

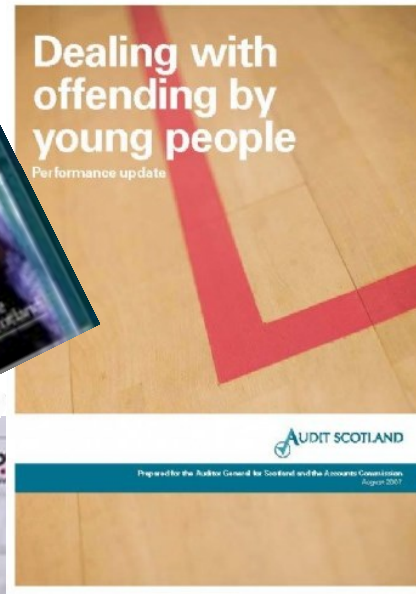
# **The Contribution of Youth Work with vulnerable young people in Scotland**

**Ian Fyfe**

**Moray House School of Education**

**University of Edinburgh**

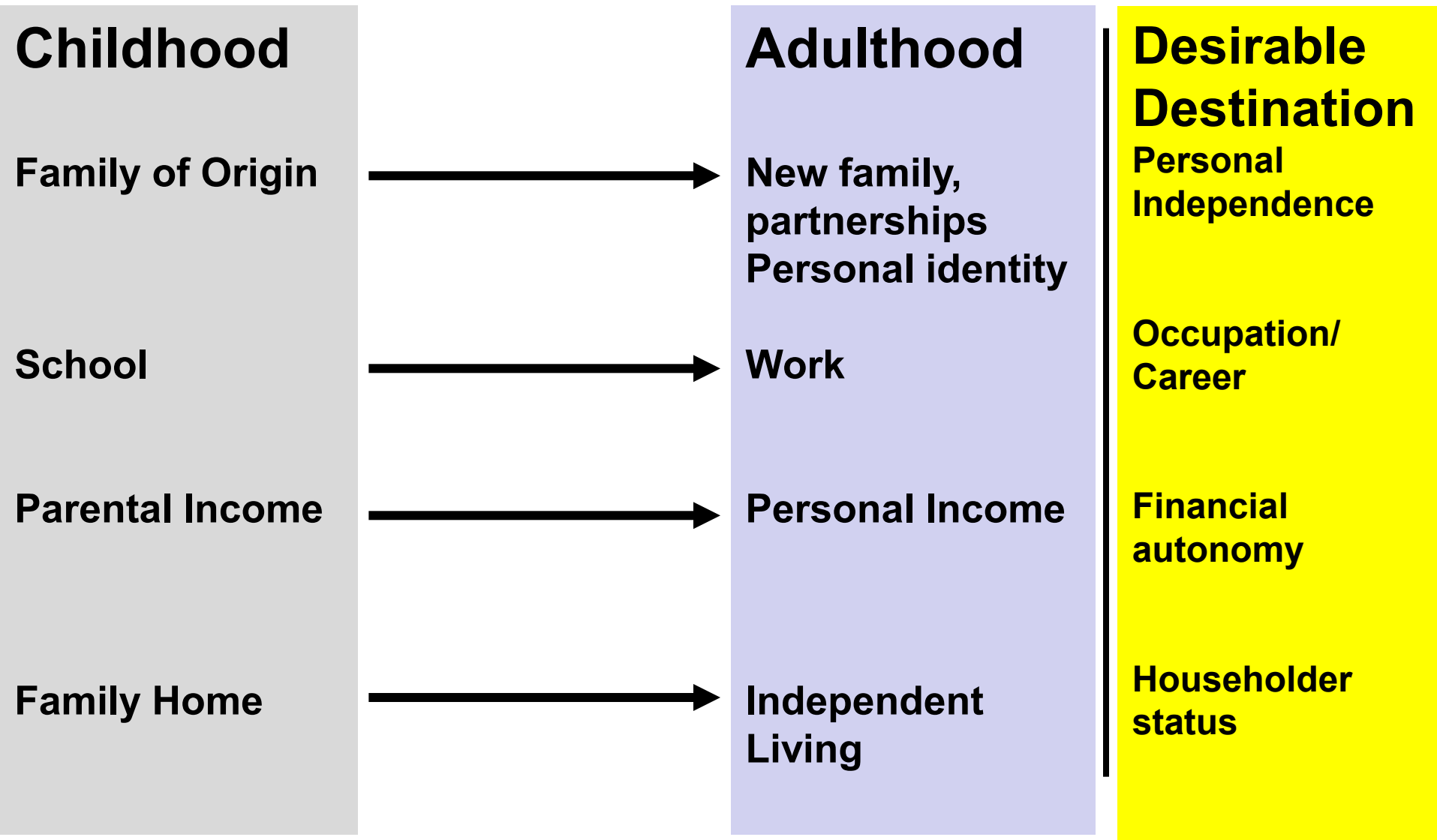
# Youth (Work) & Contemporary Policy



# **Young People in Scotland: Some current (youth) policy priorities**

- **Schooling (Implementation of Curriculum for Excellence)**
- **Post-school destinations/16+ employability**
- **Promoting Accreditation of Informal Learning**
- **Challenging Anti-social Behaviour & Youth Crime**
- **Health and Wellbeing (including: Smoking Cessation, Alcohol, Sexual Health and Diet)**
- **Literacy and numeracy**
