

Quick links to sections:

[Sector Watch](#)

[Advice Policy](#)

[Counselling and Mental Health](#)

[Youth Policy and Social Inclusion](#)

[Health](#)

[Recession News in brief](#)

[Campaigns](#)

Sector Watch

This new feature in the Policy Digest will bring you a monthly snapshot of the impact of the post-recession public sector spending squeeze on YIACS. News from you on your own experiences is vital to us in piecing together a clear picture and coming up with an effective response. Please email Steve Lee on steve@youthaccess.org.uk or telephone 020-8772 9900 if you have any information, good news, bad news, worries or concerns about how your agency is facing up to these difficult times.

Under Strain – forthcoming Youth Access campaign

In the coming weeks Youth Access will publish a briefing, *Under Strain*, which paints a worrying picture of YIACS dealing with increasing numbers of young people who are presenting with more complex problems, against a background of reducing budgets, strained capacity and real worries about the future.

The briefing will form the basis of a campaign which aims to ensure that YIACS are not seen as easy and convenient targets for cuts by statutory funders and to highlight the unique value of your work to young people.

Watch this space for further news, information of how you can get involved and how we can support you to campaign locally.

YiS loses advice service

As flagged up in our Member's eBulletin, Youth Access was dismayed by the news Youth Information Service in Milton Keynes is being broken up by the local council, with its advice function being hived off to Connexions and only a residual counselling service will keep the YiS name.

Policy news in brief

- **Funding squeeze 'double whammy'**- ADCS tells All Party Parliamentary Group on Children that the effect of the Baby Peter case and shrinking budgets are putting Children's Services under increasing pressure. Read the CYPN report.

- **Collaborate and up your technical skills** – CLG Minister John Denham urges local authorities to commission services from the voluntary sector and tells charities what they have to do to win Council contracts. Read the Third Sector Online story and the CLG news release.
- **Competition making voluntary sector 'harsher'** - Competition with the private sector for public contracts has produced a "harsher managerial approach" and "less concern for staff" in the voluntary sector according to UNISON. [Read the Third Sector Online story.](#)
- **PM told to open access to NHS contracts** - Acevo has written to Gordon Brown urging him to revise the Government's policy of making the NHS the preferred provider of health services. [Read the Third Sector Online story.](#)
- **Youth workers challenge government policy** - More than a hundred youth workers gathered to challenge government policies they feel are undermining the principles of youth work. A national conference organised by the *In Defence of Youth Work* campaign attracted a 140-strong crowd, mainly made up of youth workers. [Read the CYPN story.](#)
- **Workforce morale collapsing** - A CYP Now survey has revealed that staff in the children and young people's sector fear for their jobs in the wake of the recession, with many expressing further concerns about the future for the services they provide. [Read the story.](#)
- **Unite organises day of lobbying on voluntary sector's 'short-term contract culture'** – Third Sector Minister Angela Smith hears from union members on the debilitating effects of short-termism and states she does not see the sector as a way of providing public services 'on the cheap'. [Read the Third Sector Online story.](#)
- **Unison calls on government to properly fund Connexions** – [Read the CYPN story.](#)
- **Cutting youth services is 'madness', says minister** – Iain Wright tells sector he is considering putting services on a statutory footing. [Read the CYPN story.](#)
- **Lib Dem's think along same lines** – [Read the CYPN story.](#)
- **Lib Dem's commit to advice and support** – The Liberal Democrat policy conference adopts commitment to provide advice and support on legal rights, sexual health and drug and alcohol use. [Read more on the Lib Dem website.](#)
- **Unison bids to stave off youth cuts and Tory outsource plans** – The union's conference in June will hear calls for youth services to be statutory and to fight outsourcing to the voluntary sector. [Read the CYPN story.](#)
- **Minister rebukes councils for neglecting voluntary sector** - Children's minister Baroness Delyth Morgan has accused local authorities of funding children's services charities on a "hand-to-mouth basis". [Read the CYPN story.](#)
- **Shadow Minister sees voluntary sector share of funding as continuing to expand** – [Read the Third Sector Online story.](#)

