

**EMBARGOED – Tuesday, 25 October 2001. 00.001**

## **Freedom of Information on Youth Service Provision**

### **Methodology**

Unite sent Freedom of Information requests to councils in England and Wales asking about their total expenditure on youth services for the population 13-19, their spend per capita for the population 13-19, the size of their youth service workforce, the number of professional youth workers employed and the number of youth centres supported by the local authority. They were asked about these areas for the financial year 2010-11 and for financial year 2011-12.

In total there were 112 replies, though many councils did not answer all questions. In some cases this was because they do not collect particular sets of data anymore but in many it was because the council concerned was carrying out a service redesign. This meant they could not provide definite answers for the financial year 2011-12 and makes comparisons between the two years difficult in certain areas. This also means that what is provided here is not the complete picture, as we do not yet know the outcome of these service reviews.

### **Results**

Beneath are some headline indicators of the information collected.

#### Youth Service spend per capita

There were 82 councils which provided information about both 2010-11 and 2011-12 making comparison possible.

Amongst respondents in 2010-11 the mean spend per head 13-19 population was £116.93; this fell to £102.49 this year (2011-12). The median spend per head 13-19 population was £84.68 in 2010-11, falling to £71.47 this year.

There was a large range in the difference in spending per capita amongst respondents. Norfolk County Council had the worst cut in per head spend (from £106 in 2010-11 to £22.47 in 2011-12) while Haringey had the best with an increase from £79 to £114.

However, the dominant response was that of cutting. The mean difference (as a percentage) between spend per capita 2010-11 and 2011-12 for councils who responded was -12.5% and the median was -11%.

When we break this down to regional level (although we have to be careful as some regions, such as the East Midlands had a very low return rate) we get some interesting variations. The North West and South East are hard hit, whereas the South West sees a small increase.

### **REGIONS**

<b>Number of East Midlands</b>	<b>3</b>
Mean	-17.11
Median	-10.24
<b>Number of London and Eastern</b>	<b>23</b>
Mean	-13.60
Median	-8.40
<b>Number of North East, Yorks and Humber</b>	<b>13</b>
Mean	-11.89
Median	-11.97
<b>Number of North West</b>	<b>8</b>
Mean	-21.86
Median	-21.51
<b>Number of South East</b>	<b>12</b>
Mean	-17.39
Median	-18.65
<b>Number of South West</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>Mean</b>	1.19
<b>Median</b>	4.94
<b>Number of Wales</b>	9
<b>Mean</b>	-6.01
<b>Median</b>	-2.98
<b>Number of West Midlands</b>	7
<b>Mean</b>	-11.01
<b>Median</b>	-8.30

#### Delivering youth services

Many councils could not provide information for the number of people that that would be delivering youth services by the end of this financial year as there are currently service redesigns going on. There were 67 responses that provided information for both years allowing comparisons to be made. From the results returned however there was a loss of 1739 people delivering youth services nationally. Again, this will not be the final picture as redesigns are still ongoing in areas. The median change for individual council responses was a reduction of 10. The mean was much higher (a reduction of 26).

The largest were; Lancashire a cut of 410 people, Leicestershire a cut of 129, Pembrokeshire a cut of 123 and Somerset a cut of 125. These figures were much larger than others and pulled the mean upwards.

There were also 67 responses giving information on professional qualified youth workers employed last financial year and the number they planned to employ by the end of this year. Amongst respondents, a cut of 497 was recorded nationally. The mean cut in professional youth workers amongst individual council respondents was 7 and the median was a cut of 3.

Lancashire were one of the largest again, but also Cambridgeshire (-38), Bromley (-27), Stockport (-27) and Southampton (-26).

These figures won't all be redundancies – it will include not replacing people when they leave or retire but still represent lost services. It does not capture loss of people delivering youth services in the third sector, where organisations are commissioned by councils.

#### Youth centres

There were 90 councils which gave information for both 2010-11 and 2011-12. Nationally, this recorded a loss of 173 youth centres. While there were individual councils who reported relatively big losses, (Haringey decreasing from 11 to 4 and Lancashire cutting from 85 to 74, Oxfordshire reported a loss of 13) many councils who responded have tried to preserve many centres. The mean loss was -2 but the median was zero (i.e. no change).

<b>REGIONS</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Loss of Youth Centres</b>
<b>East Midlands</b>	4	5
<b>London and Eastern</b>	27	53
<b>North East, Yorks and Humber</b>	12	21
<b>North West</b>	7	23
<b>South East</b>	11	23
<b>South West</b>	9	16
<b>Wales</b>	14	9
<b>West Midlands</b>	6	23

In some regions the cuts are highly concentrated - the West Midlands figure all comes from Warwickshire Council (-23). The South West is driven by Gloucestershire (-12).