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## Sector Watch

This feature in the Policy Digest brings 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](mailto: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'

Youth Access has continued working on the *Under Strain* campaign to protect YIACS from spending cuts and will soon unveil a new webpage and resources along with a positive slant for phase 2 of the campaign.

### Letter to ADCS

In view of the Government's call to Directors of Children's Services for cost saving ideas, Youth Access Director, Barbara Rayment, wrote to the President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services to set out the robust and substantial evidence base for the effectiveness of the YIACS model and the interventions you provide in terms of proven positive outcomes for young people.

Our letter comes against the further background of plans by Dudley Borough Council to cut the funding for drop-in and advice services to Youth Access member, The What? Centre from Stourbridge. A vigorous local campaign seems to have persuaded the council to look again at its decision and there is some hope now of a funding reprieve.

ADCS President Marion Davis said the document was 'very useful' and has agreed to distribute our letter and evidence to every DCS and senior manager in children's services via their email bulletin.

[Visit the website to read more about our letter and The What? Centre campaign, where you can download the letter and evidence appendix and sign The What? Centre online petition.](#)

Barbara Rayment also had the lead letter published in last week's print version of Children & Young People Now on the same subject.

## Call to Action

We will soon be asking you to take local action to help promote the campaign to your local authority, which is now even more crucial than ever since the coalition government came to power.

We will also email you to ask for information around your outcomes recording, evidence of your effectiveness and the unit costs of your work so that we can build the case for YIACS not only to survive but to be sustained and developed at the heart of youth policy.

## Coalition Government

Here is a summary of developments in the last month:

- **National Citizenship Service launched:** David Cameron has outlined details of the NCS, aimed at getting 16-year-olds to work in the community. The Government plans to run a pilot for around 10,000 young people from June to September 2011, and will begin a competitive tendering exercise for organisations to deliver these pilots in early August. A specification document will be published on 2 August, inviting potential providers to submit bids. [Read the Telegraph article](#); [the official media release](#) and [the CYPN story](#). You can also [read the media release the Cabinet Office site](#). The Government is looking to the youth sector to help deliver the programmes. [Read more in this CYPN story](#).
- **Minister calls for overhaul of youth services:** Children's Minister Tim Loughton has called for a rethink of how youth services are delivered, with a bigger role for voluntary sector organisations and private sector. [Read the CYPN story](#) and [contribute to their discussion thread](#). CHYPS and NCVYS have welcomed Tim Loughton's call. [Read this piece from CYPN](#).
- **Minister says youth spending must be smarter:** Tim Loughton has argued that as well as value for money, government must also consider the outcomes of its expenditure to get 'more bang for our buck'. [Read the text of the Minister's speech](#).
- **DfE calls on DCS's to join 'spending challenge':** The Department for Education has confirmed that it has sent copies of a letter from Prime Minister David Cameron and Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg to directors of children's services to ask for cost saving ideas. [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **New ministerial arrangement for careers advice:** John Hayes MP has been appointed Minister of State at DfE in addition to his current role at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). At DfE he will be responsible for apprenticeships (16-18) and careers advice. [Read the DfE media release](#).
- **Youth sector commissioning programme scrapped:** The government has announced it is to scrap plans for a new commissioning framework for youth sector programmes. [Read the report in CYPN](#).

