 age range. Five local pilots have begun to test ways of increasing the number of young people participating in youth community action. In addition, all schools will get support so they can provide more opportunities for pupils wanting to take part in volunteering.

To support these initiatives, we will ensure that youth community action is accredited, where appropriate, so young people get the recognition they deserve.

For those in Scotland, the Millennium Volunteering Awards provide young people between the ages of 16-25 with the opportunity to gain a highly regarded certification for their voluntary work. With the support of the Scottish Government, this national scheme is delivered at a local level by the Volunteer Centre Network in partnership with Volunteer Development

Scotland. Certificates are awarded when volunteers have completed 50, 100 and 200 hours of voluntary service.

We think it is important that the impressive achievements of young volunteers should be recognised and celebrated through national awards. This will also help establish best practice and raise the profile of citizenship activities. The Government supports the [charity v](#) to create awards for the best volunteers.

The first of these took place in November 2009 and was a great success. The [vinspired awards](#) celebrated and rewarded exceptional contributions from young people aged 16-25, and received over 700 nominations.

young volunteers, v



The ten categories for the awards, which are given out every year, are:

Inspire: most inspirational volunteer. Sponsored by James Caan from 'Dragon's Den'.

Rich Simmons, East Midlands

Suffering from depression and autistic symptoms himself, Rich created an art therapy organisation 'Art Is the Cure'. Rich has inspired over 25,000 people to make Art their Cure.

Fresh: Awarded to someone who is new to volunteering who has achieved a great deal in their community in a short space of time. Sponsored by Kiss FM.

Gavin Freeman, East Midlands

A Learning Mentor for Learning for the Fourth Age, Gavin works one to one with incredibly frail, lonely and institutionalised elderly people in care homes to encourage them to take up new hobbies, stimulate their minds and learn new things.

Genius: Awarded for creativity and innovation, someone who has thought laterally about their volunteering and just oozes creativity. Sponsored by Metro.

Tom Stone, East Midlands

Tom volunteers at the Drop Inn Youth Centre. He collects ideas from the young people, and uses different methods for marketing and promotion. His projects include an anti knife crime DVD which has been adopted by the police for their training purposes, and 'safe raves', designed to tackle the rising nuisance of underage drinking particularly on a Friday night.

Shout: Awarded to the ultimate campaigner, someone who wants to get their voice heard for a cause.

Holly Shaw, North West

Holly is a dedicated student volunteer at the University of Chester, who has spent the last year setting up and running a campaign called "The Gift of Life" to raise awareness of the current shortage of Organ Donors in the UK. Holly received a kidney transplant and so was determined to use her new found freedom to promote the plight of others on the waiting list.

Eco: Awarded to someone or a group of people who care about the environment and have taken action to protect it.

Katherine Haywood, West Midlands

There now over 100 young people in Worcester signed up as environmental volunteers as a result of Katie's hard work. The many hundreds of users of her community centre are now sorting their waste for recycling and her school has started on the journey to become an eco school.

Energy: Awarded to someone who works with young people and inspires them to volunteer. Sponsored by Red Bull.

Liz Starkey, North East

Liz is extremely supportive to all members of the Youth Action Team (YAT). She acts as a role model and supports the development of new skills by setting up work experience, voluntary opportunities and training sessions so that members of the YAT interact with different people in the local community, and develop skills in different fields.

Unite: Awarded to a team of volunteers who have achieved amazing things collectively. Sponsored by L’Oreal.

‘Aik Saath’, South East – Ashley Gabbi, Asim Khan, Mujtaba Ali, Priya Bilkhu, Shahavez Kiani, Vik Bhachu, Wiqas Baig

A peer training team delivering training in conflict resolution skills through workshops. The group continually support and look out for one another in all aspects of the work undertaken.

Bridge: Awarded to someone or a group of people who have brought different groups of people together to create positive change in a community. Sponsored by Bebo.

Claire Sedgwick, North East

Claire broke down barriers between her community, students, refugees and asylum seekers. She helped to dissolve a lot of misconceptions that people have about each group through joint activities and meetings.

Legend: Awarded for outstanding leadership, to someone who has successfully led a team of volunteers to make a difference.

Alexander McLean, London

Alexander is the founder of African Prisons Project. Alexander has built the project into a coherent, structured organisation with the recruitment of experienced and enthusiastic staff from overseas and volunteers from the UK.

Transform: Awarded to someone who has made a big, lasting and positive impact on their community. Sponsored by the Office of the Third Sector.