- **Call for refuge network for young runaways** - Railway Children, the street children's charity, calls for long-term investment in a network of refuges for young runaways to insure against cuts. [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **Tories outline children's centre co-operative plans** - The Conservatives have proposed a co-operative model for children's centres where providers receive funding based on outcomes achieved for children. The model would allow public sector staff, voluntary groups and parents to run children's centres. The centres would receive government funding and would therefore be free from local authority control. [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **Ofsted NEET report highlights effectiveness of YIAC type interventions on reducing NEETS** – (see Youth Policy and Social Inclusion below).

Cuts News round up

- **Norfolk County Council cuts £1m from voluntary sector children's budget** – [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **Birmingham takes axe to voluntary youth sector budget** – [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **Youth and community worker strike against cuts in Coventry** – [Read the CYPN story](#)
- **Kent County Council cuts** – [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **Young people's rehab centre forced to close** – [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **YOT's face budget cuts** – [Read the CYPN story](#).

Survival Resources

- **The little blue book: NPC's guide to analysing charities, for charities and funders** - The guide contains examples of how charities and funders benefit from analysis, and explains New Philanthropy Capital's charity analysis framework, which looks at how charities can assess their effectiveness in six areas: activities; results; leadership; people and resources; finances; and ambition. [Download the guide](#).

Advice Policy

JustRights update

Youth Access has, along with our JustRights partners, been working to have the issue of young people's access to legal services appear on the political agenda for the forthcoming election. We have had some success in this:

- Liberal Democrat youth policy now includes a commitment to support advice on legal rights for young people (see above). [Read the full Lib Dem policy document](#), where the commitment appears on page 8/19.

End of the line for Legal Services Commission

The Government has announced the abolition of the Legal Services Commission which administers legal aid and monitors quality in the legal sector. Some of its functions will be transferred to a new executive agency and some may be taken back into the Ministry of Justice. [Read the Guardian Online report.](#)

Money and debt issues

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Alistair Darling has launched a new free money advice service to be rolled out around the country.

The Moneymadeclear service includes a helpline, website and face-to-face advice services, delivered through a range of partners such as Citizens Advice Bureaux and Age Concern. The cost of the service will be funded by a levy on the financial sector and funds recovered from dormant bank accounts, with Government meeting part of the cost in the first year. [Visit the Moneymadeclear website.](#)

Research commissioned by Callcredit Information Group has revealed that young people aged 18 – 24 appear to be maximising available credit by taking out multiple current accounts with available overdraft facilities across multiple providers. Almost one in ten adults aged 18 – 24 years admits running three or more current accounts with overdraft facilities and 27% of 18 – 24 year olds who have more than one account admit to using more than three different current account providers. [Read the Callcredit news release.](#)

More than a third of young people are being forced to borrow money from their parents just to meet their daily living costs, research has shown. [Read the PA story.](#)

Counselling and Mental Health

New Youth Access Policy Briefing:

Keeping Children and Young People in Mind/Fair Society, Healthy Lives: The Marmot Review

Youth Access summarises the Government's response to 'Keeping Children and Young People in Mind' the CAMHS review. The review found that whilst some CAMHS services had made progress in recent years, more could be done to improve their consistency, accessibility and suitability. The review made 20 recommendations and a National Advisory Council was set up to hold the government to account on their delivery.

In addition, we summarise the key aspects of the Marmot Review. In November 2008, Professor Sir Michael Marmot was asked by the Secretary of State for Health to chair an independent review to propose the most effective evidence-based strategies for reducing health inequalities in England from 2010. The strategy includes policies and interventions that tackle health inequalities and outlines action to be taken in 6 areas. [Download the briefing from the website.](#)

IAPT

A new report *Realising the Benefits* shows that, under the three-year £173m Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme, the NHS will have succeeded in establishing 112 IAPT services by this spring. [Read the article from Community Care](#) and [download the report.](#)

NAPT audit

The National Audit of Psychological Therapies (NAPT) has now completed its pilot phase and is now recruiting for the full audit, which will take place in May 2010. Youth Access is awaiting confirmation on our members' involvement in the audit. However, if you are part of an NHS-funded psychological therapy service and would like to sign up individually to be part of this initiative, [you can do so online](#).