- **Health sector reforms could benefit VCS:** The revolution in the NHS (see Health Policy below) will create opportunities for VCS providers, according to Health Secretary Andrew Lansley. [Read the report in Third Sector online.](#)
- **Acevo attacks BMA advice that NHS should be 'preferred provider':** Acevo has criticised a letter to all GPs from the chief executive of the British Medical Association telling them that the NHS should be their preferred provider of services. [Read the Third Sector Online story.](#)
- **Cameron launches the 'Big Society':** Four 'vanguard' areas of Liverpool, Eden Valley, Sutton and Windsor & Maidenhead will get organisers and civil service support for community and volunteering schemes. [Read the Third Sector online article.](#)
- **Big Society Bank has limited initial capital:** The Big Society Bank is likely to have assets of between £60m and £100m by its planned opening date next April, according to the government's advisers on the project. [Read the Third Sector online story.](#)
- **Big Society Committee set up:** Ministers with a remit which affect the VCS will come together in a committee under the aegis of the Office of Civil Society, which will be chaired by Cabinet Office Minister Francis Maude. [Read the official media release.](#)
- **Maude puts colleagues 'on red alert' for VCS cuts:** Francis Maude has written to ministerial colleagues asking them to "raise the alert button" on local authority cuts to the voluntary sector. Speaking at the Big Society launch in Liverpool, Maude admitted that during a time of austerity, local authorities could target charities and community groups. [Read the story in Civil Society Finance.](#)
- **Capital spending cuts hit youth projects:** Youth Capital Fund halved amongst other cuts. [Read the CYPN article.](#)
- **Charities and VCS to deliver much of justice strategy:** The government will introduce a payment-by-results system to reduce reoffending as part of reforms to the prison system announced by justice secretary Ken Clarke in which it is hoped to make "better use of the voluntary sector's expertise to help us get offenders away from crime". [Read the Third Sector online story.](#)
- **Nick Hurd says Government is committed to the Compact:** [Read the story in Third sector online.](#)
- **Big Lottery Fund share of good cause money will be reduced to 40 per cent in September:** [read the Third Sector online article](#)
- **..but the amount for grants will rise by 20% after the Olympics:** [Read this also from Third sector Online.](#)
- **Investment funds put on hold:** Communitybuilders and the Social Enterprise Investment Fund, the grant and loan funds for developing social enterprise, will not pay out any more money until further notice while a government review is carried out. [Read more in this Third Sector online story.](#)

### **Other policy news in brief:**

- **Cuts will 'decimate' Connexions:** A CYPN survey of Connexions services reveals more than one in 10 face budget cuts of up to 50 per cent, with one in seven stating they are suffering reductions of £2m or more. [Read the CYPN story](#) and [their News Insight feature.](#)
- **Slough asks VCS to find 4%:** Slough Council has proposed a £120,000 cut on Positive Activities. It has asked the voluntary sector organisations it funds to identify areas where they can make savings and wants them to make 4 per cent savings by the end of the financial year. [Read the BBC online story.](#)

- **35% cuts for Lambeth:** Lambeth Council has confirmed it plans to cut up to 35 per cent of the funding for voluntary organisations supporting young people will be cut from January. The annual budget for children and young people's services will be cut by £10m in this financial year. [Read more in Third Sector online.](#)
- **Brighton to cut youth advice:** Forty jobs are to be axed and services to young people cut across by Brighton and Hove City Council. Youth advice services, extra support to schools, road safety measures and free swimming for young people are among the projects affected. [Read the BBC online piece.](#)
- **Norfolk cuts £10m from youth sector funding:** The loss of £4m in area based grants used to support services to children has led to massive cuts including Connexions which is losing £1.4m, or half of its funding, and 65 jobs losses as part of a switch to a mainly online and telephone based advice service. Services in Norwich are set to bear the brunt of the cuts. [Read the local media story.](#)
- **Swindon reduces this year's budget for young people by £1.2 million:** [Read the local media story.](#)
- **Telford & Wrekin cut £2m:** Telford & Wrekin Council is planning to cut almost £2 million from budgets for children and young people, which look like to hit programmes designed to slash teenage pregnancy rates as well as those for out-of-school youth activity. [Read the story from the local media.](#)
- **£13m to go from Birmingham:** Birmingham Council is making £13m worth of cuts of within children's services, with almost 1,500 job posts set to disappear. [Read the story in Community Care.](#)
- **Westminster cuts £0.9m from youth budget:** [Read about this from CYPN.](#)
- **60 redundancies in Blackpool:** Blackpool Council has issued redundancy notices to more than one-third of its youth service team. [Read the CYPN story.](#)
- **Croydon cuts VCS funding by two thirds:** [Read the Third Sector online story,](#) though they are planning a 'transition fund' to ease the blow for some [according to this story,](#) also from Third Sector.
- **Coventry Youth Area under threat:** Plans for a youth area in Coventry city centre to help tackle anti-social behaviour could be scrapped after Coventry City Council were told by the government that the project's £60,000 youth opportunity fund grant is under review. [Read the story in CYPN.](#)
- **London Councils set to close the London Boroughs Grants Scheme:** London Councils are considering closing their £26m grants scheme and take the money back to individual councils, where it may or may not be spent on the voluntary sector. [Read the Third Sector online story.](#)
- **£3m slashed from charities' funding in the past month:** [Read the story from Third Sector online.](#) No wonder then that the VCS is gloomier than ever about the future. [Read more in this Third Sector online story](#) and [at BBC online.](#)
- **NCB feels the cuts:** [Read the CYPN story.](#)
- **Acevo launches Cuts Watch website:** *Cuts Watch* provides information about cuts and sets out action that voluntary sector leaders can take as funders' budgets are reduced. The website also has information on how organisations can negotiate with funders, challenge poor funding decisions and demonstrate their impact. [Visit the Cuts Watch website.](#)
- **Challenging cuts:** The Empowering the Voluntary Sector (EVS) project, run by NAVCA, Compact Advocacy, based at NCVO, and the Public Law Project, has produced a special edition of its newsletter to provide information about challenging cuts. The newsletter gives information about the processes and remedies, such as Compact, public law and equalities duties, that voluntary organisations and community groups can use when challenging cuts. [Download the newsletter.](#)

