



Department  
for Culture,  
Media & Sport

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12 March 2025

Harpreet Uppal MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0Aa

INT2025/02706/DC

Dear Harpreet,

Congratulations again on securing the Westminster Hall debate on access to universal and targeted youth provision. I am writing regarding a number of questions that you raised.

As mentioned during the debate, this Government acknowledges that trained youth workers and volunteers are essential for a thriving youth sector. The new National Youth Strategy will be an opportunity to look afresh at the training, recruitment and retention of youth workers.

My department works with the National Youth Agency (NYA) to fund bursaries for individuals to obtain youth work qualifications. In 2024-25 we provided over £600,000 of funding to the NYA which has allowed over 400 individuals from underrepresented groups to gain a qualification. Additionally, we fund the NYA to maintain youth work qualifications, curriculum and national standards for England; maintain a voluntary register of qualified youth workers; conduct an annual Census of youth work organisations; and provide a safeguarding and risk management hub via their website.

Thank you for your feedback regarding our manifesto commitment of establishing the Young Futures programme. On your question regarding the delivery timeline to roll-out Young Futures Hubs, we will first establish early adopter hubs. These early adopters, and work with local areas, will inform the longer-term development of the programme, including how quickly we move to a greater number of hubs. We will set out more details in due course.

Thank you also for noting the Duke of Edinburgh Award's proposal for an enrichment guarantee. At this stage, we are not able to commit to supporting a specific guarantee for 80 hours of enrichment. We are committed to providing access to enriching activities, and we are in discussions with our DfE counterparts on how we can improve access to music, arts and sports for young people. My Department is working alongside the Department for Education to ensure that access to enrichment is available to all children both in and out of school as an important part of our mission to break down barriers to opportunity, and to better understand how to best support schools and teachers to offer an engaging and accessible enrichment offer that works for their pupils.

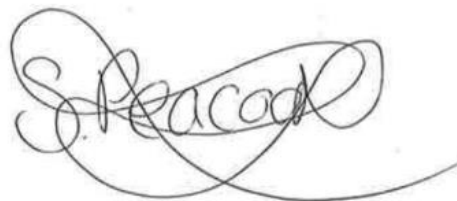


In particular, enrichment activities in school are a vital way for children and young people to gain skills and strengthen their sense of school belonging, supporting them to achieve and thrive. The Department for Education recognises that the education sector also understands the value of these activities, with nearly all schools providing enrichment opportunities. We recognise that it is important that schools have freedom to plan an enrichment offer that suits the needs of their pupils.

Although enrichment is not statutory, it is important to note that the Government is working to support access to arts, music and sports through the school system. Art and design, music and drama (as part of English) are part of the national curriculum, which is compulsory in all maintained schools from the age of 5 to 14 years. Physical Education is also a foundation subject in the national curriculum and compulsory at all four key stages. Schools can provide a range of sports and activities for pupils to participate in. One of the aims of the independent Curriculum and Assessment Review is to seek to deliver a broader curriculum so that pupils do not miss out on subjects such as music, drama and sport.

I hope you find this helpful and I will deposit a copy of this letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Peacock', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Stephanie Peacock MP  
**Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth**