

Youth (Services and Provisions) Bill

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TO

Require the Secretary of State to promote and secure youth services and provision of a requisite standard; to impose a duty on local authorities to provide youth services and establish local youth service partnerships with youth participation; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Duty to promote and secure youth services

- (1) It shall be a duty of the Secretary of State to promote and secure youth services and provision.
- (2) In connection with that duty the Secretary of State shall appoint a National Youth Board. 5
- (3) The National Youth Board shall include representatives of—
 - (a) organisations that represent young people and youth workers,
 - (b) youth work providers, and
 - (c) local authorities.
- (4) The responsibilities of the National Youth Board are— 10
 - (a) to advise the Secretary of State on the development of professional and service standards for youth services in England;
 - (b) to receive reports from local youth partnerships;
 - (c) to advise the Secretary of State on the adequacy of resources available for local youth partnerships and for the provision of relevant youth activities in England. 15

2 Youth services and local youth partnerships

- (1) Each relevant local authority shall—
 - (a) establish a local youth partnership, and
 - (b) ensure that youth services and youth facilities are provided in accordance with the youth strategy set by that local youth partnership. 20

- (2) The purposes of youth services and youth facilities shall be to –
- (a) improve the personal and social development of young people,
 - (b) increase the involvement of young people in relevant youth activities and local decision-making, and
 - (c) help young people realise their full potential and play a full part in the community. 5
- (3) Youth services and youth facilities may be provided by –
- (a) a local authority;
 - (b) a voluntary organisation;
 - (c) a community organisation; 10
 - (d) any other person or organisation.
- (4) For the purposes of this Act, organisations in subsection (3) that provide youth service and youth facilities within the area of a relevant local authority are “providers”.
- (5) A local youth partnership shall include – 15
- (a) young people resident within the area of the local authority,
 - (b) parents and guardians of those young people,
 - (c) youth councils and other groups representing young people,
 - (d) providers, and
 - (e) local councillors or other representatives of the local authority. 20

3 Youth strategies

- (1) A youth strategy shall include –
- (a) a description of relevant youth activities for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the youth strategy,
 - (b) analysis of youth services and youth facilities in the area and steps to be taken to increase such provision where appropriate, 25
 - (c) steps to be taken to increase the participation in youth activities of young people who would be least likely to so participate but for the provisions of this Act,
 - (d) steps to be taken to increase the availability and use of youth services and youth facilities, and 30
 - (e) steps to ensure that due account is taken of best practice of other local authorities and voluntary bodies wherever practicable.
- (2) In preparing a youth strategy a local youth partnership shall have regard for the desirability of – 35
- (a) young people participating in the specification, governance, delivery and scrutiny of youth services;
 - (b) enabling and encouraging young people to set up and run their own activities and organisations;
 - (c) ensuring young people have access to appropriate information, advice and counselling; 40
 - (d) enabling and encouraging young people to increase their active community involvement, including in community service and projects to promote active citizenship;
 - (e) assisting young people to maximise education and employment opportunities; 45

- (f) promoting equal opportunities and a greater understanding of cultural diversity;
- (g) encouraging international visits by young people;
- (h) promoting creativity and participation in cultural activities and the arts; 5
- (i) promoting participation in sport;
- (j) co-operating with other public bodies in the interests of young people.
- (3) A local youth partnership shall revise its youth strategy at least every three years.
- (4) In revising its youth strategy, a local youth partnership shall have regard to— 10
- (a) its monitoring and evaluation work,
- (b) reports published by other local youth partnerships, and
- (c) the views of young people.
- (5) A local youth partnership shall publish each youth strategy in a manner it considers appropriate to bring it to the attention of interested persons and organisations. 15
- 4 Monitoring and evaluation**
- A local youth partnership shall—
- (a) monitor and evaluate the performance of youth services and youth facilities with regards to its youth strategy and the provisions of this Act, 20
- (b) incorporate the views of young people in that monitoring and evaluation,
- (c) prepare an annual monitoring and evaluation report,
- (d) submit each such report to the National Youth Board, and 25
- (e) publish each such report in a manner it considers appropriate to bring it to the attention of interested persons and organisations.
- 5 Youth service workers**
- (1) A relevant local authority shall take reasonable steps to ensure— 30
- (a) a sufficient number of persons are available to work in youth services,
- (b) those persons are suitably qualified, and
- (c) appropriate training is provided for those persons .
- (2) The Secretary of State may by regulations prescribe the meaning of “suitably qualified” for the purposes of this section.
- (3) Regulations under this section may make different provision for different purposes. 35
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (5) The Secretary of State shall, from time to time, review the exercise of his or her powers under this section. 40

6 Interpretation

In this Act –

a “relevant local authority” is –

(a) in England, and

(b) a county council or a unitary authority;

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“unitary authority” has the same meaning as in section 105 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014;

“young people” means –

(a) any person aged at least 13 years but less than 19 years, and

(b) any person aged at least 11 years but less than 26 years who in the opinion of the local youth partnership requires the support of youth services.

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7 Financial provisions

There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament –

(a) *any expenditure incurred by the Secretary of State by virtue of this Act, and*

(b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable by virtue of any other Act out of money so provided.*

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8 Short title, commencement and extent

(1) This Act may be cited as the Youth (Services and Provisions) Act 2018.

(2) This Act (other than this section) comes into force on such day as the Secretary of State may by regulations appoint.

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(3) The power to make regulations under this section is exercisable by statutory instrument.

(4) This Act extends to England and Wales only.

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