- **CYPN youth services campaign:** CYPN has launched a campaign to highlight the importance of providing services for young people. The For Youth's Sake campaign will champion the role young people's services play and encourage decision-makers and communities to support youth projects. [Read the article](#) and [visit the campaign page](#).
- **Blunkett blasts cuts to youth services:** [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **NCVYS to lobby for dormant bank account commitment:** The advent of the Big Society Bank has ended the commitment to earmark dormant funds for youth projects. [Read the story in CYPN](#).
- **Unison launches campaign against Connexions cuts:** [Read the piece in CYPN](#).
- **NCVO Spending Review briefing:** NCVO has published a briefing setting out the Government's framework for the 2010 Spending Review and opportunities to contribute to the consultation. [Download the briefing](#).
- **VCS can't deliver public services without access to finance:** The government will have to ensure that third sector organisations have better access to finance if it wants them to play a bigger role in welfare services, according to chief executives body Acevo. [Read the Third Sector online article](#).
- **.. a message echoed by CHYPS:** The Confederation of Heads of Young People's Services also feels that the VCS needs more investment before it can help local authorities deliver youth services. [Read the story in CYPN](#).
- **.. and NCVO:** The NCVO funding commission has made a series of recommendations, including encouraging a doubling of the third sector's reserves, on giving "civil society organisations better access to capital to help them build their capacity; develop new products and services; or cope with unexpected events" in a consultation paper, *Capitalisation and Social Investment*. [Read the Third Sector Online piece](#) and [visit the Funding Commission webpage to download the report](#).
- **..and IPPR North say the same of Social Enterprises:** [Read the report in Third Sector Online](#).
- **Sector leaders warning on payment by results:** Government plans to introduce payment-by-results for providers of children and young people's services could jeopardise early intervention work and drive small charities out of business, sector leaders have warned. [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **Mystified by the Big Society?:** This interview with 'Mr Big Society' Nat Wei may offer some insight, or not as the case may be. [Read the interview in Guardian online](#).
- **NCVO Big Society Briefing:** [Visit the NCVO Big Society webpage](#).
- **10 Questions about the Big Society:** [Download briefing from NEF](#).
- **Young people unclear about Big Society:** New research, commissioned by Catch22, has found that almost three quarters (71%) of young people between 16 and 25 do not know that the 'Big Society' is a Government initiative. [Read the Catch 22 media release](#).
- **Tory backbencher calls on charities to buck up their lobbying:** 'Forget template letters and emails, invite me to your events' says MP. [Read the Third Sector online story](#).
- **Warning on all-age careers service:** [Read this comment piece from Guardian online](#).
- **Aynsley-Green criticises coalition's move to rename children's department:** [read the CYPN story](#).
- **Alun Michael to chair Voluntary Sector APPG:** [read the Third Sector online story](#).
- **Leadership in hard times:** CIPFA has published a guide for public sector managers on how to lead in times of cuts and straitened budgets. To gain some insight into

how the public sector managers that you are dealing with might be thinking, [download the guide from the Improvement Network](#).

