

PSG 3 – Youth Policy¹

Background

Government youth policies are to develop strategies that encourage the personal development of all young people with a particular focus on young people at risk of social exclusion. This development of individual young people is central to the ethos of the Cadet Forces with their altruistic ideals for their 130,000 cadets supported by 23,000 adult volunteers and other schemes like the Prince's Trust and Skill Force.

The Armed Forces are the largest trainers and employers of young people in Europe. The challenge to recruit sufficient numbers is increasing and the provision of recruits represents the only impact that youth policies and activities have on operational effectiveness. MOD youth policies therefore need to develop an approach which supports the altruistic purpose of Government youth policies; contributes to the good reputation of the Armed Forces by raising their visibility in the community; and provides the core element of Department activity to 'cultivate' potential recruits.

The needs of dependent children of Service personnel are more specifically addressed in PSG 24 (Families Policy). This PSG should also be read in conjunction with PSGs 4 (Recruitment) and 13 (Education).

Principles

- To integrate Armed Forces Youth Policies with wider Government youth initiatives, supporting the key themes of Government youth policies, particularly those aimed at capability building, social inclusion and citizenship;
- To provide appropriately resourced university, combined and single Service cadet units within the UK so that all youths who wish to participate in cadet activities have a reasonable opportunity to do so;
- To provide an environment in the UK which maximises the awareness in the Armed Forces among both young people and their gatekeepers in order to create the conditions in which recruiting flourishes.

Goal

"The Armed Forces Youth Policy goal is to support Government youth policies; to contribute to the good reputation of the Armed Forces by raising their visibility in the community thereby creating the conditions whereby recruiting can flourish; and to provide access for young people to high quality Cadet Forces".

Policy Lead

The Centre leads the formulation of Armed Forces Youth Policy.

¹ Personnel Strategy Guideline No.3, part of the Armed Forces Overarching Personnel Strategy (AFOPS)