

The European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy

Key priorities for youth policies answers on
Country information on youth policies



Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth policy, youth research and youth work.

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UNITED KINGDOM, 2005

1 Statistics on young people

1.1 Total number of young people in global population

13617200 *young persons*

1.2 Percentage of young people in global population

22.9 %

1.3 Percentage of young people by age brackets

13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
3.9 %	3.9 %	3.7 %	3.8 %	3.6 %	4 %

1.4 Percentage of young people by gender

Male	Female
11.6 %	11.3 %

1.4.1 Percentage of young people by gender and by age brackets

	13-15	16-18	19-21	22-24	25-27	28-30
Female	1.9 %	1.9 %	1.8 %	1.9 %	1.8 %	2 %
Male	2 %	2 %	1.9 %	1.9 %	1.8 %	2 %

1.5 Percentage of rural young people in global population

3 %

1.5.1 Percentage of rural young people in rural population

10.6 %

1.6 Percentage of urban young people in global population

9.4 %

1.6.1 Percentage of urban young people in urban population

13.1 %

1.7 Percentage of young people with a different nationality in global population



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N/A %

1.8 Number of people working in the youth field (employees and volunteers) N/A *persons*

2 Actors and structures

2.1 National public authorities

2.1.1 Ministry in charge of youth

Name of ministry

England: Department for Education and Skills Scottish Parliament: Education and Lifelong Learning National Assembly for Wales: Education and Lifelong Learning Northern Ireland Assembly (currently suspended): Education

Name of minister

England: Beverly Hughes Scotland: Peter Peacock Wales: Jane Davidson Northern Ireland: Jane Kennedy

Duration of mandate

max 60 *months*

Number of people working in the ministry working on youth

N/A *persons*

Contact person in the youth department

N/A

Function, role and competence of youth department

Varies between the four nations. DfES coordinates government policy and programmes relating to children and young people (aged 0 to 19) in England. In Scotland, the Scottish Executive's partnership agreement A Partnership for a Better Scotland includes a commitment to developing a national strategy for youth work. Welsh Assembly supports youth work as part of broader youth support programme, 'Extending Entitlement'. Northern Ireland Youth Service is the responsibility of Education and Library Boards.

2.1.2 Other public or semi public bodies

England: National Youth Agency # Tom Wylie, chief executive. Scotland: YouthLink Scotland - Simon Jaquet, chief executive Wales Youth Agency (until end 2005)# John Rose, assistant chief executive Northern Ireland: Youth Council for Northern Ireland - David Guilfoye, chief executive All have advisory role.

2.1.3 Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

None

2.1.4 Other national public authorities



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N/A

2.2 Regional and/or local public authorities

2.2.1 Regional public structures with competencies in the youth field

England: government offices for the (nine) regions take on responsibility for aspects of youth programmes. Regional youth work units are supported by the local authorities in their regions, and at national level by Connect Youth International (the National Agency for European programmes) and The National Youth Agency.

2.2.2 Local public structures with competencies in the youth field

England: first tier local authorities (149) responsible for making leisure and out-of-school provision for young people. Scotland: youth services delivered through 32 local authorities. Northern Ireland - youth services currently delivered through five education and library boards, but proposals for changing local government structure are currently up for consultation (June 2005). Wales: 22 local authorities in Wales, each with responsibility to ensure that there are adequate facilities for youth work.

2.3 Non public actors/structures - compulsory consultation

2.3.1 Names of bodies that must be consulted in the youth field

None

2.4 Non public actors/structures - non-compulsory consultation

2.4.1 Names of bodies that can be consulted in the youth field

Legislation (e.g; Local Government Act,) requires local authorities to consult service users including young people on matters affecting them. Central government committed to consulting young people on policy and services through Learning to Listen initiative.

2.4.2 National and regional youth councils

National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) - Susanne Rauprich, chief executive: susanne@ncvys.org.uk. <http://ncvys.org.uk>. Membership includes national voluntary youth organisations and local councils for voluntary youth services.

2.4.3 Large youth NGOs

National Voluntary Youth Organisation grant scheme (2005-08) funds 86 youth organisations, including British Red Cross, British Youth Council, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Endeavour Training, Girlguiding UK, Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade, National Association of Clubs for Young People, National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, Rathbone, Scout Association, UK Youth, Unicef UK, YMCA and YWCA England and Wales. Most national voluntary organisations are



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members of NCVYS.