- **SROI not realistic for most charities:** A report from Demos argues that most charities and social enterprises do not have the data or the expertise to measure their outcomes in the depth required for social return on investment analysis SROI, which attempts to measure social impact in financial terms. Demos argues that the sector should instead be examined using simpler measures of social effectiveness. [Read the Third Sector Online story](#).
- **NPC to launch wellbeing index for children:** New Philanthropy Capital (NPC), along with a coalition of children's charities, is to launch a system designed to allow charities to measure aspects of children's wellbeing, such as self-esteem and family relationships, through a short survey. The index is intended to help children's charities measure the effectiveness. [Read the story in Third Sector Online](#).

## Advice Policy

### **Housing benefit changes could result in more demand for housing advice**

Housing benefit changes could lead to tensions resulting in increasing numbers of young people leaving the family home, the Chartered Institute of Housing has warned. The fears centre around new rules on housing allowances, announced in the emergency Budget, which mean housing benefit could be reduced as a result of non-dependent children over 18 remaining at their family home. [Read the CYPN story](#).

The warning is has been echoed by Homeless link Chief Executive, Jenny Edwards, who argued that cuts in housing benefits announced in the Budget is likely to increase levels of homelessness. [Read the media release](#). Similar warning have also come from Family Action and Shelter, as well as London Councils who have estimated that 18,645 households in London could be forced to leave their homes as a result of the housing benefit changes. [Read the CYPN story](#).

### **Advice services primed to open their doors to young people**

Youth Access has launched *Opening your doors to young people: practical guidelines for making advice services young person-friendly*, aimed at helping generic advice agencies become more accessible to young people. The launch media release highlighted the example of Youth Access member The Cabin, a CAB exclusively for young people in Stockton-on-Tees, who have just dealt with their 20,000<sup>th</sup> enquiry since opening less than 2 years ago. The guidance also endorses an outreach partnership approach, so that advice can be delivered in appropriate settings. [Read our media release](#) (with a link to download the guidance) and [the CYPN coverage](#). Generic advice agencies will pay £15 for a copy of the guidance.

## Counselling and Mental Health

### Launch of Youth Access's Accredited Training Programme for Counsellors

An exciting collaboration with the University of East London (UEL) sees Youth Access launch a unique Masters level Youth Counselling Training Programme for Counsellors working specifically with young people. [Read our media release on the launch](#). For details about the training programme and to book on a course [visit our online training pages](#).

### New therapy brings results for troubled young people

Re-offending in troubled and aggressive young people can be significantly cut using a pioneering new mental health approach known as Multisystemic Therapy, a UK conference was told this week.

Reporting on the initial findings of the first UK evaluation pilot, researchers found in families with multiple problems that the use of Multisystemic Therapy reduced the risk of re-offending, particularly among boys.

Multisystemic Therapy revolves around improving parenting capacity, increasing young people's engagement with education and training, reducing their offending behaviour, and tackling underlying health or mental health problems, including substance misuse. It is used with children and young people aged 11-17 years and their families, where young people are at risk of out of home placement in either care or custody, due to delinquent and aggressive behaviour, and anti-social attitudes.

The research was led by Dr Geoffrey Baruch, director of the Brandon Centre in Camden, North London and Dr Stephen Butler and his team from UCL (University College London). They found that lower re-offending behaviour was evident two years down the line compared to existing service approaches, and can be cost effective, because young people are kept out of custody or local authority care, and parents are encouraged to use the voluntary sector and local supports instead.

[Read the DH media release](#)

### Self-harmers 'not receiving help needed', says report

People who self-harm are not getting the help they need because of a 'patchy' provision of services, a new report says. The Royal College of Psychiatrists criticises a lack of training for NHS staff on self-harm. The report examines the care given to people at risk of suicide and self-harm and makes a series of recommendations to improve standards. It is estimated that four-in-1,000 people have self-harmed in the UK. [Read the BBC online news report](#).

