Factsheet: United Kingdom

Last update: 31 July 2014

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

The transversal youth policy framework *Positive for Youth* (2011) targets young people 13 to 19 years old.

**CANDIDACY AGE**

| Lower House | 18 |
| Upper House | 21 |

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

**MARRIAGEABLE AGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT</th>
<th>WITH PARENTAL CONSENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Same-sex marriage legal. In Northern Ireland, civil partnerships rather than same-sex marriage exist. Source: UNSD, ILGA, nidirect (n.d)

**VOTING AGE**

| Male | 18 |
| Female | 18 |

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

**MAJORITY AGE**

| Male | 18 |
| Female | 18 |

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

**CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Minimum Age

Age applies to the UK, except Scotland, where it is 12 years. Source: Children & Young Persons Act (1969)

Scotland Criminal Justice and Licensing Act (2010)


**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX**

0.77

15 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

**LITERACY RATES**

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Both sexes (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: UNESCO

**NET ENROLMENT RATE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both sexes %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

94.63%

Year: 2012

Source: UNESCO

**PREVALENCE OF HIV**

0.2%

Male (15-24) %

0.1%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: World Bank

**TOBACCO USE**

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

**Year: No data.**

Source: WHO

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**TOBACCO USE**

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By age group (13-15) 

Male (13-15) %

Female (13-15) %

Year: No data.

Source: WHO

**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales all have recent youth policy and/or youth work strategies. Wales has developed a 2014 – 2018 National Youth Work Strategy, and Scotland a 2014 – 2019 National Youth Work Strategy. Both build on civil society consultations and have a transversal approach. Northern Ireland has a youth work policy *Priorities for Youth*.

*Positive for Youth* (2011) contains a number of policies that apply across the UK. It is a cross-sector strategy, which encourages actors to work together to support positive youth development. The policy strategy features a decentralised approach, with youth centres, statutory provisions and services delivered by Local Authorities. A 2013 update suggests positive progress, however a number of concerns have been raised.

**PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or
In a press release on 3 July 2013, it was announced that responsibility for youth policy would be transferred from the Ministry of Education to the Cabinet Office - a cross-thematic Ministry which directly supports the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. However, no youth department exists. The Cabinet Office focuses on national programmes, such as the National Citizenship Service, while most youth provisions and services are provided at a local and city level of government. Scotland has a Minister for Children and Young People and Minister for Youth Employment.

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

YES

Since youth policies are cross-sectoral a specific amount allocated to youth cannot be identified. According to the World Bank, the United Kingdom spent 13.32% of its government expenditure and 6.23% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

UNCLEAR

The British Youth Council (BYC) is an umbrella organisation made up of over 230 national and local youth organisations, which supports young people “to influence and inform decisions that affect their lives.” Member organisations elect an annual board of young trustees (aged 16 to 25) and guide all policy and strategic decisions. BYC delivers campaigns such as Votes at 16, and participation programmes such as the UK Youth Parliament and the international UK Young Ambassadors. BYC is a full member of the European Youth Forum and Commonwealth Youth Council.

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

YES

BUDGET & SPENDING

Since youth policies are cross-sectoral a specific amount allocated to youth cannot be identified. According to the World Bank, the United Kingdom spent 13.32% of its government expenditure and 6.23% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

Visit our library for further reading: Documents about United Kingdom

Source: World Bank
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).