Agencies can apply for services listing

NHS Choices is a comprehensive healthcare information service intended to help individuals make health and lifestyle choices. NHS Choices is currently reviewing the Mental Health category to support formation of an 'Emotional Support' directory. The aim will be to allow users to find services providing short and medium-term interventions for emotional health.

They are currently collecting data from health funded organisations for the directory and Youth Access has requested our members' inclusion on the list. You can request a listing for your agency by emailing nhschoices@starthere.org. [Read more online about NHS Choices](#).

ESRC Seminar Series

The University of Leicester will be hosting a series of seminars on supervision, organised by the SuPRENet supervision research network. The aim is to bring together national and international supervision researchers to think about and discuss the future of supervision research, to work on methodological innovations and to create collaborative partnerships. Established or aspiring researchers in the field of supervision are welcome to attend. 50 places have been allocated for each seminar and priority will be given to active researchers. [Read more information on the seminar series](#).

New duty of appropriate hospital environments imminent

From 1 April 2010 legislation places a duty on hospital managers to ensure that under 18s are treated in an environment in hospital which is suitable having regard to their age (subject to their needs). This is additional to the existing Government commitment that under 16s will not be treated on adult psychiatric wards. [Read the DH circular to CE's of NHS bodies](#).

Mental health provision disadvantages young people in care

Access to CAMHS is inconsistent for young people in care, with provisions varying from good to none at all, according to a report from Ofsted. *An evaluation of the provision of mental health services for looked after young people over the age of 16 accommodated in residential settings* looks at mental health provision in 27 children's homes in eight local authorities across England. The report highlights the barriers for young people in accessing mental health provision as well as highlighting good practice. [Read the Ofsted news release](#).

NICE consultation

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has launched a consultation on guidance for improving the physical and emotional health and wellbeing of looked-after children and young people. The deadline for responses is 14 April 2010. [Read the draft guidance](#).

BYC calls for comprehensive mental health services for young people

The British Youth Council has published its Manifesto, which includes a call for investment in accessible, age-appropriate and youth-friendly care and support for 16-25 year-olds with mental health problems. [Read more on the BYC website.](#)

CAMHS bed statistics

The amount of time children and young people with mental health problems spend in hospital has hit a five-year high, new figures reveal. Latest statistics reveal that under-18s spent a total of 84,501 days on mental health wards in the first half of 2009/10, which covers the period April to September. [Read the CYPN article.](#)

Violence in relationships

The Home Office has launched a campaign to challenging young people's attitudes to violence and abuse in relationships. The campaign will use the media to target young people aged 13 to 18, highlighting the signs and consequences of abuse. The campaign is part of the government strategy to reduce violence against women and girls. It follows recent research by the NSPCC that suggested a quarter of girls aged 13 to 17 had experienced physical violence from a boyfriend and a third had been pressured into sexual acts they did not want to do. [Read the Home Office news release.](#)

Young people self-harming with sharp objects up 50%

The number of young people admitted to hospital after cutting themselves deliberately is up by more than 50% in five years, according to new figures. There were 2,727 admissions in the UK for self-harm with a sharp object among under-25s in 2008/09, compared with 1,758 in 2004/05. The research by Oxford and Stirling Universities for the Royal College of Psychiatrists also suggests a link between self harming and some online content. [Read the BBC Newsbeat feature.](#)

Children of Alcoholics Week

February saw the second Children of Alcoholics Week, which gained coverage in Guardian Online. [Read the Guardian Online feature.](#)

Youth Policy and Social Inclusion

Ofsted confirms YIAC services are effective in reducing NEET numbers

Ofsted has published a report based on a survey of 12 local authority areas setting out the key factors that have contributed to reducing the proportion of 16- to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training. *Reducing the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training: what works and why* makes a number of fascinating findings, including:

- Collaborative, integrated and holistic approaches work particularly well and improve access. This approach meets even complex needs effectively.
- Issues such as housing needs or substance misuse are real obstacles to participation and require a strategic approach.
- Practical support around health and social needs is essential to enable the most vulnerable to re-engage.
- Voluntary sector organisations are particularly good at providing a flexible approach and are most accessible to young people.