Siobhan Pyburn, South East

Siobhan is passionate about creating awareness of sexual abuse, having been abused herself. Siobhan has created a website to share the story of what happened to her and how other victims of abuse can find confidential advice and guidance and now undertakes public speaking engagements.

The Government will continue to support v’s nationally recognised award programme that allows individuals and their projects to be nominated by other organisations to gain recognition for their achievements.

v has also introduced a new online recognition scheme for young volunteers aged 16-25 in England. Two awards will enable young volunteers to get the recognition they deserve:

- The **vifty Award** encourages young people to complete 50 hours of volunteering in their local community within 12 months.
- The **vimpact Award** encourages young people to focus on the impact they are making through their volunteer work on their community, skills and personal development and requires a further 100 hours volunteering.

CHAPTER 2: CONNECTING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

(Response to recommendations 7–10)

The Commission's research shows that young people are not apathetic. However, its work also confirmed that the majority are not engaged with 'traditional' politics. They often do not feel empowered to make a difference, lack information about opportunities to get involved, feel they do not have enough information or understanding of political parties, are unclear how to vote or register to vote, or do not believe they can make a difference. Overall, there is a widely held view among young people that "decision makers do not consider young people's issues or views, even when they ask for them". This lack of effective communication between political processes and young people presents a challenge at local and national level, in part because younger generations have different networking preferences to older adults. For example, three quarters of young people use social networking sites and are put off by the formal language and processes associated with politics.

Four recommendations were made by the Youth Citizenship Commission to promote Connecting with Young People:

Recommendation 7

Schools should have a duty to ensure that all eligible pupils are offered supported opportunities to register to vote at school.

Recommendation 8

The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the devolved administrations should direct schools to be available for use as polling stations and promote the benefits of remaining open.

Recommendation 9

The Secretary of State for Justice should pilot and evaluate the use of relevant technology (mobile, email, social networks etc) to remind people to vote on polling day.

Recommendation 10

The Cabinet Office should establish a New Media Taskforce to set out good practice on the best online methods to engage with young people who seek to be involved in citizenship activities.

The Government recognises that if young people really are to become more involved in decision making across the UK then the connections and communication between institutions and young people will have to be strengthened. Significant progress has already been made in this area, but we want to see even more, and even deeper, dialogue.

Connecting Through Democratic Action

Clearly, it is of great importance that young people are engaged with the formal democratic process. To support this, we changed the law to allow those under 18 to accompany voters into polling stations.

On a national scale, one potential way of bringing young people closer to political debate might be to lower the voting age to 16. However, it is not clear that such a move would have widespread support, even among 16-18 year olds. It is interesting to note that the Commission was equivocal on the issue of lowering the voting age. It remains a question on which there is not universal agreement.

The Government is determined to increase the engagement of young people in politics and will continue to review how this can best be pursued, including consideration of lowering the voting age. Research by the Electoral Commission has consistently shown that young people aged 18-24 are less likely to take part in elections than the general population. That is something we want to address.

The Government supports the principle of engaging young people through electoral registration in schools for 16-18 year olds, in line with the Commission's recommendations. This has the potential to have an impact on approximately one-third of school pupils aged 16 and over. Voter registration in schools could be an effective way to increase awareness of our democracy and drive up registration rates.

No new laws are needed to introduce this policy. Although the voting age is 18, it is possible to register to vote at the age of 16 or 17, provided the person will be 18 before the end of a 12-month period starting from the 1 December after the application. The 16 and 17 year olds on the electoral register are called 'attainers' (as they are about to attain voting age). Registration of eligible young people could be undertaken by officials attending schools or through application forms, with supporting guidance provided at schools, including from the existing online service www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

Government departments are currently looking into how they can best support this new scheme.

The use of schools as polling stations offers a further opportunity. It would be highly beneficial for students to see democracy in action within their communities and the Government would encourage more schools to be used as polling stations.

However, when school premises are to be used as polling stations, the Government believes schools should decide for themselves whether the school should remain open or to close for the normal school day, with due regard to health and safety and safeguarding processes. Schools that need to close for polling day can move to alternative accommodation or make up the lost day, for example, at the beginning or end of term, or by arranging for staff training to take place on that day.

Mock election materials supported by DCSF are available so schools can teach young people about the democratic system. This gives more young people opportunities for practical experiences of how democracy works, including through elections for school council members.

Connecting through Effective Communication

Effective communication between the Government and young people is vital, especially when there is a general or local election. So the Government is keen that all relevant media and technologies are used to encourage participation in elections, in line with Commission recommendations. Much has been done on this issue already, and there are several ways in which this work continues to grow.

