

# National Youth Agency

## Bright Futures

### A new vision for youth services



[www.nya.org.uk](http://www.nya.org.uk)  
[@natyouthagency](https://twitter.com/natyouthagency)

The NYA welcomes Bright Futures

We recognise the leadership the LGA has shown

We're looking forward to helping to bring the vision to life and to challenge the perception of youth work...

**Because this remains the image of youth services...**



# When youth services are so much more...

Coram – The Adoptables  
Create – creative:connection  
Creative Youth Network – Welcome Wednesdays  
Dame Kelly Holmes Trust – Get on Track  
**Kinetic Youth – HMYOI Werrington Project**  
Learning Partnership West – LPW Drama Project  
North Devon Homes – Bridging the Gap  
Rathbone – Rathbone Integrated Youth  
Snow-Camp



## By being “open, honest, respectful and real”...

Kinetic Youth’s work at Werrington Young Offender Institution in Staffordshire is helping young men aged 15 to 18 make positive strides forward. According to the charity, the key to working with this vulnerable group is developing constructive relationships that are “open, honest, respectful and real”.

Youth workers deliver a range of individual and group activities, working with every young person currently at Werrington. Activities include informal education, library projects, peer mentoring, workshops on violence and bullying, Release on Temporary Licence opportunities, and resettlement work.

Six principles for effective youth services

- Youth led
- Inclusive
- Respect
- Quality
- Empowerment
- Positivity

# The role of local government

Local government has supported youth services for decades.

“Local authorities and voluntary organisations should consider what approaches they can make to those young people who find it difficult to come to terms with society”

Albermarle Report, 1960

# The role of local government

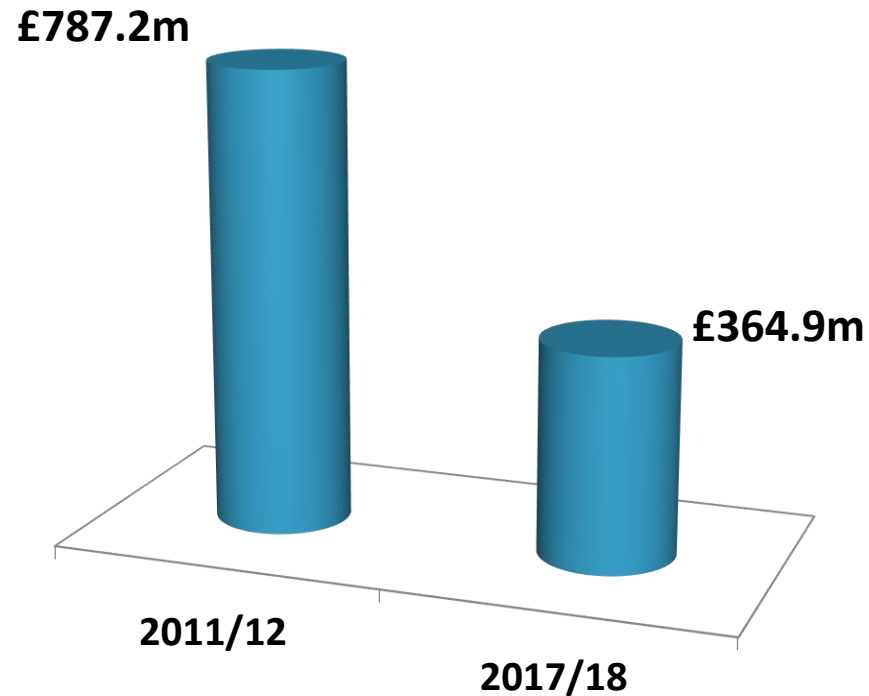
Local government has supported youth services for decades.

The NYA believes councils have an enduring and important role to:

1. Demonstrate a clear commitment to all young people as valued citizens entitled to high quality youth services.
2. Place shape and lead statutory partners (Police, health and so on) to support youth services.
3. Encourage local voluntary and community sector partners through co-ordinating a local offer.
4. **Invest in edge of care, universal and prevention services – because prevention is better than intervention.**

## Prevention – The national context

The expenditure on youth services was £787.2m in 2011/12 but fell to £364.9m by 2017/18, a reduction of £422.3m.