- The quality of the relationship between young person and adviser or key worker is crucial to success.

[Download the report from the Ofsted website.](#)

Youth Access, CHYPS and NCN unite in response to the government's IAG strategy

Youth Access has launched a joint response to the Government's IAG strategy with the Confederation of Heads of Young People's Services and the National Connexions Network. While broadly welcoming the strategy, we are agreed that its emphasis on improving the quality of careers IAG should not lose sight of young people's wider needs and are urging that any drive towards improvement can only be assured if the strategy is delivered within a wider and holistic model of personal support. [Read more on our website](#)

New Guidance on Adolescent Neglect

DCSF has published guidance on support for young people at risk of neglect. *Neglect Matters* cites Youth Access as a national organisation whose members work with young people at risk and both counselling and rights based approaches are recognised as effective interventions. [Download the Guidance.](#)

Common Assessment Framework

DCSF has published guidance on a national quality framework that can be implemented locally to monitor and improve the quality of the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process. [Download the guidance.](#)

Also from DCSF, a report that clarifies the relationship between the CAF and the Family Pathfinders and Think Family programmes. [Download the report.](#)

Safeguarding

DCSF has published a *Vetting and barring myth buster* to give clarification on the Vetting and Barring Scheme. [Read the news release.](#)

Violence Against Women and Girls

Girls affected by youth violence are being ignored by support services, according to a report by Race on the Agenda (Rota). *The Female Voice in Violence Project* found females involved in gang violence were highly vulnerable to rape and sexual exploitation. The lack of a gender-specific system in place for girls who are convicted also means females are being processed in male environments that are unable to cater for their needs. [Read the CYPN article](#) and the [Today feature on BBC online.](#)

Set against this DCSF has published its response to the recommendations of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Advisory Group. The recommendations, accepted in full by the Government include:

- teachers to be given clear advice on how to deal with suspected cases of violence against women and girls in their schools and referring young girls at risk to support services
- all schools to receive guidance to help prevent and respond to violence against women and girls
- all young people to be taught about gender equality and VAWG in PSHE as part of the national curriculum

- all parents and carers to have access to support and advice to help them discuss violence against women and girls with their children, and to signpost parents of girls experiencing violence to further advice and support.

[Download the VAWG Advisory Group recommendations](#) and [the DCSF response](#).

As part of the VAWG strategy the Home Office has published an independent review into how sexualised images and messages may be affecting the development of children and young people and influencing cultural norms. It also examines the evidence for a link between sexualisation and violence. [Read the Home Office media release](#).

Personalisation agenda – Cabinet Office Advisor reports

The final report from the Rt. Hon. Anne McGuire MP, the Cabinet Office Advisor on Third Sector Innovation, has been published. The report recommends ways to personalise health and social care, and services to reduce re-offending.

Recommendations in her final report relate to the role of the Third Sector in supporting individuals to make genuine choices, providing interventions at the earliest stages, preventative services, service user engagement and ensuring diversity of provision. Anne McGuire highlights the value of holistic, targeted services including advocacy and advice. [Download the report](#).

Young runaways

The Children's Society has launched an online education tool for schools to help prevent young people in the UK from running away. Developed in collaboration with the DCSF, the Young Runaways Education Resource aims to help teachers and youth workers to warn young people about the dangers of running away and looks at the support networks available to those young people at risk. [Visit the web pages](#).

