

Youth Culture Trust still no nearer one year later

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A body aimed at increasing young people's participation in cultural activities has still not emerged more than a year after the government proposed it.

In February last year, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) [pledged £135m over three years](#) to a new Youth Culture Trust, which was to oversee the drive towards access to cultural activities for children.

Susanne Rauprich, chief executive of the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services, said: "It appears as if it is quietly being forgotten. I am interested in how the government plans to increase participation in cultural activities if the Youth Culture Trust is no longer on the agenda."

The trust was to be responsible for the 10 [Find Your Talent pilot areas](#), which are testing the government's pledge to have all children participating in at least five hours of art and culture a week. It was also meant to oversee a programme where young people could work with professionals such as artists, writers and actors.

Susie Roberts, chief executive of the Association of Principal Youth and Community Officers, said: "It doesn't yet seem the partnership between the DCSF and the DCMS is anywhere near as developed as it needs to be."

A spokeswoman for the DCMS said: "Our intention is still to set up a Youth Culture Trust. However, ministers think it is best to consider the administrative arrangements for this once the purpose of the programme beyond the pathfinders has been agreed."