

# Financial Implications for Local Authority Youth Services

## Executive summary

- The National Youth Agency and the Confederation of Heads of Young People's Services (CHYPS) ran an online survey between December 2009 and March 2010.
- We contacted all local authority heads of Young People's Services by e-mail. A third of the total number of heads of young people's services responded to the survey.
- There were **42** respondents to the survey, and **8** participants e-mailed their comments on the prospect of the future of their youth services.
- In questions 5, 8 and 9, we asked participants to give a headline rather than in depth details as their response.

## Key findings

- Almost all (82%) participants said they were facing budget cuts of some kind.
  - Over half said they face cuts in youth services
  - A third face cuts in Connexions and Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS)
  - 10% said that Targeted Youth Support could be cut.
- Over three quarters (79%) of participants say that there would be an impact on all children and young people.
- The impact of reductions on services for young people will be felt most keenly in a reduction of staff and a loss of facilities.
- A third of participants say that there will be a reduction in staff and a likely increase in workload.
- Approximately a third say that services for young people will be directly affected, and a quarter say that this will particularly affect the facilities that young people can access.
- There is a great deal of concern over not only immediate budget cuts but future cuts, even among those who said they are not affected by cuts this year.
- There is a high degree of uncertainty when thinking about the future. Over half of participants feel that they cannot be sure about the future financial situation.
- Most participants think that budget cuts will have a direct impact on young people – specifically affecting their access to positive activities, IAG and health services.

## The Questions

### Q1: Are you, as a manager, facing budget cuts?

Almost all heads of Young People's Services say that they are facing cuts:

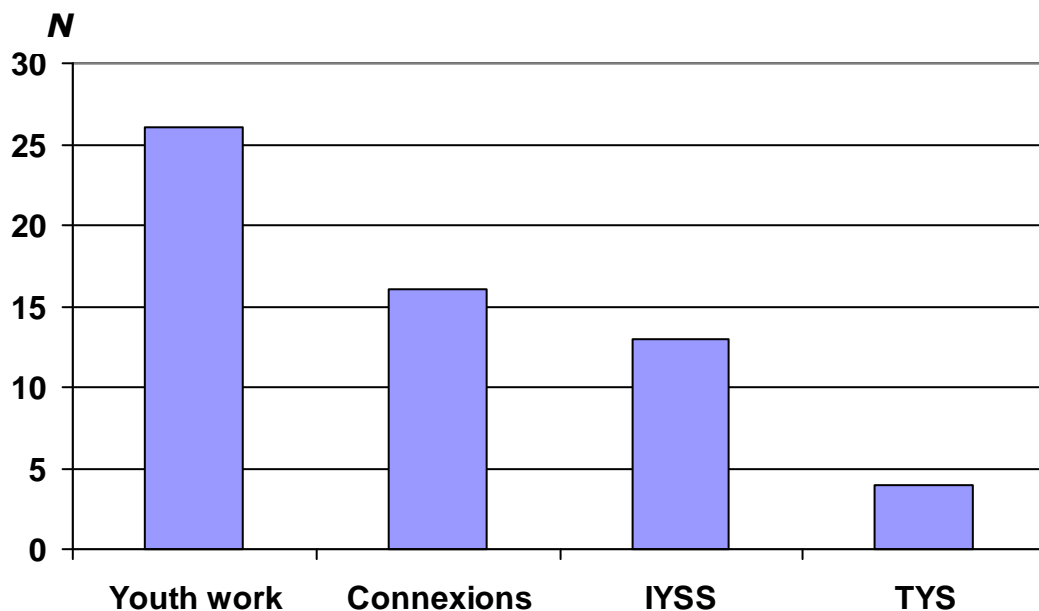
- Yes: 82% (37)
- No: 18% (8)

### Q 2: If you are facing budget reductions, which budgets are affected?

#### Key points

- Around three-quarters (74%) of participants say they are facing budget cuts in youth work.
- Just under half (46%) of participants say that Connexions's budget will be cut.
- Just over a third (37%) of participants say that Integrated Youth Support Services would be cut and around one-in-ten (11%) said that Targeted Youth Support would be cut.

Thirty-five participants responded to this multiple question, the breakdown for which can be seen in the graph below:



### Q 3: How much is the reduction?

#### Key points

Participants say that the amount of cuts in Young People's Services range from 1.5% to 17%. Participants also express cuts ranging from £20k to £900k

#### *Cuts within Integrated Youth Support Services*

- Five participants say there would be cuts between 3.75% and 10%
- Three participants state that there they were expecting cuts of between £50k and £405k.

#### *Cuts within Targeted Youth Support*

- Two participants say that they expect a 5% cut in their budget

#### *Cuts within Youth Work*

- Fourteen participants say that they expect be cuts between 1.5% and 17%
- Five participants say that they expect cuts between £20k and £362k

#### *Cuts within Connexions*

- Four participants say that they expect cuts between 1% and 7%
- Seven participants say that they expect cuts between £100k and £900k

#### *Cuts within other services*

- Three participants state that they expect cuts between 5% and 20% in services such as: Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP); Teenage Pregnancy (TP); loss of a Sport England grant; Youth Offending Service (YOS).

### Q 4: What do you think will be the impact of these reductions on services for young people?

#### Key points

- Just under a third (31%) of participants say that there will be a reduction in staff and a likely increase in workload.
- Only 14% say that there will be either a limited or no impact on young people's services
- Approximately a third (29%) say that services for young people will be directly affected, and under a quarter say that this will particularly affect the place where young people can go.

- Four participants say there will be a freeze on hiring new staff, and another four say that their departments will be restructured.
- Thirteen participants say that there will be a reduction of staff in the following areas: management; specialist leads in services not considered core services; back office support staff; PA staff; front line staff; Youth Work; Connexions; TYS; positive activity and alternative learning programmes staff.
- Twelve participants say that services for young people will be directly affected. Six of these participants say that there will be fewer local places for CYP to go. Another participant says that there will be a closure of ten Third Sector projects.
- Three participants state that there will be an increased workload demands on professionals. One of those participants adds that there will be 'less access and longer waiting period' for young people to receive one-to-one support.
- Four participants are concerned with a freezing of hiring staff.
- Six participants say that there will be a restructuring of their Young People's Services.
- Four participants say that there will only be limited impact on Young People's services. Two participants say that there will be minimal effect on direct delivery for children and young people.
- Two participants state that there will be no affect on Young People's Services. One participant says that there will be no affect this year, but that significant reductions are likely next financial year. One participant says that their CYP service will 'maintain existing delivery of services, with little or no opportunity to develop additional'.

**Q 5: What is the likely impact on young people? Specify groups of young people if there is differential impact.**

**Key points**

- Over three quarters (79%) of participants say that there would be an impact on all children and young people.
- Under a quarter (21%) of participants state that there will be no or only limited impact on young people.
- Five participants say that cuts will affect positive activities for young people, and two participants say that there will be a reduction in participation. Three also say that young people will be affected by a reduction in receiving advice.
- Three participants are concerned about a reduction in health provisions for young people.

- Over a third of participants say that there would be an impact on all children and young people.
- Nine participants say that there will be no or only limited impact on children and young people. Two participants say that there is likely to be no direct impact on CYP services in the next financial year.
- Five participants say that there will be a reduction in places to go for young people, affecting their opportunities to engage in positive activities.
- Five participants say that this will affect young people accessing Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) services.
- Four participants say that targeted and outreach work will be affected. One participant explains concerns that there will be less street programmes. Another participant says that the money will be 'transferred from targeted youth work budgets', which will affect young people with particular needs.
- Four participants say that there will be a reduction in universal services in their Children and Young People's Services. Of these, one participant says that this will happen from the beginning of the financial year in 2011.

#### **Q 6: Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) funding?**

Of those that responded to this question, almost all head of Young People's Services say that they received PAYP funding:

Yes: 92.5% (37)

No: 7.5% (3)

#### **Key points**

- A third of (33%) participants say that funding was spent on positive activities.
  - Over a quarter (25%) say that they spent money targeting vulnerable young people.
  - 17% say that funding was spent on holiday activities, some of which was targeted at vulnerable young people.
  - 14% say that they allocated money to employ *keyworkers*.
- Seven participants say that they allocated some of the funding to holiday activities. One participant explains that this was particularly aimed at 'hard to reach', 'most vulnerable' and/or 'low attainment' young people.
  - Six participants say that funding was allocated to employing *keyworkers*.

## **General comments left by participants**

### **Key findings**

- There is a high degree of uncertainty when thinking about the future. Over half of participants feel that they cannot be sure about the future financial situation.
- Twelve participants expect to make further reductions
- Three participants indicate that so far they have not been hit too hard
- Three participants feel that in future years cuts would be worse than for 2010-11