The promotion of participation in elections currently falls to the Electoral Commission, and to local officials. The Electoral Commission has a duty to promote public awareness of electoral systems, and conducts national advertising campaigns to remind people to register and vote. Local electoral officers also have a duty to encourage participation in the electoral process.

The channels of communication with potential young voters need to embrace both new and old technology. The internet public awareness campaign for the 2009 elections included

interactive advertisements on social networking websites such as Facebook and Bebo. TV advertisements were shown during programmes with a younger audience such as 'Hollyoaks' and 'The Simpsons'. Print advertisements in newspapers and on outdoor posters provided a number to text for a voter registration form.

One local initiative was the London Borough of Lambeth's 'Elections Alarm Clock', funded under the Electoral Commission's New Initiatives fund. The project piloted the use of the www.electionalarmclock.com website in the run up to the May 2006 local elections. The website lets users sign up for an email or SMS reminder about registering to vote, and when to vote. The key aims of the Lambeth project were to encourage the participation of young transient voters in the 17-34 age group. The evaluation of the project found the website had been a valuable tool.

Local authorities are being supported to promote electoral involvement through the Participation Fund. This is administered by the Ministry of Justice and provides funding for innovative voter registration initiatives. For example, in Manchester, the council worked with local unsigned bands to produce a CD which was distributed free to young people when they registered to vote.

The Government welcomes further ideas from electoral administrators of imaginative approaches to reminding young people to

register and then vote. Local authorities will be encouraged to apply for support for projects that find new ways to use new media to engage young people.

We believe the best online methods should be used to engage young people generally in citizenship activities. At present, the Power of Information Taskforce is taking this forward and has set out good practice on digital engagement with all citizens, including young people.

Recommendations from this Taskforce have resulted in online engagement by Government with young people. For example, the Cabinet Office has used Bebo to involve young people in the nationwide Building Britain's Future debate. See www.bebo.com/bigthink.

Dawn Butler, the Minister for Young Citizens and Youth Engagement, will be leading work from the Cabinet Office to engage directly with young people over citizenship activities. Online and social media will be key tools in this process, and the [online hub on Directgov](#) will point young people to information about citizenship activities, making information more accessible. The Cabinet Office will seek input from, and partnership with, leading new media platforms and other experts. Young people themselves will also be encouraged to contribute ideas for how the Government can use the new media to best effect.

Following the Power of Information Taskforce report, the Digital Engagement team, which sits within the Cabinet Office, is already working to ensure that all government departments have social media strategies in place, incorporating established best practice. These strategies

will include specific elements and actions for engaging with young people.

CHAPTER 3: CHANGING THE WAY DECISION MAKERS AND INSTITUTIONS WORK

(Response to recommendations 11–16)

The Commission found that many young people do not know how government works, particularly at a local level, or how it benefits the local community - but they still want to help. One of the hurdles they face is that “there are no co-ordinated governance arrangements, national framework of opportunities, comprehensive UK coverage or transparent links between initiatives for different groups of young people”. The Commission concluded that government initiatives are not well known or understood, and that institutions, politicians, and decision makers need to consider what they can do to make politics and citizenship activities more appealing to young people.

Six recommendations were made by the Youth Citizenship Commission to promote Changing the Way Decision Makers and Institutions Work:

Recommendation 11

The Government should introduce an equality impact assessment criterion to consider the impact of new policies on young people.

Recommendation 12

Nominated government departments should appoint annual scrutiny panels composed of young people to advise on specific issues.

Recommendation 13

Department for Communities and Local Government, Department for Children, Schools and Families, Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Third Sector should track long-term progress on the refreshed aims of youth citizenship annually through representative surveys.

Recommendation 14

As part of the wider work on promoting engagement in democratic processes all local authorities should develop a clear strategy for co-ordinating and promoting youth citizenship opportunities for young people.

Recommendation 15

The Government should facilitate the third sector to develop a single, well-recognised award for young people involved in citizenship activities.

Recommendation 16

The Government should facilitate and deliver a way to provide comparative information on, and communication channels for, elected representatives within constituencies.

It is important that policy is designed with young people’s views and needs in mind. The Commission highlighted how young people’s perception of politicians and decision makers could improve if their views were listened to and were seen to have an impact. The Commission

highlighted how young people's perception of politicians and decision makers could improve if their views were listened to and were seen to have an impact.

Changing the way we listen

Youth engagement requires more than giving young people opportunities and a voice. It demands real change at local and national levels so that institutions are set up in a way that means input from young people is part of normal activity. That is why public organisations should look long and hard at their systems and make sure that engagement with young people is part of a default operating model.

This Government has already made substantial steps towards this goal. For example, we have established a series of panels, comprised of young people, to provide advice to Ministers on specific issues, in line with recommendation 12.

- The Department for Children Schools and Families has established a Children and Youth Board comprised of around 25 young people aged 8 -18 who meet regularly throughout the year to provide policy advice to Ministers and officials. Members are drawn from each Government Office region in England and come from diverse backgrounds. The Board has advised on a wide range of policy areas, such as the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, improving school behaviour, and the 2005 Disability Discrimination Act. More recently, a National Young People's Advisory Group has been set up to advise on policy and operational issues for the Youth Opportunity

Fund and Youth Capital Fund, involving experienced panel members drawn from local decision-making panels throughout England.

- The Department for Communities and Local Government, along with the Department for Children Schools and Families, has established a Young Muslim Advisory Group as part of its Prevent programme. A large proportion of England's Muslim population is young, and yet their voices are often not heard. This Government sees young Muslims as being central to addressing the threat of international terrorism in the UK. It established the advisory group to act as a platform for dialogue between government and young Muslims. The 23 young Muslims, aged 17-26, come from across England and have a broad range of backgrounds and experiences, reflecting the ethnic and denominational diversity of Muslim communities. The advisory group acts as a critical friend to government to help find solutions to a range of challenges, including discrimination, unemployment, extremism and civic participation.

It is also important that these separate initiatives do not work in isolation. The Government will ensure that links are built between the different panels mentioned to promote collaboration.

Over recent years, we have made significant progress in opening up local and national government so that, should they choose, young people have greater access to local and national institutions and can exercise influence over the decision-making process. Public services have set up a variety of new channels through which they can listen to young people's views.

Young Advisors all across the country have been working to improve community policing, safety and the links between young people and the police.

Southwark Young Advisors has trained over 600 police officers, improving the implementation of Stop and Search as applied to young people in their borough.

Sefton Young Advisors have worked extensively with the police on how dispersal orders in their area actually made young people feel less safe. They are now working with Liverpool John Moores University on further research, influencing the way dispersal orders are to be implemented and how other community safety solutions could be informed through the innovative engagement of young people.

Middlesbrough Young Advisors adapted Community Policing Plans so they would be more accessible to young people, distributing the young people's version to thousands of households.

The innovative work of each of these police authorities is helping make a real difference to young people's lives on an issue many of them feel strongly about.

Changing the communication channels

It is not only Government that should have strong communication links with young people, but also all Members of Parliament. Thanks to the internet, all constituents, young and old, are now able to e-mail their local MP. Most MPs (around 90%) have their own websites that enable constituents to keep informed of what their MP is doing. The third sector also has very good quality websites, such as www.theyworkforyou.com, that provide a range of tools to enable members of the public to investigate their MP's activities and political work. In line with the Commission's recommendations, the Government fully endorses all initiatives that help to strengthen the accountability of MPs to their constituents and to increase the awareness that Parliamentarians are fundamentally the servants of those in their constituency – both young and old.

The Government also funds part of the BBC website which has a new service called [Democracy Live](#). This site provides live online footage from inside the UK's national political institutions (and the European Parliament), as well as 'on demand' archived video.

Surveys provide another tool to inform Government in its decision making, and it is important that young people are not left out of these information gathering exercises. The Department for Children Schools and Families, in conjunction with the Department for Communities and Local Government, has agreed to undertake a feasibility study into adding a Young People's module, aimed at 11-15 year olds, to the main Citizenship Survey, in line with Commission recommendations. Currently the survey only collects the views of adults (aged 16 years and over) across England and Wales. From 2007-08, the survey moved to a rolling model of operation, allowing the provision of headline data on a quarterly basis, and it was awarded National Statistics status in March 2008. The survey asks questions covering a range of topics including community cohesion, values, political efficiency, civic engagement and volunteering. As part of the feasibility study, the polling organisation Ipsos Mori is developing a questionnaire to monitor the views of young people in these areas, and a decision on the way forward will depend on the development, costing and testing of the module.

The Hansard Society runs an annual Audit of Political Engagement which currently measures the nature and extent of political engagement of those aged 18 and over. Given Hansard's extensive contacts with young people, and with politics and citizenship teachers, it is considering whether the scope of future audits should be expanded to include young people.



Changing local decision making

We have also taken important steps to change the way that decisions are made locally. Since 2009, the Government has put in place a 'duty to involve', requiring local authorities to consider how to engage on a permanent basis with their local populations, including young people, on the delivery of services, where it is appropriate to do so. This means local authorities will need to work with their local partners to provide a range of accessible and relevant opportunities for young people to become involved in decisions about the delivery of public services such as transport and recycling.

