

Youth sector policy and violence prevention

Summary of recommendations



Reforming funding

- 1 Consolidate funding through the *Thematic Value for Money Review on Youth* to create a dedicated youth services pot for local authorities allocated using a needs formula**

Why?

- Fragmented, time-limited government funding for youth services creates complexity and inefficiency.
- Local authority spending on youth services varies widely, with little link to deprivation or violence risk.
- Youth services are crowded out by more immediate statutory funding pressures.

COST
£0

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- 2 At the next spending review, introduce new, dedicated funding for youth clubs as a key preventative service (conditional on 2027 study findings)**

Why?

- Local authority spending on youth services has fallen by three-quarters in England and over a quarter in Wales since 2010, with open-access provision hardest hit.
- Youth clubs reach children and young people who are vulnerable to involvement in violence.
- Evidence that youth club closures increased crime and violence necessitates strategic reinvestment.

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Shaping rollout

- 3 Use the *Better Youth Spaces* fund to open new youth clubs where existing provision is weakest and violence vulnerability is highest**

Why?

- Youth club deserts put children and young people at risk of involvement in violence and crime.

COST
£0

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4

Incorporate evidence on 'what works' into guidance for Young Futures Hubs

Why?

- Without grounding in evidence, Young Futures Hubs could adopt violence and crime prevention approaches that are unproven or harmful.
- Impact depends not only on what Hubs offer, but on how support is targeted, designed and delivered.

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Strengthening safeguarding

5

Ensure training reforms prepare youth workers to respond to the range of violence involving children and young people while working alongside partner agencies

Why?

- Youth workers encounter overlapping forms of violence, including violence against women and girls (VAWG).
- Youth workers provide trusted support to vulnerable children and young people whilst navigating complex multi-agency systems.

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£0
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6

Update statutory safeguarding guidance to strengthen youth workers' role throughout responses to extra-familial harm

Why?

- Youth workers are too often left out of multi-agency responses to extra-familial harm affecting the children and young people they support.
- Existing safeguarding guidance gives limited and inconsistent attention to the youth sector's distinct role.

COST
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