DCSF has published local authority self-evaluation data on available measures to monitor and respond to cases of Children Missing from Home or Care. Councils were asked to rate themselves on five key criteria: how information on runaways is gathered; local needs analysis; procedures to meet the needs of runaways; protocols for responding to urgent referrals from police or other agencies; and effective needs assessment protocols to support prevention and intervention work. [Download the data](#).

Cost of youth imprisonment

Punishing Costs from the new economics foundation (nef) claims that a more localised approach to youth justice could save £60m. The report finds that sending a child to prison now costs the state £140,000 in prison costs and indirect costs upon release and that councils could reduce the use of youth custody by 13% without changing policy or legislation. [Download the report](#).

Family Policy

NCVYS has published a briefing paper summarising and comparing three papers concerning the family. The papers are: the Department for Children, Schools and Families' (DCSF) Green Paper *Support for All: the Families and Relationships Green Paper*, the Conservative Party's Draft Manifesto *Making Britain more family-friendly*, and the Centre for Social Justice paper *Green Paper on the Family*. [Download the paper](#).

Spotting those vulnerable to gang involvement

DCSF has published guidance for youth professionals to help them spot signs of gang

activity. The guidance, 'Safeguarding children and young people who may be affected by gang activity' will help all professionals working with children and young people by highlighting signs to look out for such as anti-social and aggressive behaviour, permanent exclusions and substance misuse. [Download the Guidance.](#)

Citizenship

A new youth citizenship section has been launched on Directgov. Youth Citizenship offers all the information young people need to get involved with their local community, become more active citizens and take part in politics on a local and national level. [Visit the Directgov pages.](#)

Partnership working

The Office of the Third Sector (OTS) has published case studies of effective partnership working between Third Sector organisations and statutory partners through the Supporting People programme. OTS and the Social Exclusion Task Force have examined four examples of effective partnership working to see what worked best, what has been learned so far, and where the opportunities are now. [Read the OTS news item.](#)

Scottish News: Children's Summit planned for June / Family Nurse Partnership pilot

A Children's Summit designed to improve services for Scotland's children, including the most vulnerable is to be hosted by the Scottish Government in June. Staff working in the NHS, social work and child protection, education, police, voluntary sector, will be among those invited to the event, as well as Scotland's Children's Commissioner and a range of other experts on children's issues. Ministers will also meet groups of young people in the months prior to the event to hear their views and concerns so that these can be reflected in the summit's discussions. [Read the media release.](#)

The Scottish Government is also piloting a Family Nurse Partnership programme in the NHS Lothian area, where it is supporting first-time parents or single mums under the age of 19. The six family nurses will visit expectant mums every one or two weeks during pregnancy and throughout the first two years of their baby's life, offering guidance on child development, preventative health measures, parenting skills, breastfeeding, better diet information and advice for mothers on education and employment. [Read the media release.](#)

Health

Smoking, drinking and drug use

The NHS Information Centre has published the latest annual *Smoking, Drinking and Drugs Survey (2006-2008)*. The statistics show an overall decline in the number of young people smoking, drinking alcohol and taking drugs. It found that the percentage of young people who smoke and drink varies by region - young people in the north of the country drink and smoke more than those in the south. [Download the report.](#)

DCSF has published research into the attitudes and use of alcohol among parents and young people. [Download the report.](#)

Drug and alcohol treatment

Drugscope has published *Young People's Drug and Alcohol Treatment at the Crossroads*, a report which suggests that the drug and alcohol treatment system needed to be more flexible in order to effectively meet the needs of older teenagers and young adults developing substance misuse problems. [Download the report.](#)

Child cocaine treatment up 65%

The number of under-18s receiving treatment for cocaine addiction in England has increased by more than 65%, a study, conducted for the NHS by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse has revealed. The number of 18- to 24-year-olds receiving treatment has doubled since 2005. After six months of treatment with cognitive behavioural therapy, four in 10 people were no longer addicted, but nearly a quarter had dropped out of treatment. [Read the Guardian Online story](#) and [download the NTA report.](#)

