Positive Activities on Friday and Saturday nights

7th Annual Conference
Positive Activities for Young People

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Youth Taskforce

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Friday and Saturday night activities – Policy context

- Aiming high set out broad ranging strategy to improve quality and access to positive activities supported by £900m funding, however:
  - The strategy highlighted roughly a quarter of young people do not participate in positive activities – reasons include opening times may not suit young people's lifestyles
  - Young people and wider community are concerned about a lack of things for teenagers to do and believe that this is a cause of young people 'getting into trouble'
  - 66% of young people told the Time to Talk consultation that more activities would do most to keep them out of trouble.
  - Casey review highlighted public support (91%) for youth facilities to be open on Friday and Saturday nights.
  - Audit in 81 target areas in Feb 09 showed 14% of activities available on Friday nights and 2% on Saturday nights

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Friday and Saturday night activities – Action on the ground

- Policy response a concerted effort to increase provision and participation of young people on Friday and Saturday nights through the OPEN drive
- Key achievements include:
  - Clear criteria for Fri / Sat night opening in funding for myplace, PAYP, YOF/ YCF, YCF Plus and YSDF
  - Nearly 3000 activities across the country through OPEN weekend
  - Over 15000 young people engaged in activities in targeted areas through Operation Halloween
  - 9 Youth Taskforce roadshows and 9 commissioning support roadshows delivered to practitioners
  - Local communications activity to generate awareness of the issue supported by PR contract

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Friday and Saturday night activities - Impact

- Impact is being seen across a number of PSA 14 measures:
  - 21.6 % drop in the number of young people receiving a reprimand, warning or conviction for the first time in England between 2007/08 and 2008/09.
  - Latest quarterly data shows teenage pregnancy rates falling
  - Number of young people drinking alcohol falling
- And on anti-social behaviour:
  - British Crime Survey shows perceptions of **teenagers hanging around as a problem** has dropped 3 percentage points from 33% to 30% over the last two years.
  - Monitoring shows that calls to the police dropped in 80% of target areas over the summer

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Friday and Saturday night activities – Next steps

- Important to maintain priority on Friday and Saturday night offer and show how much progress has been made.
- Key next steps include:
  - Youth Offer data collection exercise to undertaken in February
  - DCSF and DCMS to produce joint guidance on involving sports and arts providers in delivering Fri & Sat night activity, including examples of good practice
  - Examples of schools/extended schools facilities being used to deliver positive activities on a Fri & Sat on new Extended Services website
  - Dissemination of findings from Information and Signposting Pilot
  - Continue focus on neighbourhoods where youth crime and anti-social behaviour is a concern through YCAP and TKAP

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