

# Creating Opportunities, Building Futures

## An Integrated Approach

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# Our aim: improve the prospects for all young people

- Since 1997 Govt made **unprecedented investment** in young people
- Education transformed: 14-19 reforms and now Raising Participation Age
- Every Child Matters and Youth Matters: system reform of children's and young people's services
- Aiming High: increased focus on positive activities
- Children's Plan: further investment and focus on young people

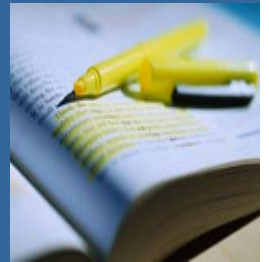
# And most are already on the path to success

- Today's youngsters are **more** likely to be:
  - Achieving at school
  - In learning until 18
  - Literate and numerate
  - Volunteering
  - Participating in enriching activities
- Young people's attitudes are increasingly **positive**:
  - More satisfied with their lives
  - More tolerant of others from different races and faiths
  - More liberal towards gender roles
  - Four out of five say they work as hard as they can at school



# But a significant minority continue to struggle

- Long tail of under-achievement amongst young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, despite rising school standards; and rates of 16-18 NEET have remained largely the same
- High risk behaviours are more prevalent than in other EU countries – young people are more likely to misuse substances, have sex early and drink alcohol under age
- Rates of youth offending and anti-social behaviour are static - but concerns about youth violence high
- Levels of poor mental health are relatively high
- Poverty, social class inequality and family factors are the root causes - only 30% of young people on FSM achieve 5A\*-C



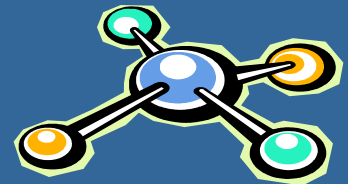
# Social and economic changes upon us now will exacerbate these problems

- Traditional pathways to adulthood disappearing - dependent on parents for longer/peers have greater influence
- Qualifications and soft skills increasingly needed for jobs
- Social and cultural capital increasingly important - most get from parents, but disadvantaged youngsters do not
- Less solidarity between generations – anti-social behaviour straining relations in deprived communities
- Disadvantaged young people lack skills and resources to take advantage of greater opportunity and choice
- And our public discourse about young people is unrelentingly negative



# So we must continue to focus on integration...

- Youth Matters set out three pillars of reform for young people's services:
  - Improved IAG (via Connexions, schools and colleges)
  - Responsive targeted support for the most vulnerable
  - Major expansion of places to go and things to do
- Foundation on which Aiming High and the Children's Plan must build – continuity alongside further investment and reform
- And essential to implementation of 14-19 reforms and raising the participation age



## .... and enable further reform

- Progress made e.g. improving youth service inspection results, but more to do to remove barriers to integration locally
- Supporting the further integration of youth support services by rationalising accountability and funding streams:
  - New PSA giving focus to increasing the number of young people on the path to success through integration and standards of services
  - Transfer of Connexions funding to local government
  - Greater expectations on local partners including youth justice and PCTs progressively to pool budgets on prevention
  - Introducing ten year programme of workforce reform to support integration at the front line