A key partnership organisation in this process could be local [vinvolved](#) teams. The Government provides funding for 107 vinvolved teams in every local authority area in England to provide support, advice and guidance to organisations on creating new volunteering opportunities, brokering young people into the opportunities, and championing youth-led action.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is funding sector-led work to produce and promote best practice advice

on promoting democratic awareness to local authorities, which will include a particular focus on youth engagement.

Local authorities will be held to account for whether they make the necessary changes in their decision-making processes. Under the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) – which is the mechanism for assessing the performance of a local area – local authorities and their partners on the Local Strategic Partnership will be evaluated on how effectively they engage local people when setting priorities for their area, and if people consider these to have been delivered effectively. Young people must be included in this engagement process.

CONCLUSION

Young people have a huge amount to offer their communities and our democracy. Society as a whole will benefit enormously if ways can be found to tap their talents and enthusiasm more imaginatively. The Commission's work has contributed to this process by investigating what citizenship means to young people, and how we might increase young people's participation in politics and promote active citizenship. We now need to continue to find new ways of facilitating the meaningful involvement of young people in the democratic process in all contexts. The Government is making changes at national and local levels to bring young people into decision making processes and we encourage other institutions and organisations to do likewise.

Compared to only 10 years ago, young people can now interact far more extensively with public bodies and exert a real influence on policy decisions. A decade ago, very few of the opportunities mentioned in this report existed, and young people had to work far harder to make their voices heard. For their part, many young people have made the most of these new opportunities. As a result, they have shown it is possible to have an immensely positive impact on their communities, for example through participation in representative panels and involvement in volunteering projects.

Yet there is clearly more to do. We will continue to push forward reforms so that organisations give a greater role to young people. More can also be done to make young people aware that

they can become engaged citizens, contributing positively to public life. These pages have illustrated just some of the ways this is already happening, but with your help we can make further changes across the UK to harness the full potential of all young people.

The Government is listening to young people's views and opinions. But this also places a responsibility on young people to use their voice to tell us what they think. The channels of communication are open and multiplying and they are there for young people to exploit. Together we can achieve a richer dialogue, and one which draws in groups of young people who have sometimes been hard to reach.

This Government is committed to bringing young people closer to decision makers and to strengthening their links to the institutions that affect their lives. We look forward to continuing the work that has begun to empower the next generation.

vinspired football project



APPENDIX

Government youth citizenship and engagement initiatives Opportunities and funding for young people

Programme / initiative	Funding	Lead department and partners	Timing	Outline	Opportunities available
<p>Youth Opportunity & Youth Capital Funds (YOF/YCF).</p> <p>Youth Capital Fund PLUS</p> <p>For info see http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/Youth/youthmatters/youthopportunity/youthfunds/</p> <p>To apply for a grant you should contact your local authority. For information on how to do this go to http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/Youthfunds/index.htm</p>	<p>£220m available over 2008-11.</p>	<p>Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).</p> <p>YOF/YCF are delivered by Local Authorities and managed regionally by the 9 Government Offices on behalf of DCSF.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Originally announced for, 2006-08, Aiming High announced the continuation of the funds for a further 3 years until March 2011.</p>	<p>YOF/YCF give young people a direct say over activities and facilities in their area.</p> <p>Applications are made by young people to a panel of other young people who make decisions on whether they are appropriate and should receive funding. There is now at least one decision making panel in each local authority area.</p> <p>Overall the funds have proved to be successful and increasingly well embedded since their launch, with panels of young people having approved over 39,000 grants for projects put forward by young people. Over 2.5 million young people have been involved in or benefited from these Funds (figures up to March 2009).</p>	<p>Includes additional resource on top of existing baselines for the 50 most deprived areas (£25m YOF over 3 years / £22.6m 'YCF Plus' in 2008-09).</p> <p>LAs receive an annual funding allocation (based on the Connexions funding formula). Any LA under spends at the end of a financial year are returned to DCSF and 'recycled' for use by LAs during the following financial year.</p>

