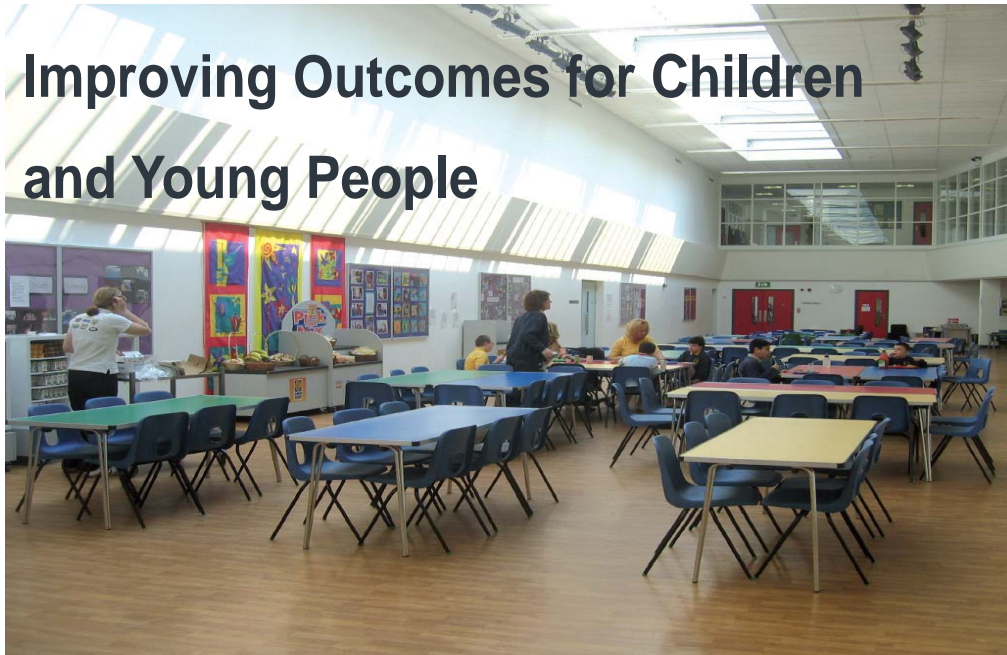


Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People



SERVICES AVAILABLE

We offer a range of services, for example:

- Evaluation of policy implementation, programmes, project and funding streams
- Developing outcome-based accountability / cost effectiveness models
- Advice on implementing new delivery models (e.g. Think Family and Targeted Youth Support)
- Change management event facilitation
- Innovative consultation/participation of children and young people

Every Child Matters Policy Arenas

YCL's recently published reports include:

Our evaluation of **Targeted Youth Support Pathfinders (TYSP)** [<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/RRP/u014880/index.shtml>] highlights some positive changes in multi-agency support with emerging evidence of improved outcomes for young people, though further work is required across localities to develop truly effective practices for early identification. The importance of effectively coordinated and managed locality models in achieving change is evident, with minimal evidence of change on the ground where this did not exist. In addition, support was deemed to be effective where:

- lead professionals' awareness of the range of interventions/services is available;
- positive relationships between the young person and lead professional exists;
- coordinated, consistent and continuous support is provided;
- individuals are challenged, as well as supported;
- effective delivery of the lead professional role;
- young people are motivated to change.

Our evaluation of the **New Relationship with Schools (NRWS)** [<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/RRP/u014812/index.shtml>] policy demonstrates moves toward a more intelligent accountability framework for the schools sector. Developments in the use of performance data, school self-evaluation, and School Improvement Partner (SIP) support and challenge contributed towards improvements in quality and pupil outcomes. The evaluation also highlights, however, the need for continued efforts at national level to work towards more coherent policy development and delivery across all ECM services and ensure schools have the capacity and necessary support to respond to the significant developments currently affecting the sector.

Our evaluation of the **Re-Ach programme** [<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/RRP/u015186/index.shtml>] (a pilot re-engagement programme aimed at 14-19 year olds and conducted in three local authority areas) shows that the programme was positive and engaging for most of the young people involved. For some, it helped to prevent a decline in engagement and improved attitudes towards learning, underpinned by improved cognitive skills and understanding of responsibility and choice. However, the pilot did not achieve the spread of participants originally intended and, on the whole, did not involve young people identified as the hardest to reach. The evaluation highlights a number of learning points regarding the targeting of the hardest to reach group and delivering engagement programmes of this nature.

Forthcoming Research Findings:

We expect the final report of our **Evaluation of the Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme (KS4EP)** to be published at the end of this month – it will be available on the DCSF website. This demonstrates that the KS4EP (a personalised programme for those key stage 4 learners most at risk of disengagement) is a positive and engaging experience for most, contributing to improvements associated with engagement in learning, building confidence and self-esteem; developing interpersonal, social and practical skills; and supporting decisions on post-16 progression. The report also highlights a range of factors that influence overall effectiveness on programmes and their ultimate impact on pupil achievements and outcomes, including, for example:

- delivery within alternative and supportive learning environments;
- holistic approaches to delivery of the programme elements;
- partner/school buy-in and culture of collaborative working;
- effective management of the programme and quality assurance of the provision.

