

# London: Sufficiency and Beyond Older Children

## DEFINITIONS & POLICY

### Definition Older Children

An older child for the purposes of this toolkit is one over the age of 8. It may be helpful to consider provision in terms of primary and secondary age children (8 to 11 and 11 to 14 – or 18 if a disabled child), given the key role played by schools.

### Other Definitions

See also the document under 3.1.2

### Policy

**Every Child Matters** and the **5 outcomes** form the policy framework for work with all children and young people aged 0 to 19.

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

In addition, particularly for those young people aged 13 and above, **Youth Matters** is the key framework policy for young people.

(<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/Youth/youthmatters/youthmatters/>)

Youth Matters was a government Green Paper which set out proposals designed to improve outcomes for 13-19-year-olds. It proposed that young people should have:

- More things to do and places to go in their local area - and more choice and influence over what is available
- More opportunities to volunteer and to make a contribution to their local community
- Better information, advice and guidance about issues that matter to them, delivered in the way they want to receive it
- Better support when they need extra help to deal with problems

Youth Matters is at:

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=Cm6629>

It was followed up by a process of consultation and a further policy document **Youth Matters: Next Steps** set out the vision for empowering young people, giving them "somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to".

Youth Matters: Next Steps is at:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/Youth/youthmatters/youthmatters/>

**Aiming High for Young People: A Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities** was published in July 2007 and set out the Government's long-term vision for improved services and opportunities for young people. Its commitment to realising this vision was underlined by new proposals for investment and further reform of young people's services in the **Children's Plan**, published in December 2007.

The **Aiming High Implementation Plan** (published in March 2008 and updated October 2008) focused on increasing young people's participation in constructive leisure-time activities, responding to new evidence of the importance of participation on the development of social and emotional skills, which play a vital role in enabling young people to make a successful transition to adulthood.

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/Youth/aiminghigh/implementationplan/implementationplan/>

**Next steps for early learning and childcare: building on the 10 year strategy (2009)** contains some specific policy developments to improve the offer to older children:

- the Government intends to extend the right to request flexible working to parents of all children aged under 16
- increasing access to affordable provision for all school aged children. New steps will be taken to unlock the provision that exists and make out of school, and particularly holiday care, a strategic priority for Local Authorities, schools and their delivery partners by:
  - expecting Local Authorities to put particular focus on 5-14s and
  - working intensively with a small group of Local Authorities to
  - identify best practice;

- encouraging more providers of care and activities for school aged children to be registered with Ofsted so that parents are entitled to use tax credit support to access them;
- asking Jobcentre Plus to work more closely with schools to provide parents with access to financial support and information; and
- consulting on how the School Report Card may take account of access to extended services through the forthcoming White Paper on 21st Century Schools.

***The National Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services***

The Children's NSF is a 10-year programme intended to stimulate long-term and sustained improvement in children's health. Setting standards for health and social services for children, young people and pregnant women, the NSF aims to ensure fair, high quality and integrated health and social care from pregnancy, right through to adulthood.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/NationalServiceFrameworks/Children/DH\\_4089111](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/NationalServiceFrameworks/Children/DH_4089111)