Programme / initiative	Funding	Lead department and partners	Timing	Outline	Opportunities available
National Young People's Advisory Group - Youth Opportunities Fund and Youth Capital Fund		Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Facilitated by YouthBank UK	Ongoing	National Young people's advisory group has been set up to advise on policy and operational issues for both funds. Members are experienced young panel members drawn from local decision-making panels from all nine English regions.	
<p>myplace A multi-million pound programme to deliver world class places for young people to go. Inviting applications for funding for world-class facilities from projects led by the statutory, private and third sectors.</p> <p>http://www.myplacesupport.co.uk/</p> <p>http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/Youth/aiminghigh/myplace/myplace/</p>	£272m of capital investment over 2008-11	DCSF. Administered by the BIG Lottery Fund. The Sorrell Foundation has provided intensive support to a number of projects.	Ongoing Scheduled for completion in August 2010.	myplace is driven by the active participation of young people and their views at local and national levels. Locally, projects must demonstrate the real participation of young people, particularly disadvantaged young people, in the development, design and future running of the project. Nationally, young people make up half of the committee which makes the myplace investment decisions.	<p>Grants of £1m-£5m</p> <p>This comprises: £60m announced in Aiming High</p> <p>A further £130m of new investment for myplace announced in the Children's Plan.</p> <p>£11.7m redirected from DCSF resources to fund projects at myplace fast track stage</p> <p>£70m of DCSF resources were reprioritised to increase the funding for myplace standard track</p>

Programme / initiative	Funding	Lead department and partners	Timing	Outline	Opportunities available
<p>The Youth of Today is a National Body for Youth Leadership.</p> <p>It is focused on increasing the quality, quantity and diversity of youth leadership opportunities and actively supporting young people that are under-represented in leadership role.</p> <p>http://www.theyouthoftoday.org/</p>	£1m	<p>Department for Children, Schools and Families and Communities (DCSF) and Local Government (CLG). The Youth of Today is a consortium of youth organisations led by the National Youth Agency, supported by the British Youth Council, Changemakers, Citizenship Foundation, Prince's Trust, UK Youth Parliament and the Young Foundation.</p>	<p>Launched in July 2009 – ongoing till March 2011</p>	<p>The Youth of Today is a National Body for Youth Leadership.</p> <p>It is focused on increasing the quality, quantity and diversity of youth leadership opportunities and actively supporting young people from background which are under-represented in leadership roles.</p> <p>Youth of today provides specific opportunities for young people to take on leadership roles and to develop leadership skills .</p>	<p>Youth of Today and opportunities available for young people through its programmes</p>
<p>Young Advisors</p> <p>To find out about success in your local area:</p> <p>http://www.youngadvisors.org.uk/</p>		<p>CLG with Young Advisors Charity</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>There are now over 450 Young Advisors and 43 schemes nationally.</p> <p>Young advisors are a pool of young people aged 15-21 who help public bodies in their policy-making and delivery of services.</p>	<p>For more information about what being a young advisor involves:</p> <p>http://www.youngadvisors.org.uk/</p>

Programme / initiative	Funding	Lead department and partners	Timing	Outline	Opportunities available
<p>Youth volunteering – implementation of Russell Commission recommendations.</p> <p>http://vinspired.com/</p>	£116 million		Ongoing	<p>v was set up to inspire more young people to volunteer, some of its programmes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vinvolved – a network of teams and projects giving access to high quality volunteering opportunities • vcashpoint – provides small grants to young people who want to set up their own volunteering projects • Match fund – encourages the private sector to invest in innovative volunteering projects, by matching their donations pound for pound • vtalent year – full time, structured volunteering placements in public voluntary services • vinspired awards - scheme that allows young people to get recognition for their volunteering 	To find more information and volunteering opportunities for young people go to http://vinspired.com/
<p>Apprenticeships The Prime Minister made a commitment in January 2009 to increase the number of apprenticeships for young people by 35,000 by April 2010</p> <p>http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page22256</p> <p>http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17929</p>		DCSF, BIS DWP CLG, NAS and external partners e.g. LGA, HCA	Ongoing – April 2010	<p>7,500 new apprenticeships in Local Government sector; 2,800 apprenticeships via the HCA; contribute to Govt target of 2,500 apprenticeships in Depts by April 2010 and 20,000 apprenticeships created via govt procurement over the next 3 years.</p> <p>5000 new posts in NHS and social care and 4500 in schools and children’s services</p>	<p>http://www.dwp.gov.uk/newsroom/press-releases/2009/september-2009/dwp030-09-020909.shtml</p> <p>http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/index.cfm?go=site.home&sid=3&pid=370&ctype=TEXT&ptype=Single</p>

Programme / initiative	Funding	Lead department and partners	Timing	Outline	Opportunities available
<p>Future Jobs Fund Part of the Young Persons Guarantee</p> <p>http://campaigns.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/futurejobsfund/</p>	<p>£1.2bn funded through DWP.</p>	<p>DWP with CLG</p>	<p>Ongoing – April 2011</p>	<p>100,000 additional job opportunities for 18–24 between Oct 09 and Apr 2011.</p> <p>95,000 jobs agreed so far – the majority created through local government partnerships. First jobs went live in September.</p>	<p>Providing a guaranteed offer of a job, work-focused training or meaningful activity to all 18-24 year olds before they have reached the 12-month stage of their claim to Jobseekers Allowance.</p>