# To address key challenges across the system

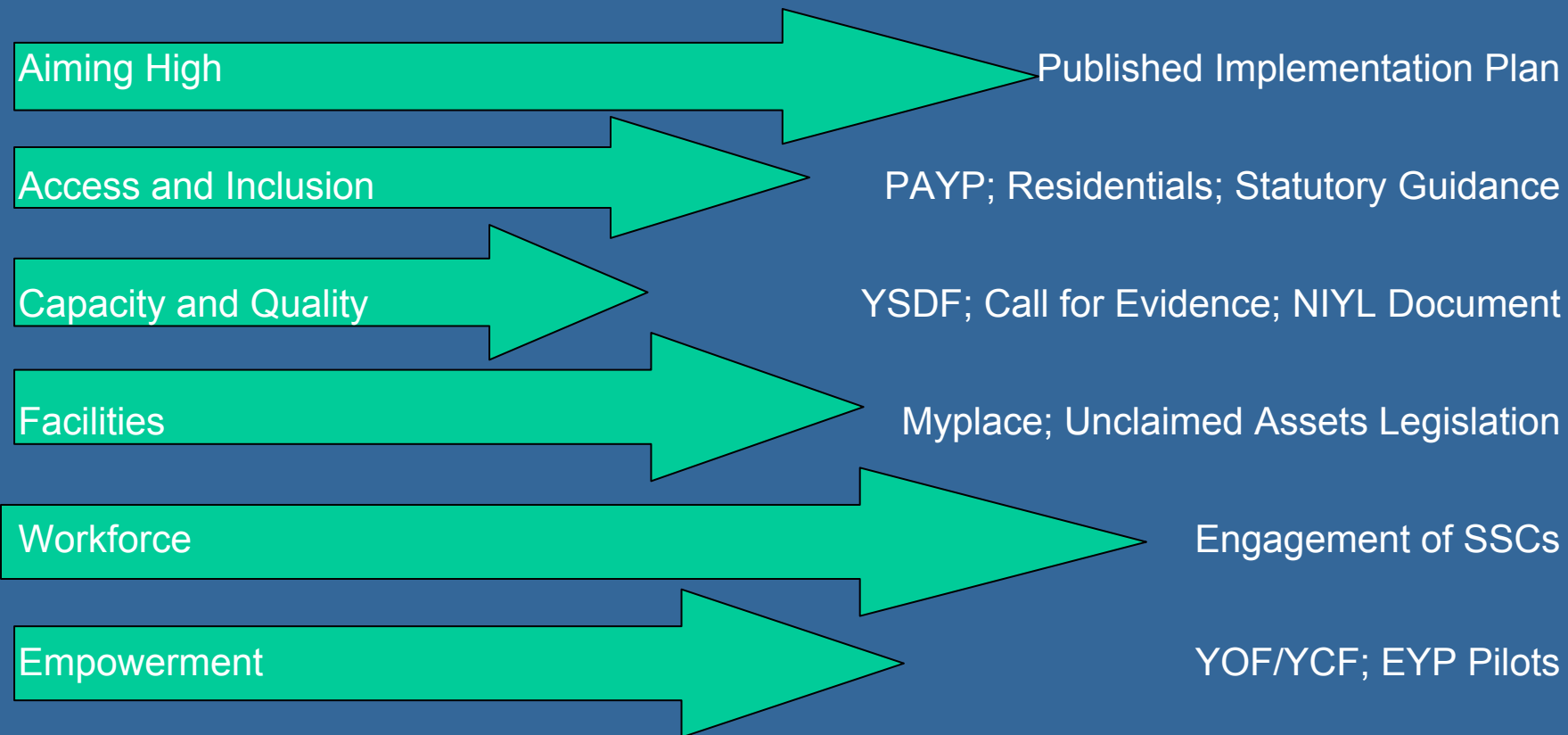


- Reaching the most disadvantaged and vulnerable
- Truly empowering young people
- Bridging the gap between young people and their communities
- Making Children's Trusts truly responsive to the specific needs of young people and reflect true partnership across sectors

# Our role in helping you meet these

- Government Offices continued key role
- Youth Task Force (YTF)
  - Targeted support and capital investment in the most deprived 50 areas – with strong YP and community engagement
  - Work to tackle negative perceptions and portrayals eg national awards scheme
  - Informing ongoing policy development from the ground

# And deliver Aiming High: a must have to improve outcomes



# One year on for Aiming High

## To date we have:

- Published an **Implementation Plan**
- Published **statutory guidance** on LA's duty to secure access to positive activities
- Announced 5 **Youth Sector Development Fund** pathfinders
- Set out for LAs our expectations on the use of investment in **targeted programmes**
- Set out the proposed functions of new **youth leadership** body
- Contracted YHA to deliver **Do it for Real** in 2008-09
- Held a **Call for Evidence** on youth sector support arrangements and consulted young people, parents and practitioners on a possible **entitlement to positive activities**
- Launched **myplace** and published revised **YOF/ YCF** guidance

## Going forward:

- Extra investment in youth capital funds in most deprived areas + next stage of **Myplace**
- Set out plans for youth **workforce**
- Appointing the **managing agent** for the Youth Sector Development Fund and launching second funding round
- Selecting the areas which will pilot local **Celebration Events with YP+ communities**
- **Exploring new ways of addressing information barriers and mapping provision**
- Securing the delivery of **residential activity** provision 2009-11
- Working with partners to remove young people's **transport barriers**

# Summer's coming

- Crucial test this summer, **one year on from Aiming High**
- Past results show that engagement across summer period result in improvements in behaviour, better attendance at school, reductions in ASB+crime
- Providing continued funding (PAYP) to enable reach to most disadvantaged and disaffected with flexibility to pool with other funding
- But wider challenge of all partners collaborating with young people to deliver strong universal offer over the summer period
- Including inspiring young people to prepare bids for Myplace

# For Further Information...



email us: [AimingHigher.YOUNGPEOPLE@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:AimingHigher.YOUNGPEOPLE@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk)

Download the Aiming High Implementation Plan:  
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/aiminghigh](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/aiminghigh)

Download the Youth Taskforce Action Plan:  
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/ytf](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/youthmatters/ytf)

Download Statutory Guidance:  
[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/thingstodo](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/thingstodo)