

**Andy Turner –  
Lecturer and researcher in Community and  
Youth Work – Goldsmiths University of  
London**

**Big picture: Policy picture – national  
government**

**Impact: Routes into youth work (and how  
these have changed), the opportunities and  
challenges for the youth workforce.**

# Youth work:

## Total cuts in youth service spending, 2010-2016

2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	TOTAL
£62m	£137m	£41m	£24m	£85m	£38m	£387m

# Youth Service cuts are 'preposterous'

by **Lucy Thomson**  
lucy\_thomson@mm.co.uk

**CAMPAIGNERS** outraged at plans to pull the plug on cash for Warwickshire's Youth Services have launched a hard-hitting petition, branding the cuts "preposterous."

Signatures are being collected calling for the immediate withdrawal of the proposal to axe funding for the county's entire Youth Service – which would see 359 job losses.

No inch of the provision will remain unaffected – with libraries, day centres for the disabled, youth centres, and arts and music services all facing the chop.

One angry petitioner said: "Stop all cuts, make the people who caused this crisis pay for it. People who gambled our

reduces crime, and makes our whole society stronger."

Unions have vowed to fight to put a stop to the cull, which will see up to 1,855 posts axed from the council in total, as the authority strives to make £60million cuts by 2014.

Council leader, Alan Farnell, says the council has "no choice," and adds it could be an opportunity to radically reform to a slimmed-down council, providing better value for money, with more outsourcing to private firms and mutual enterprises, where workers have a stake in providing public

personal relationships as they go. "Just as an example, they advocate on the behalf of young people, help with homeless issues, give benefits advice, help those struggling at school, assist with CVs and job searching, as well as giving sexual health, and stop smoking advice.

"These cuts are happening quicker, and are a lot deeper, than most across the country as the council wants to achieve them over just three years, instead of four.

"I just don't think there is the capacity, or the funding in the voluntary sector to make up for the service if it is axed, and I fear these plans will simply be forced through, if we don't do something."

## Children & Young People Now

For everyone working with children, young people and families

- Home
- Social Care
- Health
- Education
- Early Years
- Youth Work
- Youth Justice
- Ofsted
- Child La
- News
- Good Practice
- In-Depth
- Research
- Subject Guides
- Blogs
- Opinion
- Subscribe
- Email

me > Disciplines > Youth Work > UK Youth sets...

# UK Youth sets out plans to attract investment in sector

Lepper | 02 March 2018

**DIRE CO**  
PVCu WIN  
CONSER  
4 Windows  
FROM  
£795

in f e

**NSP**  
Someti  
person  
challen  
can aff  
family l

## Youth work:

- It's been a decade that has seen huge social change... And a busy year.
- This feels very timely...
- Youth work – on the agenda over Spring Summer 2019

## Where are we heading?

- What will youth work practice look like in five years?



# April –

## MP's All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on 'The Role & Sufficiency of Youth Work'. The report:

- Recognises 'structural shifts'.
- 'Contract' with young people to provide 'greater opportunities and a better quality of life than their parents and grandparents' is broken.
- Endorsed 'clear message' for help to address this, 'youth work remains an important element of the support wanted and needed by young people today' and so as having a 'key role' in 'the eco-system of Services for Young People'.
- Youth work is 'non-formal education that focuses on the personal and social development of participants', achieved by 'peer group activities and trusted relationships'.
- Propose a Cabinet-level Minister located in Department of Education'.

**Goldsmiths**  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



APPG on Youth Affairs  
**Youth Work Inquiry**  
Final Report  
Including Recommendations and Summary  
February 2019

**NYA**  
National Youth Agency

## Also support:

- ‘Numerous respondents’ for ‘a national youth policy and a long-term strategy for youth services’ ...
- ‘Greater investment in youth work’, in Comprehensive Spending Review
- An ‘objective assessment’ of National Citizens Service (NCS).
- Creation of a ‘national body for youth work’ to oversee new revised statutory guidance setting ‘a minimum and protected level of youth service’ to be ‘discharged’ by an identified ‘lead role’ in each local authority.
- Development of overall ‘workforce strategy’ covering ‘professional youth workers, trainees and volunteers’.
- A ‘standardised... national system for evaluating ... youth services and quality of youth work provision’ including ‘self-evaluation and ‘light touch’ inspection’.