### Boys more likely to have emotional difficulties than girls

Boys are more likely to have behavioural, emotional and social difficulties than girls, official figures have showed. Statistics published by the Department for Education show that almost one in six boys (17.2%) with statements of special educational needs (SEN) had these problems reported as their "primary need". [Read the PA news story](#).

## **Young people shape mental health services for their peers**

Young people with poor mental health could soon have access to effective and innovative support services developed by their peers. Right Here is a research programme launched this month by the Mental Health Foundation that allows 16- to 25-year-olds in four areas of the UK to develop local services that tackle issues ranging from isolation to low self-esteem. [Read the Guardian Online story.](#)

Youth Access members Hove YMCA are among four charities to share £3.2m of funding to support young people with mental health problems. The money is being distributed through the Right Here programme, which is jointly run by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation and the Mental Health Foundation, and has a total fund of £6m to spend until 2014.

## **Youth Policy and Social Inclusion**

### **Audit Commission urges targeted and tailored responses to NEETS**

The Audit Commission has published a report which argues for more effective use of resources in NEET reduction work. Local councils must get a better understanding of the needs of NEETS in their areas and target funding toward services which meet those needs.

*Against the Odds – Re-engaging young people in education, employment or training* analyses the records of 24,000 young people in ten areas countrywide and suggests that as many as one in four young people may be outside school, work or training, and that the number affected varies widely across the country. The research shows about 10 per cent of the teenagers in the study groups were out of education, employment or training in the long term, for six months or more - that is over 85,000 young people nationally.

The report examines different approaches to NEET reduction across the country and finds that successful programmes have three common elements:

- they target responses to local circumstances; and
- they support pre16s at risk of drifting away from school, training or employment; and
- they intervene after age 16 in a way tailored to meet individuals' needs.

The Audit Commission recommends that **councils** and their partners focus resources on the sustained-NEET groups that have the highest medium and long-term costs to the public purse and suggests that Connexions needs more clarity about its role, recognising that VCS services might be better placed to provide targeted support and deal with particular issues for the more entrenched NEETs.

[Read the Audit Commission media release](#) and [download the report.](#)

### **Government publishes response to Select Committee on NEETS**

The Government has responded to the recommendations made by the Education Select Committee in their report on young people who are not in education, employment or training from 8 April 2010 ([see Policy Digest 14](#)).

A more detailed analysis will be featured next month but in short the Government accepts that NEET status is very damaging for individuals and society. Key policy issues to be drawn from it include:

- the Government is still considering how best to provide IAG
- they agree that more needs to be done to create an overarching approach for 16-24 year olds
- it is important that local areas are able to ‘coordinate and tailor support services for young people’
- local authorities ‘should have a key strategic role in organising their services for young people in such a way as to respond to the needs of their citizens and communities’
- the Government supports local authorities who are testing different approaches, though the report sidesteps the Committee’s recommendation to pilot ‘one-stop-shop’ approaches

### **Ofsted says not enough voluntary sector involvement in TYS**

Targeted support from local authorities and their partners is helping to meet the needs of vulnerable young people, according to a report from Ofsted. However, the report finds that local authorities have made limited progress in involving voluntary, community and private groups in providing youth services, and that the focus on providing services for ‘at risk’ young people risks undermining the youth activities available to all young people.

[Download the report.](#)

### **DfE confirms children’s trust reforms**

DfE has confirmed that it will remove the requirement on local authorities to set up Children’s Trust Boards and the requirement on those Boards to prepare and publish a joint Children and Young People’s Plan, amongst other reforms, at the first available legislative opportunity. [Read the DfE media release.](#)

### **Select Committee soon to look at youth policy**

The new Chair of the House of Commons Select Committee on Education, Graham Stuart MP, has confirmed in an interview with CYPN that the committee intends to look at youth policy in one of its earliest reports. [Read the interview in CYPN.](#)

The parties have now elected their members of the committee, which now looks like this:

Graham Stuart (Chair)	Conservative	(Beverley and Holderness)
Conor Burns	Conservative	(Bournemouth West)
Nic Dakin	Labour	(Scunthorpe)
Pat Glass	Labour	(North West Durham)
Damian Hinds	Conservative	(East Hampshire)
Liz Kendall	Labour	(Leicester West)
Charlotte Leslie	Conservative	(Bristol North West)
Ian Mearns	Labour	(Gateshead)
Tessa Munt	Liberal Democrat	(Wells)
Lisa Nandy	Labour	(Wigan)
Craig Whittaker	Conservative	(Calder Valley)

