



**CHOOSE
YOUTH**

young people's services
change lives

www.chooseyouth.org

Top Tips

Don't be daunted when you meet your MP

Remember, they are meant to represent you – and they will want to hear from you. They ought to be concerned that throughout the UK services for young people are being ripped apart by savage funding cuts. The youth service will be the first public service to go if we don't act now!

What can your MP do to help?

Your MP can take practical steps to help save the youth service from the onslaught of government cuts.

- They can raise the issue in the House of Commons.
- They can try to have the impact of these cuts debated.
- They can support you in your local campaigns. Most importantly of all, they can lobby the Minister, Tracey Crouch MP. They must tell her to take action to invest in youth services and stop the cuts.

Ask your MP to raise questions in the House, based on Choose Youth's three key messages:

- Action needs to be taken by MPs to stop the modern youth service being pulled apart by spending cuts.
- MPs need to value youth services as the cost effective way to change young people's lives.
- MPs need to support youth services as an investment in the UK's future.
- **Ask your MP to support Lloyd Russell-Moyle MPs 10 Minute Rule Bill for a statutory youth service being heard on June 6th.**

Remember to back up your case

Give your MP a picture of what is happening in your area. Tell them, for instance, that around 4,000 youth work jobs were lost between 2012 and 2016. Many were part-time workers. Over these years, over 600 youth centres were closed. Around 138,000 youth service places for young people were cut between 2012 and 2016. And in the years since, there has been more cuts in youth service spending which has led to the loss of around 800 more jobs, more than 30 youth centres closed, and 45,000 more youth service places for young people removed. **This is only the tip of the iceberg. The threat is real and it's happening now.**

The government has no youth policy. It continues to spend vast amounts on the National Citizens Service (NCS), a privately run scheme, more costly to run and offering young people far less than a 365 day-a-year professional youth service.

Youth services are vital and when youth services go, the benefits to young people and communities are lost, along with the savings they provide in intervention services at a later date. **Please ask your MP to support the bill to 'Give a duty to the Secretary of State to promote and secure a sufficient youth services and provision and to impose a duty on local authorities to provide youth services and establish local youth service partnerships to promote youth provisions through participation and engagement of young people.'**