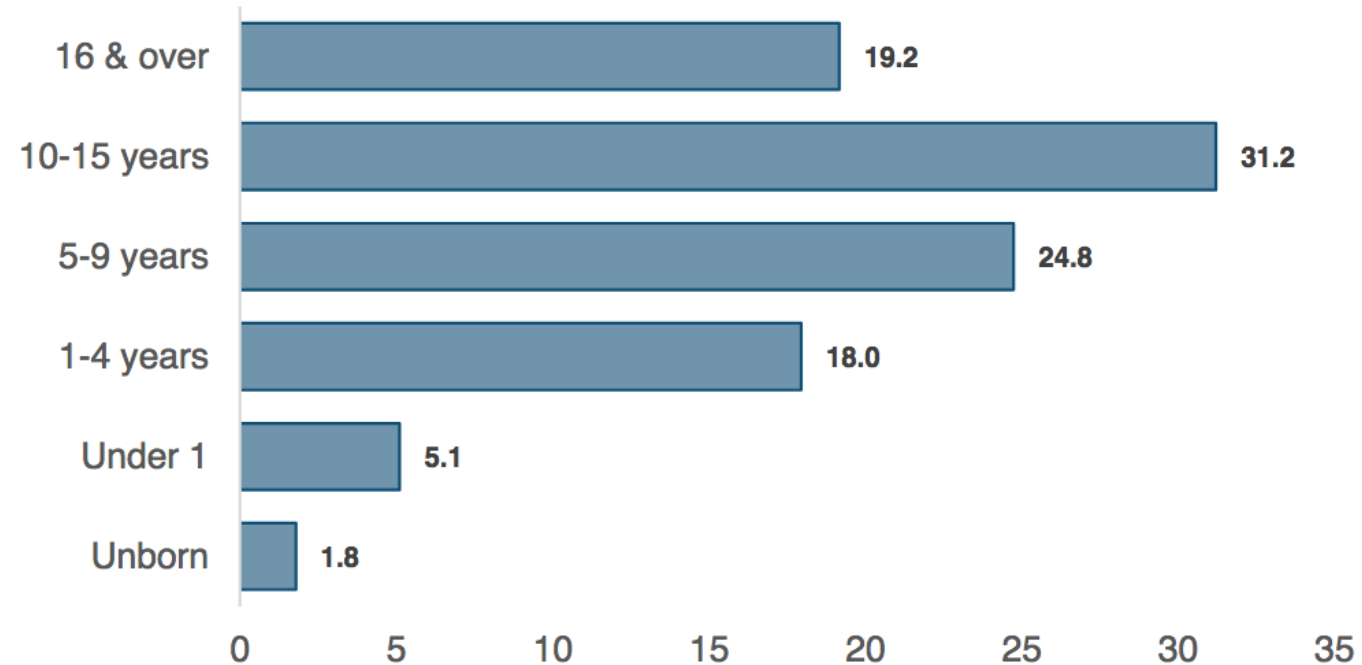


Meanwhile...