## **Teenagers less well protected than younger children**

A joint study by the Children's Society, the NSPCC and the University of York has found that 'neglected' and 'abused' young people are less well protected by children's services than they should be as resources are prioritised in favour of vulnerable younger children. The study further finds that there is an urgent need for a shift in approach to ensure young people are kept safe. [Read the Guardian online article.](#)

## **Vetting and Barring Scheme arrangements**

The Criminal Records Bureau has published a briefing, *Guidance on Safeguarding arrangements during the Scheme review period*. Whilst final requirements on individuals to register with the Scheme will depend on the outcome of the review, it is important to note that the requirements introduced by the first phase of the Vetting and Barring Scheme in October 2009 will remain in place. [Download the briefing and download guidance on the application process.](#)

Don't forget Youth Access' own updated briefing on the scheme. [Download it from our website.](#)

## **ECM outcomes**

Children Matter East have produced a report into the contribution of the voluntary sector to meeting the Every Child Matters outcomes. [Download the report.](#)

## **New joint-Chairs for APPG**

Tory MP Stewart Jackson joins Stella Creasy from Labour and the Lib-Dems' Simon Hughes as joint-Chairs of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Youth Affairs. The three take over from Labour's Natascha Engel, who will continue to take an active interest. [Read more in this CYPN article.](#)

## **Revised remit for CWDC**

The Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) has agreed savings of £15m for 2010-11 with the Department for Education (DfE) and has confirmed a revised remit with a strong emphasis on cost-effective delivery to support front-line services. The savings mostly affect CWDC's communications spend and pilot programmes. [Read more on the CWDC website.](#)

## **Rough sleeping at 11 year low**

The numbers of rough sleepers in England has hit an eleven-year low, according to street count figures. In total, 70 councils conducted street counts and reported that there were 440 rough sleepers in England on any given night. In comparison, in 2009 76 councils conducted street counts and recorded 464 rough sleepers. [Read the media release.](#)

Housing Minister, Grant Shapps, however argues that these figures are not a true reflection of the problem and has therefore issued additional estimates showing that the number of people sleeping rough on the streets could be more than treble the official

national Rough Sleeping Count. The additional estimates are not comparable with past statistics though, so improvement cannot be measured. [Read the CLG media release.](#)

Details of both sets of statistics can be [downloaded from the CLG website.](#)

## **Safeguarding in Scotland**

A new scheme to better safeguard vulnerable groups and simplify and speed up the disclosure process will come into effect from November 30, it was announced today. A package of training and guidance materials has also been launched, including a new helpline 0870 609 6006, to help those who will work with the new system. The Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme is a new membership scheme that will replace current disclosure arrangements for people who work with children or vulnerable groups. [Read the Scottish Government media release.](#)

## **In brief**

- ContactPoint to go on 2 August: [Read the DfE media release.](#)
- Care leaver plans must be reviewed by social worker: [Read the CYPN story.](#)

## **Youth Justice in brief**

- Youth Justice in policy limbo: [Read the story in CYPN.](#)
- Blunt outlines reforms: [Read the CYPN article](#)
- YOT's role 'open to debate': [Read the story in CYPN](#)
- VCS to be paid by results in criminal justice strategy: [Read the story in Third Sector online.](#)
- Resettlement Indicator dropped: A decision to drop a national indicator measuring whether suitable accommodation is available to young offenders leaving custody could impact on funding for resettlement projects. [Read the story in CYPN.](#)
- Restorative justice cuts reoffending according to study: Report also calls for investment in early intervention. [Read the CYPN article](#) and [download the report.](#)
- CSJ calls for urgent youth crime prevention review: There should be an urgent review of crime prevention and education programmes for young people with a view to immediately developing interventions in schools and for vulnerable young people, says the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) has said. [Read the CYPN story.](#)
- Youth offending teams need to improve victim support, says NFER: [Read the CYPN story.](#)

## **Children's Rights in brief**

- Independent review of Children's Commissioner: [Read the media release.](#)
- Pressure mounts for 'mosquito' ban: [Read more at the CRAE website.](#)

## Health

### NHS reform White Paper

The coalition government has published its White Paper on reforming the NHS. The *Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS* sets out plans for every GP practice to have commissioning responsibility written into its contract by April 2013, as part of a seismic shift of power towards GPs.

