

This Country's young people give me enormous hope for the future. Although many are dealing with difficult challenges – at work, at school or in their personal life – the young people of this country are conscientious, enthusiastic and driven. They are determined to make a better future for themselves and for others, and they are working hard to make it happen. They are a positive force; and that's why this Government is positive about them.

Michael Gove Foreword

Note: This digest focuses on the Government's vision and some of the key issues in the report, retaining the language used in the 97-page report.

Section 3: A vision for a society that is Positive for Youth (pages 11-16)

Supportive relationships

Young people need supportive relationships with people they trust to help them develop their values and judgement, learn from experience, take responsibility, and manage pressures. All parts of society will promote this by:

- **Supporting parents and families** – who have the potential to be the most significant influence in the lives of young people. Society will also not place pressure on young people to grow up too quickly;
- **Building strong communities** – that have a strong stake in the lives of their young people and in which young people feel a strong sense of belonging, can socialise safely with their peers, enjoy social mixing, experience spending time with older people, and develop relationships with adults they trust;
- **Providing early help** – to inspire, support and protect those young people, particularly the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, who need more help than their families or communities are able to provide, or whose family situation puts them at risk.

Strong Ambitions

Young people have energy and enthusiasm to shape and change the world in innovative and exciting ways. Young people will form their own ambitious and pragmatic goals to:

- **Succeed in learning and work** – understanding the value of education and committed to developing their skills for employment;
- **Live safe and healthy lives** – having the confidence and resilience to make informed decisions and manage risk; and
- **Be active in society** – taking the initiative and demonstrating leadership to make a positive contribution to local communities and the wider world, with public and media recognition of their achievements.

Good opportunities

Young people need opportunities to learn and develop. Local partners will work together so that every young person has the opportunity to reach their full potential in their:

- **Education** – through excellent teaching, high standards, and training and courses respected by universities and employers. Additional resources will support the attainment of those who are disadvantaged, who have special education needs or disabilities, or who would otherwise be excluded;
- **Personal and social development** – through opportunities for personal challenge and responsibility – including work experience, and relationships with adults they trust that help them develop the character, qualities and capabilities that they need to learn, build relationships, make informed choices, and become employable; and
- **Voice in society** – through opportunities to express their views and influence public decision-making.

Section 4: Government Policy on Young People (pages 17-62)

4.1 This section sets out the Government's policies to improve the lives of teenagers. These policies reflect the Government's commitment to early and effective help so that all young people can make the very best of their talents and reduce the chance that disadvantages experienced by one generation are passed on to the next. This is the key to unlocking social mobility, tackling child poverty, preventing youth crime, and

reducing health inequalities. It requires equal opportunity for all regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

There are substantial sub-sections describing how the Government is working on

- Supporting parents and carers (page 17)
- Helping young people succeed in learning and find a job (page 24)
- Building character and a sense of belonging (page 32)
- Supporting young people's health and wellbeing (page 44)
- Protecting the most vulnerable young people (page 52)

Section 5: Working Together to Support Young People (page 63 - 85)

Key principles (page 63)

5.3 The Government is not prescribing the structure or nature of partnerships that are needed or will work best locally. However, it does believe that the best local arrangements for young people will embody:

- a more positive place and active role for young people in society with more recognition and celebration of their achievements;
- a stronger focus on supporting whole families while respecting and nurturing young people's growing sense of independence and personal responsibility;
- a greater acceptance of responsibility in communities, including business communities, for the engagement and wellbeing of their young people and the sustainability of local provision;
- a more integrated approach across different commissioners, professions, and providers of both publicly and non-publicly funded services, to release cost savings and ensure all young people get the support they need;
- a stronger focus for public funding on evidence-based early help for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable young people;
- a more contestable market for publicly funded services with a stronger focus on results; and
- a more enterprising and innovative voluntary and community sector able to demonstrate its impact and secure diverse sources of income.

5.7 The Government has confirmed that local authorities should continue to have a duty to secure sufficient leisure-time educational and recreational leisure-time activities for the improvement of the wellbeing of 13 to 19 year olds, so far as is reasonably practicable⁸⁷. This duty also requires local authorities to ascertain and take into account young people's views and to publicise information about the local offer.

Section 6 Making Progress Together (pages 86-90)

6.2 This section sets out how the Government plans to measure and monitor progress in realising the Positive for Youth vision, including through a review of progress in one year's time. It identifies the specific areas of policy affecting young people in which the Government plans to publish further details in the near future.

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