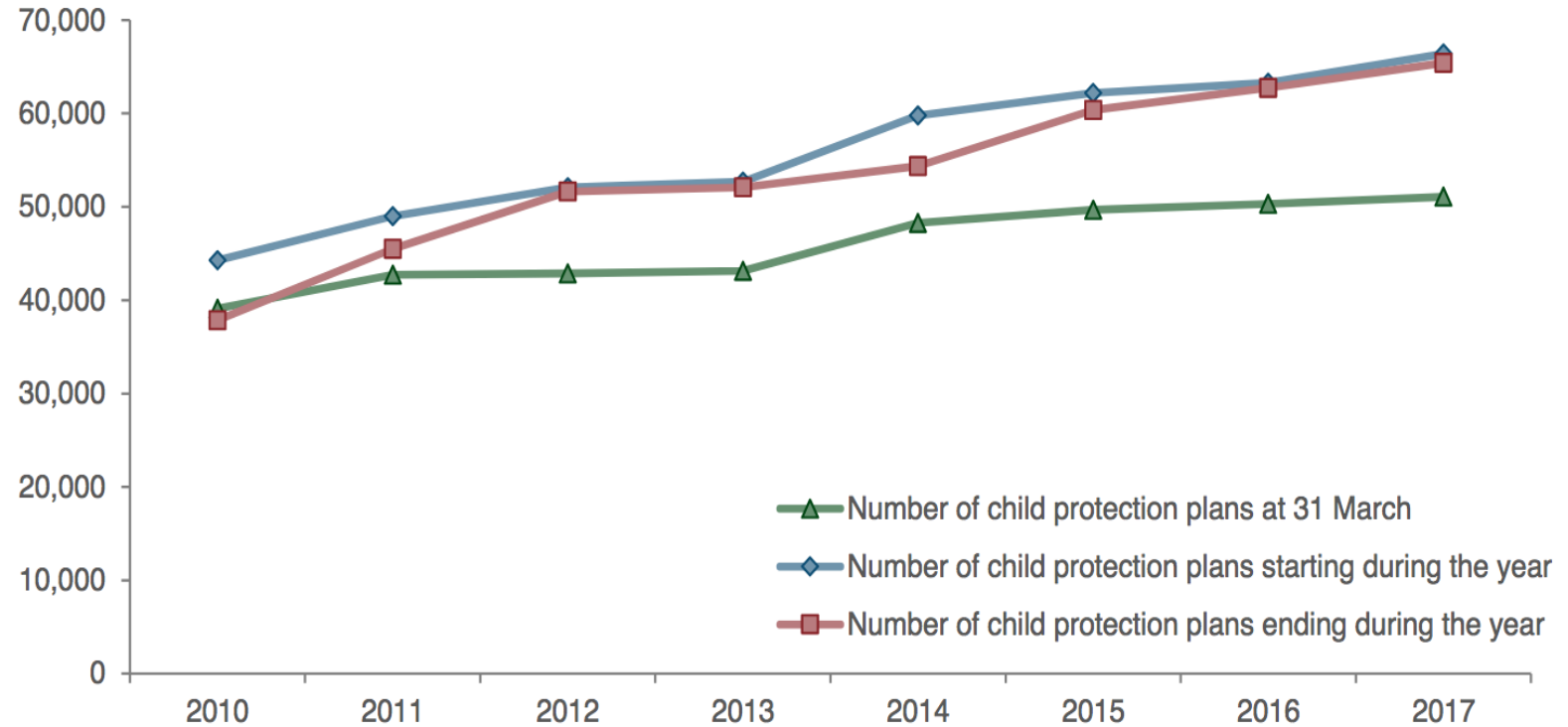
# Number of teenagers accepted as 'Children in Need' has nearly doubled since 2010 – around half are now over 10 years old

**Figure E: Percentage of children in need by age group**  
England, 2017



## ...And numbers on a child protection plan keep growing

**Figure M: Number of child protection plans starting in the year, ending in the year and at 31<sup>st</sup> March England, 2010-2017**



Department of Education, Statistics: children in need and child protection, 2017 update

## Join the dots...

- Numbers of young people in the children's social care system have increased, whilst youth work resources and investment in a range of preventive services has reduced.
- Average cost of a child in care is approaching £50K per year. Youth service interventions in Surrey cost £200-500pp per year.
- We need to see real investment in youth work practice to improve outcomes for young people and reduce entrants to the social care system.

## Bringing the vision to life

# **Support for local government**

As the national body for youth work and young people's services the NYA offers the following support to councils to respond to the LGA's Vision for Youth Services

# Support for local government

LGA vision: Action for LAs	National Youth Agency support
LAs have a statutory duty to provide sufficient needs led provision for young people.	Leading <b>national experts</b> in youth work/service design, review and performance improvement.
Need for high quality services and interventions for young people locally.	NYA <b>Quality Mark</b> for universal and targeted youth support to validate quality within the sector.
The voice and views of young people should be at the heart of the LA's work/vision.	<b>Hear by Right</b> is the leading development tool and accreditation for organisational level participation.
LAs are the commissioners of youth services and/or the co-ordinator of a local offer.	NYA and LGA developed ' <b>Commissioning Guides</b> ' for youth services in England.
Workers should be professionally trained (all levels) in youth work practice and safeguarding.	NYA sets the standards for <b>youth work training</b> and is able to offer a variety of training support to LAs.

## In summary...

1. We welcome the good work done by the LGA and opportunity to stimulate a **local and national** debate about young people's entitlement to youth services, what these should look like and how to pay for them.
2. As a nation we must do more to prevent poor outcomes for young people – and that means focusing on presentation.
3. The absence of national youth policy urgently needs addressing. The government plan to develop a national strategy for the Civil Society agenda needs to tackle this.



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