Key measures in the White Paper include:

- enshrining the core purpose of the NHS in law as: ‘improvement in healthcare outcomes’
- transferring local responsibility for commissioning NHS services from Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to consortia of General Practitioners (GPs)
- establishing the NHS Commissioning Board to allocate NHS funding, hold GP consortia to account and promote patient and carer involvement and choice
- establishing a framework for local partnership working on the NHS, public health and social care, led by local authorities (‘local health and well-being boards’)
- establishing HealthWatch England, an independent consumer champion sitting within the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Local HealthWatch will replace Local Involvement Networks (LINKs).
- measures aimed at providing greater freedoms to NHS foundation trusts and providers

The paper also provides some information on the government’s plans for public health and on which there will future publications.

In the White Paper, the Department of Health commits to working with the Department for Education to ensure that these reforms to the NHS and public health support joint working between local health, education and social services to meet the needs of children and families.

NCB has published a briefing on the White Paper which you can [download from their website](#).

The independent social policy think-tank Civitas has, while welcoming greater competition within the NHS, raised a substantial note of caution about the proposals, arguing that the timing, rapid pace and the sheer scale of the structural change calls into question the projected benefits. The transfer commissioning responsibility to GPs could cost the NHS its £20 billion efficiency savings target, and worse they say.

Civitas analysis suggests the projected reforms are likely to lead to at least a one year dip in performance in the NHS in absolute terms; and set the NHS back at least three years relative to what could be achieved without any structural change.

Civitas argue that considerable resources will need to be devoted to the restructuring by: creating new organisations; laying people off in PCTs and recruiting new staff at GP

consortia; working out the right blend of risk and reward for GP consortia; creating new accountability frameworks; and implementing new formulas for distributing resources. All will take time, distract attention, and carry significant risks if got wrong.

It is also unlikely, according to Civitas, that it will cut management costs by 45%; with potentially as many as 500 commissioning organisations replacing 152, transaction costs, for one, will almost certainly increase. Many people, too, will end up re-applying for their old jobs in the new structures. [Download the Civitas media release](#) and [read their earlier release with more details on cost](#).

Other reaction can be [read at the Publicservice.co.uk website](#).

[Download the White Paper from the DH website](#).

## **We're looking for evidence on GP commissioning**

Do you have contact with any GPs? Are you commissioned to run services by your GP? What's your relationship like with your local GP? As part of the on-going Making Tracks Project Youth Access is looking for examples of good practice you have with local GP practices. Please email [Amandeep Hothi](#) with any examples.

## **Health Secretary sets out future of public health**

In his first speech on Public Health, Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has set out his vision for a new Public Health Service.

Speaking at the UK Faculty of Public Health's annual conference, Mr Lansley explained the philosophy behind the new approach and outlined what the framework required to deliver more effective Public Health might look like. The plans to create a healthy nation are centred on a whole new approach which focuses on behaviour change; and which goes beyond constraining the supply of illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and begins to understand and influence the drivers of demand.

[Read the DH media release](#)

## **One in five sexually active girls gets pregnant by 18**

One in five sexually active girls has been pregnant at least once by the age of 18, according to findings from the Youth Cohort Study and the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England, which also show that by the age of 18 eight out of 10 teenagers were sexually active. Among those who had been pregnant, 18 per cent had been pregnant twice and three per cent had been pregnant three times.

Other findings show that the groups most likely to become sexually active at 14 or under were those who were NEET at 18 and those eligible for free school meals. [Read the CYPN story](#).

## **Alcohol Misuse**

- **Affluent teenagers drink more, study shows:** Many schools in better-off areas have a drinking culture, say researchers, while very disadvantaged students are least likely to have tried alcohol. [Read the Guardian Online story](#).

