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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 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'

Thanks you to all those of you who helped with the launch of *Under Strain*, our report and campaign which aims to:

- Give young people's information, advice, counselling and support services (YIACS) a visible profile with national and local policy makers
- Achieve a level playing field in commissioning
- Put YIACS at the heart of post-election youth policy

You may have seen that we gained coverage for the report in [Children & Young People Now](#) and in [Education Guardian](#).

The report is available online from our website and a hard copy has been mailed to you this week. [Read our media release](#) and [download Under Strain](#).

If you would like additional hard copies of the report, please email Steve Lee on steve@youthaccess.org.uk, or telephone 020-8772 9900.

We are dependent on you to make the local connections and manage dissemination to the people who matter in your areas. We asked you to email the report to your:

- Prospective Parliamentary Candidates (PPC's)
- Local cabinet level portfolio holders
- Local youth, health and advice commissioners

We also asked if you could get your service users to send supportive emails too.

Don't worry if you haven't had time yet, as there are continuing opportunities to get involved as we move through the campaign.

To help us plan for the next stage of the campaign, it would be really helpful if those of you who were able to do any of the suggested activities would [email Steve Lee](#) with the following information:

- Did you mail your PPC's?
- Did you get any responses?
- Did you mail any of the other key audiences?
- Did you get any responses from them?
- Did any of your service users mail PPC's?
- Did they get any responses?
- Were you able to interest your local media?

Now that the Election is behind us we will be asking you to contact your newly elected MP's as the next stage of the campaign, so we will prepare another template email for you to send. We will be contacting the appropriate Ministers and their Shadows when they are appointed and the relevant Parliamentary Committees when their membership is settled. Keep your eye on your inbox in the coming days.

Coalition Government

The outcome of the Election leaves much room for uncertainty over the future direction of youth policy. Liberal and Conservative youth policies do not have many areas of commonality ([see this comment piece from CYPN](#)) and only policy related to work and education made it into the Coalition Agreement document, which you can [download here](#).

Key policies which made it into the document include:

- Ending child detention in immigration centres.
- Under 25s on Jobseeker's Allowance with the most significant barriers to work will be referred to a new welfare to work scheme after six months.
- A 'significant' spending premium will be introduced for disadvantaged school pupils, funded by cuts from outside the schools budget.

The scrapping of the Children, Schools and Families appellation for the key government department gave some cause for concern about the status of our agenda within the new Department for Education. The subsequent appointments of Sarah Teather and Tim Loughton as Minister of State and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families should ease that a little, though alarming suggestions remain that youth policy will be the major target for DfE's cuts, the first of which are to be announced on 24 May 2010. We do know that the Conservative flagship policy of the National Citizen Service for 16-17 year olds will go ahead.

In common with many other interested parties Youth Access will be doing what we can to engage with and influence emerging policy and we will be keeping you informed of developments as they happen.

In the mean time, the following items in brief sum up the current state of knowledge:

- [The Ministerial Team at DfE](#) : Is there room being left for one more?
- [Pen pictures of Sarah Teather and Tim Loughton](#): from CYPN

- [Frontline services at risk as new ministers seek to identify cuts](#): from CYPN
- [Government puts work of children's sector bodies on hold](#): from CYPN
- [Rebrand criticised](#): from CYPN
- [Andrew Lansley is Health Secretary](#): from National Care Forum
- [Nick Hurd gets Third Sector](#): from Third Sector Online
- **What will it all mean?:** [This pre-Election story in CYPN](#) suggests a hung parliament could turn out to be a positive thing for young people, but after the election many organisations seemed to fear the consequences in [this article](#).
- **Young Minds warns against dismantling Children's Trusts:** Conservative plans to scrap children's trusts pose a major threat to young people's wellbeing. [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **What is this 'Big Society' then?:** The Conservatives must explain their 'big society' idea quickly before it is destroyed by cynicism, according to the Community Sector Coalition reflecting widespread fears that big society was a codeword for "big cuts". [Read the Third Sector online story](#).
- **Labour regains control of key local authorities:** to make the picture even more complicated. [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **Young people the least keen on compulsory service:** Young people are the least likely age-group to support a compulsory national civic service, according to research commissioned by the Institute for Public Policy Research and the Private Equity Foundation. The findings showed that about one in 10 17- to 24-year-olds strongly agree with the concept of a compulsory national civic service. This compares to a fifth of 25- to 34-year-olds and more than a third of 55- to 64-year-olds. [Read the CYPN article](#).
- **STOP PRESS – 'Big Society' launched:** 10 Downing Street today formally launched the 'Big Society' programme. [Read the No.10 media release](#) and [download the 'Big Society' document](#).