2.4.4 Expert groups, round tables, consulting groups in the youth field

All-Parliamentary Group on Youth Affairs; Association of Principal Youth Officers Community and Youth Workers' Union

2.4.5 Contacts of permanent networks in the youth field

Association of Principal Youth and Community Officers (England); Community and Youth Workers' Union, Voluntary Youth Organisations Chief Officers' Group (Scotland), National Council for Voluntary Youth Services' regional networks.

2.4.6 Other non public actors/structures

N/A

3 Legislation

3.1 Constitution (articles that concern youth)

The UK constitution is not set out in any formal document, but is made up of statute law, common law and conventions.

3.2 Application and transposition of the United Nations Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms

Britain ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in 1951. The Human Rights Act 1998, which came into force in 2000, incorporates the convention into UK law.

3.3 Application and transposition of the European Convention on Children's Rights

UN Convention on Children's Rights formally ratified by UK in 1991. Each country has commissioner for children and young people, appointed between April 2001 and February 2005. Those in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland have the general function of safeguarding and promoting the rights and interests of children, England's Commissioner is responsible for promoting awareness of the views and interests of children. UNCRC issued report on UK in 2003, with government response the same year.

3.4 National legislation on youth

Children Act 1989 (England and Wales); Children (Scotland) Act 1995; Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995; Children Act 2004 (Part 1 UK wide, parts 2-5 England and Wales) all aim to protect welfare of children and young people and promote coordination of local services. Much legislation has an impact on young people, particularly that dealing with education, employment and training,



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crime and anti-social behaviour, and health. Some legislation focuses on particular groups of young people, eg those leaving care. Legal basis for youth services: England and Wales: Education Acts 1996/2002; Scotland: Education (Scotland) Act 1980, Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992; Northern Ireland: Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986

3.5 Regional or local legislation on youth

No regional or local legislation, but national legislation may be implemented in different ways in different areas.

3.6 Guidelines

Department for Education and Skills (2001/2): Transforming Youth Work and Resourcing Excellent Youth Work sets out government's expectations for youth work in England. Youth Work Strategy for Northern Ireland (2004): framework for developing the service through partnership. Every Child Matters provides framework for creating coordinated local children and young people's services in England, forming basis of Children Act 2004.

4 Programmes

4.1 European programmes

Youth programme of the European Commission. Specific bilateral programme (Causeway) to promote understanding between the young people of Britain and Ireland. Language courses for youth workers.

4.1.1 National Agency for YOUTH Programme (Contact person)

Connect Youth International - Tel +44 (0)20 7389 4030. Fax +44 (0)20 7389 4033. E-mail: connectyouth.enquiries@britishcouncil.org. <http://www.connectyouthinternational.com/>

4.1.2 Eurodesk

Maureen Rooney, Youthlink: mrooney@youthlink.co.uk

4.1.3 Implementation of the YOUTH Programme

YOUTH programme offers: youth exchange programme; youth encounters (large-scale multi-national projects; European Voluntary Service; Youth Initiatives including Group Initiatives (projects devised, managed and operated by young people aged 15 to 25) and Future Capital for ex- EVS participants; and Support measures for those working in the youth field Connect Youth is supported by a network of twelve committees across the UK who make many of the grant-giving decisions and offer a wide range of advice and support locally.

4.1.4 Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth



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European Social Fund. Education and training programmes such as Socrates and Leonardo.

4.2 National Programmes on youth

New Deal for Youth and Entry to Employment (e2e)- training programmes for unemployed young people. Millennium Volunteers programme (to encourage and recognise part-time volunteering by young people 16-25.

Name of non youth specific programmes but which have a direct impact on young people

Range of initiatives and programmes have impact on young people, e.g. work of the Government's Social Exclusion unit, programmes for regeneration and sustainable communities, lifelong learning and skills strategies, national service framework for health services.

5 Action plans

Main characteristics and action plans in other horizontal policies directly related to youth

Various plans and programmes relating to young people, including the New Deal for Young People, intended to reduce unemployment among young people under 25; Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, intended to reduce conceptions among under-18s and increase the participation of young mothers in education, employment and training; the Youth Justice Board, which oversees programmes intended to reduce youth offending, such as Youth Offending Teams and the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme; and the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services, which establishes standards for promoting the health and well-being of children and young people and providing services that meet their needs.