Opportunities and funding for those working with young people

Programme / initiative	Funding	Lead department and partners	Timing	Outline	Opportunities available
<p>Youth4U – Young Inspectors</p> <p>Aims to help marginalised young people engage their peers in influencing local policies and services.</p>	<p>£4.5m until 2011</p>	<p>DCSF. Delivered by the NCB-led Look Listen and Change Consortium comprised of NCB, BYC, KIDS; Council for Disabled Children; National Centre for Excellence in Residential Childcare.</p> <p>Young Inspectors is managed by ECOTEC through the Youth Sector Development Fund.</p>	<p>Between April 2009 and March 2010, the consortium is identifying up to 36 areas, 4 in each Government Office region, to take part.</p>	<p>Teams of marginalised young people will inspect services and report findings back to local authorities and service providers. A review of change by the young inspectors will be undertaken some months after the inspection.</p> <p>As at the end of September:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 areas had been contracted to the programme, • 230 young people recruited and trained; and • 24 inspections have been carried out (involving 114 young people). <p>The types of services inspected will cover a wide range of issues including locality, health, neighbourhood renewal, transport, and community safety.</p>	<p>for more information about Youth4U – Young Inspectors, go to http://www.ncb.org.uk/projects/youth4u.aspx</p>

Programme / initiative	Funding	Lead department and partners	Timing	Outline	Opportunities available
Youth Sector Development Fund (YSDF)	Up to £100 million available from April 2008 to March 2011	DCSF The fund is delivered through a managing body which is a consortium led by Ecotec, together with Catch 22, Prime Movers & Business to Business.	Ongoing till March 2011.	<p>The Youth Sector Development Fund promotes and support growth and builds capacity within third sector organisations who deliver services and activities for young people in England, particularly the most disadvantaged.</p> <p>Through a mixture of grant funding and business support it enables good third sector youth organisations to sustain and grow their provision, including strategies to diversify their income streams</p>	To find out more on support for third sector organisations: http://ysdf.ecotec.com/
Inspiring Communities This programme aims to mobilise local communities around a positive goal – raising the attainment of young people in deprived communities. It is focused on supporting 11-14 year olds to widen their horizons and fulfil their potential.		CLG With DCSF and Cabinet Office	Funding deadline was June 2009, programme now in delivery phase	<p>The inspiring communities programme aims to support communities to raise the aspirations and educational attainment of young people.</p> <p>Initially based in 15 neighbourhoods, it will fund and support neighbourhood partnerships to deliver a programme of activities working with young people, their parents and communities, to create new opportunities, broaden horizons and build up the self-confidence of local people.</p>	http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/neighbourhoodrenewal/inspiringcommunities/

Programme / initiative	Funding	Lead department and partners	Timing	Outline	Opportunities available
<p>Positive Alternative Activities Work being taken forward through Creativity, Culture and Education (CCE) to deliver a programme to bring about a deeper level of engagement with young Muslims within local communities.</p>		CLG and DCSF		Developed a series of projects as part of their Prevent programme, including a dialogue series, writer's bursaries, media bursaries, CPD sessions, and promoting the use of arts and culture in delivering the Prevent agenda.	£250,000 in 2009/10 (£125,000 in 2008/9)
<p>YMAG The Young Muslims Advisory Group was established to advise and share views with Ministers and senior policy officials from across Government on specific issues relating to young Muslims. http://www.ymag.opm.co.uk/</p>				<p>23 young muslims worked with government to offer advice and share views</p> <p>Delivered a national youth conference called 'Dialogue' in March 2009</p> <p>Established their own projects: a website, fanzine, research piece and civic participation events</p>	To find out more about what the group did go to http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/preventingextremism/ymag/
<p>Youth Focused Community Leadership Fund projects</p>		Various, all funded for 2009/10, some also for 2010/11		The Community Leadership Fund aims to build capacity in organisations delivering Prevent work. A number of organisations are being funded to support their work with young people (note: other CLF projects may also work with young people, but those listed below focus solely or primarily on young people).	