Other policy news in brief:

- **Half of Buckinghamshire youth team jobs at risk:** Nearly half of Buckinghamshire County Council's youth team could be made redundant under plans to outsource parts of the service. [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **Call to protect Youth Sector from cuts:** Youth sector leaders have called for youth services to be protected in the face of spending cuts being planned by the new government. [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **Bolton creates information-sharing forum for youth service providers:** Youth organisations in Bolton are being encouraged to come together as part of a new forum to strengthen the role of the voluntary sector in delivering youth services in the area. [Read the CYPN story](#).
- **UNISON on Government Policy, Recession And The Voluntary Sector:** Report examines the work of the voluntary sector in delivering public services. It argues that employers and workers alike are committed to improving society and delivering quality public services, but that their best efforts are being undermined by a combination of the recession and elements of government policy. [Download the report](#).
- **Charities 'must get better at measuring social returns':** says New Philanthropy Capital. [Read the Third Sector online article](#).

Advice Policy

New and updated online library on homelessness

Homeless Pages, produced by *Homeless Link*, is the leading source of publications and research on homelessness in the UK and features Youth Access' own [Locked Out](#) report. Established in 1998, the site now has many new features and easy access to all the latest information about homelessness. [Visit the Homeless Pages website.](#)

New advice resources for young people

The Children's Legal Centre has launched *Lawstuff*, a new website with information on the law as it affects children and young people. [Visit the Lawstuff website.](#)

Children's Rights Alliance for England has launched its 2010 *You've got the Right* programme, aimed at empowering children and young people under 18 in England to take action to uphold their rights. The existing telephone and email advice service is now supplemented by a new and improved Children's Rights Training programme and a national network of Lawyers for Children's Rights. [Get more information on You've got the Right from the CRAE website.](#)

New multimedia helpline for young people in Wales

The Welsh Government has launched *Meic*, a multi-media and bi-lingual advice and support service for young people aimed at providing a single point of contact for young people and to work alongside Childline by offering a different form of support which is less counselling-led and more focused on finding solutions to young people's issues through advocacy and advice. [Read the CYPN story](#) and the [BBC online feature.](#)

Counselling and Mental Health

Update on Youth Access Counselling Training: Accreditation for Courses

The University of East London is in the process of accrediting the Youth Access counselling training programme, so that future training participants will be able to gain credits towards a Masters qualification. Our new programme will start in September 2010. This has meant some alterations to our training programme. [More information is available on our website](#) and please [email Catherine Wilson](#) if you would like further details.

Statistics on CAMHS effectiveness

DCSF, as was, has published statistics garnered from national, regional and local government against National Indicator 51. NI.51 is part of the National Indicator Set used to measure annual performance and key aspects of service provision that should be in place locally to effectively meet the needs of children and young people with mental health problems. [Download the statistical release.](#)

High rate of mental health issues in London serious case reviews

Serious case reviews in London identified mental health as a problem affecting the care of children in 60 per cent of families, compared to just 24 per cent nationally, a region-wide study has found. [Read the CYPN story](#).