6 Budget

6.1 Amounts allocated to youth policies/actions in the youth field

800000000 *Euros*

6.2 Main beneficiaries

Local authority youth services; national voluntary youth organisations (31m euros); does not include support for national youth agencies, or some additional government funding supporting youth projects working on specific issues (e.g. community cohesion or heritage).

6.3 Tendencies

Prime minister made commitment to expand youth service in parliament following the Queen's Speech introducing legislation for the coming parliamentary year. Additional funding also pledged for specific aspects of youth policies, e.g youth action and engagement.

7 Changes foreseen in the youth field and new developments especially linked to the four Open Method of Coordination



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priorities.

England: the government published a much-delayed Green Paper (consultative paper) on youth in summer 2005, setting out a range of coordinated policies and provision to address the needs of young people. Local authorities will lead on developing an integrated youth support service providing services ranging from universally available activities to specialist and targeted support. There will be a new statutory duty for local authorities to secure positive activities for all young people, based on a set of national standards. Amendments to the statutory basis are planned to come into force in summer 2006. In Scotland, the Scottish Executive's partnership agreement A Partnership for a Better Scotland includes a commitment to developing a national strategy for youth work. Following a Northern Ireland Review of Public Administration in 2005, it was decided that youth services should remain under the control of the Department for Education, but that the functions of the Youth Council for Northern Ireland will transfer to the education authority. In Wales, the Welsh Assembly plans to cease funding for the Wales Youth Agency at the end of 2005. Support for Extending Entitlement and specific support for youth work will be delivered by a new branch within the Welsh Assembly Government.

8 Forthcoming events/conferences in the youth field, especially linked to the Open Method of Coordination priorities

The Impact of the Youth Services Green Paper on Local Authorities: implementing effective change and a smooth transition into Children's Trust partnerships. 11 July 2005, London. First of three conferences that will follow the development of the government's youth policy, from Green Paper stage to Act

9 Useful links

<http://www.nya.org.uk> <http://www.youthlink.co.uk/>
<http://www.youthcouncil-ni.org.uk/website/index.htm> <http://www.wya.org.uk/>
<http://www.ncvys.org.uk> <http://www.byc.org.uk> <http://www.connectyouthinternational.com/>
<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/>

10 Context of national youth policy (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies)

Youth policy in the UK continues in a state of constant change with the introduction of new policies and structures. Reasons for this include government's desire to ensure that public services are continually modernised to meet changing circumstances, and the growing impact of administrative devolution within the UK. Policy development in England is at an interesting and important stage and the outcome will have consequences across the whole UK, since the population of England constitutes 85% of the UK, and both politicians and administrators in the other UK nations tend to look to England for policy inspiration. The most significant recent policy development in England is



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The Children Act (2004) which sets out new expectations for all services working with children and young people to age 19; new structural and planning arrangements for public authorities; the creation of new, local, interagency bodies to manage services - Children and Young People's Trusts; new inspection arrangements; and an integrated approach to workforce training. Four major themes underpin the current approach to youth policy-making: seeking five outcomes for young people (being healthy; enjoyment and achievement; personal safety; active engagement in communities; and their economic well-being); Integrated services bringing together different welfare and education services; Multi-disciplinary teams of different professionals; and The involvement of young people in making decisions about services that affect them. Since the UK's Labour government came to power in 1997, there has been progress in terms of increased participation and achievement in training and education; reduced youth unemployment; a fall in youth offending and rates of conviction; and a reduction in teenage conceptions. However, the UK continues to have one of the lowest levels of participation in post-16 education in Europe. Such young people face increased risk of a range of exclusionary experiences, including drug use and poor employment and income prospects. A number of trends in young people's health behaviour, including high rates of alcohol use, smoking and sexually transmitted infections also cause concern. A greater focus on the experiences of young people aged 16 to 24, as they move towards independence, is also needed. Young people with complex needs may find themselves falling between adolescent and adult services and losing continuity in treatment as a result. While government has stressed the need to promote horizontal integration of policies through a 'joined up' inter-agency approach across various professional disciplines, it has paid less attention to the benefits of vertical integration to promote continuity of service. More attention is needed to blur the age boundaries of services aimed at vulnerable young adults, especially in health and employment, to encourage overlapping services to work more closely together.



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