Programme / initiative	Funding	Lead department and partners	Timing	Outline	Opportunities available
<p>REACH A programme developed from five evidence based recommendations to raise the aspirations and attainment of Black boys and young Black men.</p> <p>http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/reachresponse</p>	£1.2m funding over 3 years (2008-2011).	CLG with DCSF and OTS	Ongoing since August 2007	<p>August 2007 – REACH panel made five evidence based recommendations to Government.</p> <p>First ever Black male national role model programme launched December 2008.</p> <p>Update report on progress published in July 2009.</p>	
<p>Youth Community Action programme</p>	<p>£7m over 2 years Spend planned from January 10</p> <p>£11 m over 2 years. Estimated spend by January 10 £1.2m</p> <p>£500k over 2 year</p>	DCSF lead working with OTS	January 2010	<p>5 LA pilots will test the feasibility of achieving high levels of engagement amongst 14/15 year olds undertaking a substantial number of YCA hours to meet the PM's ambition that all YPs will contribute a minimum of 50 hours to their communities between age14-19.</p> <p>Support for all schools: Access to information on YCA via v website, toolkit on YCA; guidance on safeguarding issues; local co-ordinators to promote YCA to LAs, schools and generate new opportunities for 14-15s; national recognition and accreditation where appropriate.</p> <p>Independent evaluation commissioned January 2010 to provide evidence of impact, vfm and sustainability</p>	<p>£7m over 2 years Spend planned from January 10</p> <p>£11 m over 2 years. Estimated spend by January 10 £1.2m</p> <p>£500k over 2 year</p>

Programme / initiative	Funding	Lead department and partners	Timing	Outline	Opportunities available
Citizenship National Continuing Professional Development programme http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/pages/view.asp?page=27026		DCSF	Since 2006	Since 2006 the DCSF has funded 11 higher education institutions to provide CPD courses for teachers of Citizenship. From 2009 the programme is being delivered nationally via 9 regional hubs, available as distance or blended package and comprises 30 taught hours and an additional 6 hours of HEI tutorial support. Upon completion course members either receive a Certificate or can also be awarded Masters level credit where their submitted portfolio of work evidences masters level outcomes. The course is free and aims to train 245 course members per year.	
Building LA capacity to support schools on Citizenship			2009-10	The Association of Citizenship Teachers (ACT) is developing training modules for LA Advisers to use in training and supporting their schools. ACT will train LAs in using these materials on an ongoing basis to support Citizenship curriculum delivery.	
Your Justice Your World http://yjw.teachernet.gov.uk/				A citizenship and personal, social and health education resource for schools in England and Wales	For curriculum plans and guidance go to http://yjw.teachernet.gov.uk/

Programme / initiative	Funding	Lead department and partners	Timing	Outline	Opportunities available
Youth volunteering – strategic partners programme			April 2006	<p>Organisations who receive funding perform the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contribute to policy development work in Government, submitting ideas and debating issues • work collaboratively with government and other strategic partners on the development and implementation of policy initiatives • disseminate information on volunteering and charitable giving within the sector, and demonstrate the value of volunteering with regards to social inclusion and building social cohesion • work on and with particular government priority areas and groups, for example with younger volunteers, and public sector volunteering opportunities 	£3.16 million over the current CSR years

Programme / initiative	Funding	Lead department and partners	Timing	Outline	Opportunities available
Mediabox (Youth Media Fund) www.media-box.co.uk		Managed by a consortium led by First Light Movies and Media Trust in partnership with Skillset and the UK Film Council. Mix Mediabox is run in partnership with CLG to help achieve the Government's vision for cohesive and integrated communities.	Ongoing – Until 2011	Mediabox is a fund that offers disadvantaged 13-19 year olds (up to 25 if they have a disability) the opportunity to create their own media projects. It enables young people to gain new skills, express themselves and get their voices heard. Mediabox offer grants ranging from £500 - £40,000 to organisations and individuals for the creation of youth-led media projects.	£8.25m over 2009-11. The money is distributed through Mediabox in grants to organisations (and individuals under the 'My Mediabox' strand)
Greener Living fund 'Degrees Cooler' http://www.greenerlivingfund.org.uk/		Defra: lead partner - National Union of Students; other partners include - Student Switch Off, Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), People & Planet, Studentforce for Sustainability and the London Sustainability Exchange.	Ongoing – April 2011	Launched in November 2008, the Greener Living Fund aims to help individuals and communities in England to live more sustainably, and reduce their impact on the environment. The Greener Living Fund is developing and supporting projects run by Third Sector organisations. Projects have been funded over 2 years to extend 'tried and tested approaches' to encourage more sustainable behaviour at a regional and/or national level.	The NUS project is being funded with about £500,000 over its 2 years. GLF has over £6 million available between 2008 and 2011 There is also financial support from Higher Education Funding Council For England and Universities UK