- **YOT's must do better on alcohol misuse:** Government Inspectors say that too many inconsistencies were found in the quality of health assessments by YOT's across England and Wales, suggesting children and young people who misuse alcohol are going without the appropriate help at times. [Read the media release.](#)

## **Young people want the facts about drugs**

More than three-quarters of young people say they need more information about drugs, according to YouthNet. The findings are based on the personal accounts of more than 600 16- to 25-year-olds who took part in YouthNet's online survey, *High or Dry*. The survey showed that 63 per cent of young people have taken recreational drugs, while 77 per cent said they need more support and guidance. One in four respondents said they have taken cocaine while 53 per cent of respondents aged between 16 and 20 had taken something other than alcohol, nicotine or caffeine. [Read the CYPN story](#) and [read the Youthnet media release.](#)

## **Scottish NHS spotlight on domestic abuse**

Over 5,000 NHS staff in Scotland will now be trained to encourage victims to 'open up' about domestic abuse. Scotland will become the first country in the UK to tackle domestic abuse through the NHS, with a co-ordinated national strategy to identify and help more victims.

Frontline NHS staff in Scotland will become skilled at how to initiate conversations in a sensitive way that will give people the chance to open up about abuse behind closed doors. Midwives, mental health workers, substance misuse and sexual health professionals, A&E staff and health visitors will be trained over the next year and a half. A national NHS domestic abuse team has been put in place to support local health boards to implement the initiative by developing specialist training packages for staff, highlighting best practice and issuing national guidance. [Read the media release.](#)

## **Ethnicity and alcohol**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published *Ethnicity and alcohol: a review of the UK literature*. The report provides a broad picture of drinking patterns, alcohol-related harm, and need for services across a range of ethnic groups. In relation to addressing the needs of young people, the report claims that young people from minority ethnic groups face additional challenges of reconciling drinking behaviour with cultural and gender expectations. It calls for the provision of culturally competent services that reflect an understanding of the conflicting pressures that young people face. [Read a summary and download the report.](#)

## **Recession News in brief**

### **NEET and unemployment statistics**

Some of you may have spotted confusing NEET statistics appearing last month, with some media articles suggesting that numbers had fallen and some that they had risen. So, which was correct? Well, in fact both were! The stories in the fall in NEET numbers ([read this one from CYPN](#)) highlighted the annual fall in NEET numbers from the last quarter of 2008 to the same period a year later. Those which talked of a rise in numbers

(see [Policy Digest 16](#)) referred to an increase in the first quarter of this year from the total at the end of 2009.

There were also mixed fortunes for young people in official statistics. 216,000 16-17-year-olds were unemployed, up 13,000 on the beginning of the year. Ten per cent of them have been unemployed for more than a year. However, figures also show in the 18-24 age group there were 19,000 fewer young people unemployed (707,000). [Download the statistics from ONS.](#)

### **Academics see lasting effects of recession**

David N.F. Bell and David G. Blanchflower have published *Young people and recession: A lost generation?* Their paper reviews the effects of the current recession on youth labour markets and argues that those aged 16-24 continue to suffer disproportionately. They argue that there is convincing evidence that young people are particularly susceptible to the negative effects of spells of unemployment well after their initial experience of worklessness. [Download the report.](#)

### **OECD sees bleak outlook**

Young people's already bleak job prospects in the recovery will be exacerbated by cuts to employment schemes, the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) warns. In its latest Employment Outlook, the international body says that the UK's "economic recovery will be too muted to result in strong job creation and that unemployment is likely to recede only slowly".

Young people have been "particularly affected" by recession in the UK. Employment fell by 8 per cent for 15 to 24-year-olds during 2009, compared with a drop of less than 1 per cent for workers aged 25 and over, the organisation points out. One in five of those aged 16 to 24 are officially out of work in Britain. [Read the story in the Independent.](#)

### **Another warning of scarring effects of recession**

The Recruitment and Employment Confederation published its report on *Avoiding a Lost Generation: Preparing young people for work now and in the future*. The report finds that the economic recession has a disproportionate effect on young people's employment prospects and that a whole generation of young people (aged 16-24) risked being 'scarred' by unemployment. [Download the report.](#)