Teenage pregnancy

The Office for National Statistics has published 2008 conception figures, which show that teenage pregnancies have fallen to their lowest rate in over 20 years. But the statistics also confirm that the government has missed its target, made in 1999, to halve teenage pregnancy rates by 2010. [Download the statistic from ONS.](#)

The statistics coincide with DCSF's publication of *Teenage Pregnancy Strategy: Beyond 2010*, a report setting out what has been achieved under its strategy for reducing teenage pregnancies thus far, and what it proposes to do after 2010 when the existing phase of the strategy ends. [Download the strategy from the Every Child Matters web pages.](#)

DCSF is now consulting on the proposals with a closing date of 20 May 2010. [Respond to the consultation online.](#)

In timely fashion the London School of Economics has published *Teenage Parenthood: What's the problem?* which, fascinatingly, challenges the assumption that young parenthood ruins young people's lives and contributes to social and moral breakdown. It aims to show that parenthood is not necessarily a catastrophe for young people and indeed can sometimes be an opportunity, and considers why government policy often seems to ignore this evidence. [Read The Guardian online report.](#)

Barnado's however do not agree. Their new report argues that teenage mothers face a raft of barriers preventing them from getting back into education. *Not the End of the Story* finds that many young mothers felt they had been unofficially excluded from school leading to abandoned career aspirations and resigning themselves to a low-income lifestyle. [Read the CYPN report.](#)

Liverpool PCT to set up sexual health clinics in secondary schools

Sexual health clinics are to be set up in secondary schools in Liverpool as part of an expansion of school-based health services across Merseyside. Liverpool PCT has confirmed that talks are to take place with schools in the city to set up sexual health clinics on site and that involvement will be on a voluntary basis. [Read the CYPN story](#)

Recession News in brief

Unemployment figures down for the moment

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has released the latest unemployment figures. The number of 16 to 24-year-olds out of work fell over the three-month period between October and December, down from 936,000 to 923,000. There are 190,000 young Britons who have been without employment for more than a year. [Read the DWP media release](#) and [download the statistics](#).

Latest NEET Statistics

The latest data shows that the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET has fallen by 1.2 percentage points to 9.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2009 as compared to the fourth quarter of 2008. [Download the statistics](#).

Young people fear impact of recession on career prospects

Two-thirds of young people believe the recession will have a long-term impact on their employability, the latest Youth Commission report reveals. The survey also revealed that 41 per cent of those polled agreed with the statement 'careers advice for young people is not working'. [Read the Guardian Online report](#).

Lost talent – new report

Thousands of future nurses, teachers and plumbers could be lost if Britain fails to help unemployed young people into work according to the Princes Trust. *Undiscovered: Britain's lost talent?* suggests that the country could miss out on 19,500 doctors and nurses, 62,000 teachers and 1,500 plumbers, if young people are unable to fulfill their career aspirations. [Read the Princes Trust news item](#).

Young people on ‘pointless job schemes’

The Times education correspondent, Nicola Woolcock, claims that hundreds of thousands of teenagers are being left on short courses that massage government figures on youth education and employment. [Read her feature.](#)

Campaigns

Young Equals

Youth Access is a member of Young Equals, a campaign to get protection from age discrimination for children and young people. The campaign has published new evidence of the unfair treatment that children and young people experience on the grounds of age. [Read the evidence.](#)

The Children’s Rights Alliance for England (CRAE) has released the results of an ICM poll showing discrimination against the young is widespread in England. The poll shows that half (49%) of 7 to 17 year-olds have experienced unfair treatment because of their age. [Read the CRAE media release.](#)

Campaign for young voters

A campaign has been launched to encourage first-time voters to participate in the next general election. The Scout Association, Oxfam and the Hansard Society campaign aims to encourage first-time voters to visit a specially launched website called *Active Citizens: Virgin Voters* offering advice on voting and campaigning. [Visit the Active Citizens website.](#)