

About the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the National Children's Bureau

The Department for Children, Schools and Families

The Government is divided up into different departments, and each department is responsible for looking after a particular area or service. You may have already heard of the [Department for Children, Schools and Families](#) (also known as DCSF), which oversees a number of different issues affecting children and young people.

These include:

- school curriculum, behaviour and attendance
- education and training for 16-19 year-olds
- extended school services
- youth services
- social services and child protection
- protecting vulnerable children (like looked after children and young runaways)
- education and childcare for young children
- child poverty
- youth justice

The Department's aim is for every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, to have the support they need to achieve the five [Every Child Matters](#) outcomes: be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and achieve economic well-being. The Department's priorities are set out in its [Children's Plan, Building Brighter Futures](#), which aims to:

- secure the well-being and health of children and young people
- safeguard the young and vulnerable
- ensure an excellent education for all children and young people
- keep them on the path to success
- provide more places for children to play safely

The Department is led by the Secretary of State, Ed Balls MP, and his team of Ministers: Beverley Hughes MP (Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families); Jim Knight MP (Minister of State for Schools and Learners); Baroness Morgan of Drefelin (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families); and Sarah McCarthy-Fry (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools and Learners).

[The Children and Youth Board was set up because the DCSF takes the views of children and young people seriously, and would want to hear from them on issues that affect them. This will help Ministers and DCSF policy staff to make decisions about how to best help children and young people achieve their full potential.](#)

To find out more about the Department please visit www.dcsf.gov.uk





The National Children's Bureau

The National Children's Bureau (NCB) is a national voluntary organization. NCB's mission is to advance the well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. We aim to:

- reduce inequalities in childhood
- ensure children and young people have a strong voice in all matters that affect their lives
- promote positive images of children and young people
- enhance the health and well-being of all children and young people
- encourage positive and supportive family, and other environments

NCB also has a free membership network for young people, called **Young NCB**. It is open to all children and young people in England and Northern Ireland, and is run by young people for young people. It has over 400 young members, who can be actively involved in speaking out and taking action on issues that affect and interest them – such as safety, perceptions of young people, sex and relationships education, citizenship, bullying, drugs and media. Alternatively, member can just stay in touch via the Loudspeaker magazine and the Young NCB website: www.ncb.org.uk/youngncb.

Safe and sound practice

The National Children's Bureau works to high standards to ensure that the active involvement of children and young people is safe, sound and effective. Anyone involved with the Children and Youth Board will work to clear policies on equal opportunities, consent and the protection of children and young people, which will be followed at all times. All staff involved have Criminal Records Bureau clearance (police checks).

For more information about NCB, please visit our website: www.ncb.org.uk.