Youth Policy and Social Inclusion

CAF research

The National Foundation for Educational Research has published a report of the findings of the LARC2 project, which undertook local research projects in order to explore how the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is contributing to the effective integration between targeted and universal services. It found that although the CAF process appears to be supporting improved outcomes for children, young people and families, the evidence suggests that more needs to be done to embed the CAF as a tool to support early intervention and prevention, nationally and locally. [Download the report](#).

Safeguarding

The Improvement and Development Agency for local government (IDEA) has published *Keeping children and young people safe in the community*. This shows how Northumberland County Council has sought to address serious concerns in the child protection system, and has responded innovatively to assist young people at risk of harming themselves due to offending, substance misuse, lack of parental support and a range of other issues. [Download the report](#).

Better joint working needed to stop young people falling into crime

A strategy is needed to improve joint working between government departments and public services to rehabilitate young people with multiple needs and help them escape a life in the criminal justice system, a charity has claimed. Revolving Doors Agency, which works to help people with mental health problems caught in a cycle between homelessness, prison and mental health problems, has put together a case for reforming public services after consulting with service users and frontline workers. [Read the CYPN story](#).

Commissioning

NAVCA is holding an event on 24 June 2010 in The Abbey Centre, London entitled 'Commissioning and the community sector: Challenges, changes and opportunities for children and young people's services'. [Visit the NAVCA website for more details](#).

Major Scottish project to combat offending

The Scottish Government has launched 'The Junction' project, a 'one stop development shop' to be delivered with four partners - Fairbridge in Scotland, The Venture Trust, The Prince's Trust Scotland and Venture Scotland – to support young people in making positive life choices. The Junction will tackle young people aged between 14-17 on the cusp of offending by getting them to face up to their actions through high quality personal and social development opportunities and turn them away from a potential life of crime. [Read the Scottish Government media release.](#)

Care Leavers

Catch22 has published a report which looks at how the welfare benefits system disadvantages care leavers. The report looks at the difficulties that care leavers experience and how the benefits system can be reformed to better meet the needs of young people leaving care. [Download the report.](#)

Health

Newsletter from Drinkaware

Drinkaware have launched a bi-monthly newsletter to keep professionals working with under 18s up to date with Drinkaware's activity and national developments around young people and alcohol. Email [Kate Milsted](#) for further information. [Read the first edition of the bulletin.](#)

Recession News in brief

Unemployment on the rise again

The latest official statistics from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show the number of 16 to 24-year-olds out of work up by 4,000 to 929,000 over the three-month period between December and February. There are 205,000 young Britons who have been without employment for more than a year. [Download the statistics.](#)

International analysis of youth unemployment

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has published '*Rising Youth Unemployment During The Crisis: How To Prevent Negative Long-Term Consequences on a Generation?*' The paper analyses three main challenges: tackling the rise of youth unemployment; preventing negative long-term consequences; and focusing on youth at risk. Sadly, suggested solutions mainly focus on skills and learning measures, though there is recognition of the broader social and personal consequences. [Download the paper.](#)

The 'Rise of the underemployed'

More than a million people are working part-time out of "necessity rather than convenience" for the first time – a 45% increase since the recession began, according to a new study by IPPR. The number of people working part-time because they cannot find full-time employment has reached record levels, fuelling fears that the phenomenon of "midworking" will see a generation of people in a job but employed for only just enough hours to cover essential spending. More than one in five involuntary part-time workers is aged between 16 and 24 making them the hardest hit group. [Read the Guardian Online article.](#)

Could have been worse

The Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics has published '*Jobs and Youth Unemployment: It's bad, but not as bad as you might think*'. The paper argues that during the recession unemployment has been much lower than would have been expected from past experience. As with previous recessions, the researchers confirm, young people have fared badly, with larger increases in their unemployment rates than adults. [Download the report.](#)

Campaigns

Young Equals

The Young Equals campaign, which Youth Access supports, has produced a summary of the results of its lobbying for the inclusion of children and young people in the age discrimination measures in the Equality Act, which received Royal Assent on 8 April 2010. [Read more at the CRAE website.](#)