

Transforming Youth Work
Resourcing Excellent Youth Services



department for
education and skills

connexions

Section 5

RESOURCING A SUFFICIENT YOUTH SERVICE

Local authority youth service budgets are decided locally. One result of this is the enormously differentiated level of funding across the sector, as described in *Transforming Youth Work*. Local authority youth service budgets have never been decided using an agreed view of sufficiency.

The Government places great importance on the youth service and its contribution to promoting social inclusion and assisting young people at risk. To emphasise this importance, from 2003–04 onwards, the Government is separately identifying a Youth and Community sub-block within the Education Formula Spending. (This is part of the new structure for local government funding being introduced from 2003–04 onwards).

A separate Youth and Community sub-block will make the potential resource available for Youth and Community Services clearer. The establishment of this sub-block, linked to a definition of sufficiency, will allow local authorities to plan for substantial increases in the resource and activity levels of their youth services.

Government Investment

The Government wants local authorities to deliver substantial improvements to their youth services. To support this policy the Youth and Community sub-block provides potential resources of £513 million in 2003–04.

The sub-block will have its own distribution formula. It allocates the resources to local authorities using a formula based on numbers of 13–19 year olds and information representing local needs. The formula allocates a range of values for each local authority, per head of 13–19 population, ranging from £79 to £348. The Government is keen that when local decisions are made about youth service budgets, the resources ensure increased investment in the youth service.

The Government is also providing separate grants to support the development of youth services. It announced £32 million for 2002–04 for the Transforming Youth Work Development Fund (TYWDF), of which £22 million was made available in the first year. £10 million will be available for each of the years 2003–04, 2004–05 and 2005–06.

- In addition to the TYWDF, £7 million is available for 2002–03 to support local authorities to meet their duties under the Special Educational Needs Disability Act 2001. This will increase to £8 million in each of the years 2003–04, 2004–05 and 2005–06.

Annex 2

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Local Education Authorities (LEAs) have a duty, currently set out in section 508 of the Education Act 1996, to secure the provision of youth service facilities in respect of primary and secondary education in their area. Under the same section they have a power to provide youth service facilities for further education.

A wide range of facilities may be provided by the local authority including such things as playing fields, play centres, playgrounds, swimming baths, youth clubs, organised holiday activities and sports facilities.

LEAs also enjoy a power to provide similar facilities under section 15B of the same Act as a part of what they do to provide educational facilities for people aged 19 and over.

The Secretary of State has supervisory powers in respect of the functions conferred upon LEAs by the 1996 Act, including the function of providing the youth service. Similar statutory provisions have existed since 1944.

More recently Parliament conferred upon the Secretary of State a power set out in s.114 of the Learning and Skills Act to arrange for the provision of services which he thinks will encourage, enable or assist (directly or indirectly) effective participation by young persons aged 13–19 in education or training.

In relation to young persons between those ages the Secretary of State can, following consultation, direct a LEA itself to provide particular youth service facilities or to secure that others do so.

The Education Act 2002 extended the previous provisions of the Education Act 1996 regarding the Secretary of State's powers of intervention to secure the proper performance by LEAs of their functions (see Part 4 Powers of Intervention – Section 60). The Secretary of State's power to issue directions, including the power to direct that a function be exercised by an agency other than the LEA, now extends to all LEA functions, including LEA provision of maintained youth services.

The Government believes that the facilities made available through the youth service form an important part of the education system. It believes that local authorities should take the lead in ensuring a sufficient youth service. But where a local authority fails to do so, the Secretary of State will intervene, whether to direct the LEA itself to provide specified facilities, or to direct that the youth service be operated by another body.