**April –**

– Youth minister Mims Davies makes commitments to develop a Youth Charter setting out how Government will ‘support young people in reaching their full potential’ and to review the statutory guidance on local authority Youth Services – last updated in 2012...



May –

- Data from a second APPG hosted ‘Youth Services & Knife Crime: A Conversation with Young People’
- brokered with ‘Red Thread’, focused on ‘knife crime’, commented on the Youth Service...

A press release in early May highlights need to reinstate Youth Services and youth work practice based on a ‘growing link between cuts to youth services and the country’s knife crime epidemic’.

### Rising knife crime linked to council cuts, study suggests

7 May 2019

Knife crime



Councils with large cuts to youth services were more likely to also have seen an increase in knife crime in the area's police force, research suggests.

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Knife Crime (APPG) studied budgets for youth services from 2014/15 to 2017/18. It also analysed knife crime data.

It said the four areas worst-hit by youth spending cuts also saw some of the biggest knife crime rises.

May –

Link between cuts to youth services and knife crime?

MPs reach this conclusion via a Freedom of Information response from two groups –

- 154 local councils + Local police forces.
- 70 per cent response. Connect two data sets revealing:
- 51 per cent drop in number of youth centres supported by English local authorities since 2011. 42 per cent drop-in youth service staff since 2011;
- Highest knife crime increases occurred in local authority areas where cuts had been most severe.

May –

–“We cannot hope to turn around the knife crime epidemic if we don’t invest in our young people. Every time I speak to young people they say the same thing: they need more positive activities, safe spaces to spend time with friends and programmes to help them grow and develop.”  
Sarah Jones MP for Croydon



**July –**

## **Government sponsor debate on the first APPG report:**

- Key recommendations attract endorsements from Mims Davies and Labour's 'youth' spokesperson Cat Smith and other MPs.

## **Commons 'Home Affairs Select Committee' report on Serious Youth Violence:**

- “In part ‘the current epidemic... has been exacerbated by a perfect storm emerging from the cuts to youth services’.”
- Government introduce ‘a fully-funded, statutory minimum provision for youth outreach workers and community youth projects in all areas, co-designed with local young people’ ... ‘a national Youth Service Guarantee with ... ringfenced funding’.

## **Tough context – since 2010:**

- 60 per cent (£16 billion) cut in Treasury's Revenue Support Grant to local authorities. Projected combined gap in funding of £14.4 billion.
- Increase in 2020 spending on English public services of £1.3 billion
- Average spend on youth services per local authority from £7.79m in 2010 to a planned expenditure of £2.45m in 2020.
- A third of local councils plan cuts to youth services, a decline by 80 per cent since 2010-11.

## Funding response?

£195 million to ‘youth programmes ... to enrich young people’s lives’ covering ‘sport, digital and culture’.

– Youth employment programme to be implemented via ‘£90 million Youth Futures Fund’, allocated via social investment bonds, raised via ‘dormant bank accounts’ rather than State. Youth Endowment Fund with its £200 million Home Office allocation ‘to support programmes and communities working with children at risk of being drawn into crime and violence’ –

– Home Affairs Committee – ‘far too fragmented and small-scale’.

## Context and routes

- Reduction in previously secure, relatively unrestricted funding for youth services and a consequent **reduction in the scope and reach of youth work**, and length of time that youth services are able to dedicate to individuals.
- Job conditions and security have declined, which has in turn led to a **de-skilling of the workforce** via a loss of qualified and experienced workers into other sectors; this has increased the administrative and service pressure on those that remain.
- This all affects the quantity and quality of youth work.

## Context and routes

- "Open-access youth services have all but disappeared in some areas".
- Importance of a youthwork methodology, developing reflective practice, supporting students to make professional judgements that hear the voice of the young person.
- Universal v targeted – a lack of universal provision
  - BAME intervention – only crisis – not targeted...
  - Gendered activity – not resourced
  - 80 centres closed



**Thank you**

gold.ac.uk