

## What is Positive Futures?

Positive Futures is the national activity-based social inclusion programme for young people aged 10 to 19.

Launched in 2001, the programme takes a developmental approach to helping young people from deprived communities steer clear of crime, drug and alcohol misuse and move forward in their lives.

At its heart is a strong shared commitment to reaching young people *where they are*, building relationships of respect and trust, and supporting young people to succeed.

### The policy agenda

- Positive Futures is making an important contribution to Government initiatives including the 10 year Youth Strategy, the Children's Plan, the Drug Strategy, the Youth Crime Action Plan, Friday and Saturday night activities, the Youth Alcohol Action Plan and work to create thriving neighbourhoods.
- Positive Futures is developing a new generation of community youth leaders, helping bring about a step change in young people's volunteering and sports and arts participation.
- Evidence collected by projects, reproduced below as a 'tag cloud', shows how the programme is supporting all five Every Child Matters outcomes, addressing many of the factors that help to keep young people out of trouble.

Access to transport and material goods Achieve personal and social development and enjoy recreation Achieve stretching national education standards at secondary school Attend and enjoy school Choose not to take illegal drugs Develop positive relationships and choose not to bully or discriminate Develop self-confidence and successfully deal with significant life changes and challenges Engage in decision making and support the community and environment Engage in further education, employment or training on leaving Engage in law-abiding and positive behaviour in and out of school Enterprising behaviour Have security, stability and are cared for Healthy Lifestyles Live in decent homes and sustainable communities Live in household free from low income Mentally and Emotionally Healthy Physically Healthy Ready for employment Ready for school Safe from accidental injury and death Safe from bullying and discrimination Safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of school Safe from maltreatment Sexually Healthy

### The numbers:

- In 2008-09, 59,348 young people attended Positive Futures projects, involving nearly one and a half million contact hours with young people.
- Thanks to Positive Futures, thousands of young people are now in education, training and employment. In 2008-09 young people were recorded as achieving 9,677 awards and qualifications, an increase of almost 65% compared to 2007-08.
- 7,153 (67%) of the 10,725 young people whose engagement level movements were recorded, showed movements in a positive direction.



## The relationships

- Positive Futures works with young people's interests to get alongside young people, and give them insights into what they can achieve. Activities range from arts and media to health and fitness to water sports.
- Relationships are at the programme's heart. By building mutual trust and respect, staff and volunteers are well-placed to provide young people with both challenge and support.
- Positive Futures sticks with young people for the long-term. Young people often join the programme in their early teens and go on to take on leadership roles. A common ambition is to join the workforce.

## The support

- Positive Futures is funded by the Home Office, Football Foundation and other partners, managed by young people's charity Catch22 and delivered through 116 partnership projects across England and Wales.
- Other supporters of the programme include the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Arts Council, Skills Active and Skills for Justice.
- Positive Futures works with a range of local partners. Programme records for 2008-09 include nearly 500 positive testimonies from criminal justice agencies, substance misuse agencies and education partners alone.
- Programme monitoring and evaluation is led by social research specialists, Substance.

## What others say about Positive Futures

"For the first time in my life, someone believed in me. Someone thought I could do something in my life, and now I am."

**Young person, Liverpool Positive Futures**

"Delivering targeted programmes, supporting young people at risk of crime and anti-social behaviour, providing outreach, developing what local kids really want to do - overall the programme delivers a balanced provision that really gets to the heart of what communities need for their kids."

**West Midlands Police**

"Providing young people with activities and alternatives to hanging out on street corners is vital in preventing crime and disorder. Projects like Positive Futures are all about helping young people succeed by making sure they have consistent support."

**Home Office Minister with responsibility for crime reduction**

"Two young people to go to University from Bristol Southmead. That doesn't happen to young people in my area. It does now, thanks to Positive Futures."

**Project worker, Bristol Southmead Positive Futures**

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