- **Citizenship (electoral participation)**

# Traditional Pathways of Transition to Adulthood



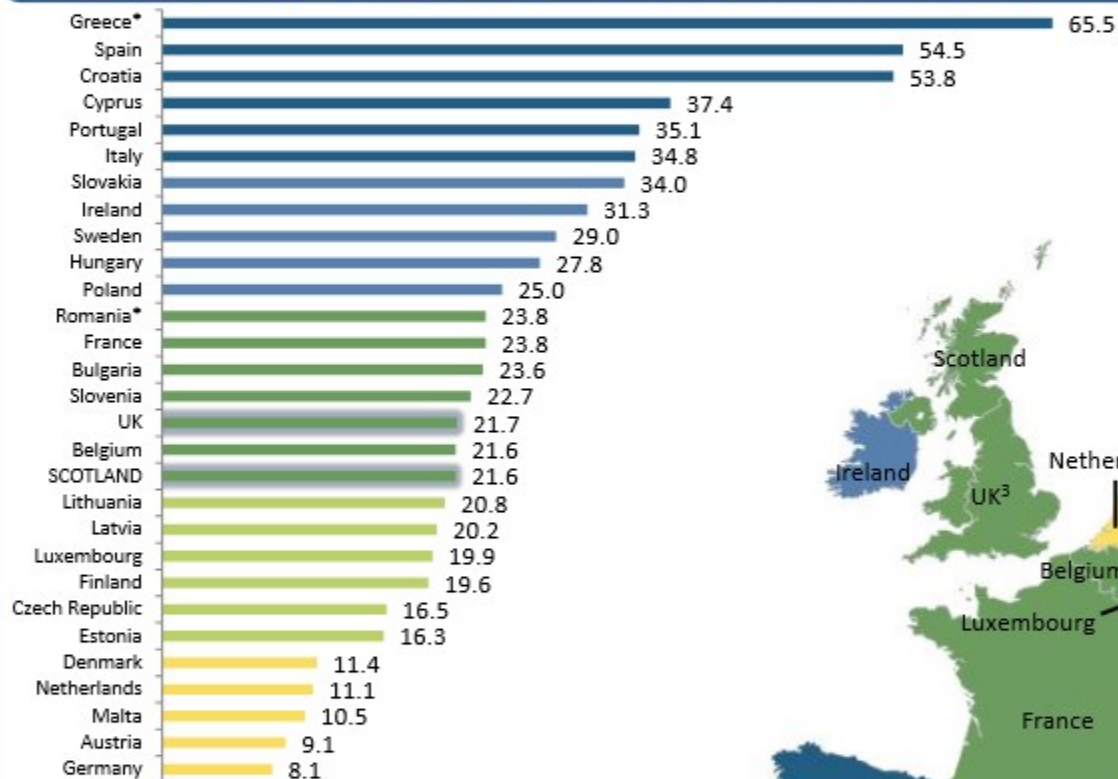
# Labour Market Briefing – September 2013

## Youth unemployment: European comparisons

Employability, Skills and Lifelong Learning Analysis

### Only 11 of the EU 28 Countries have Lower Youth Unemployment Rate than Scotland

Youth (15-24) Unemployment Rate – EU 28 and Scotland – June 2013 (non-seasonally adjusted)



#### Notes

1. Estimates for Scotland and UK from Labour Force Survey (LFS), May-Jul 2013 and covers those aged 16-24
2. \* indicated data rolled over from most recently data available
3. UK includes Scotland

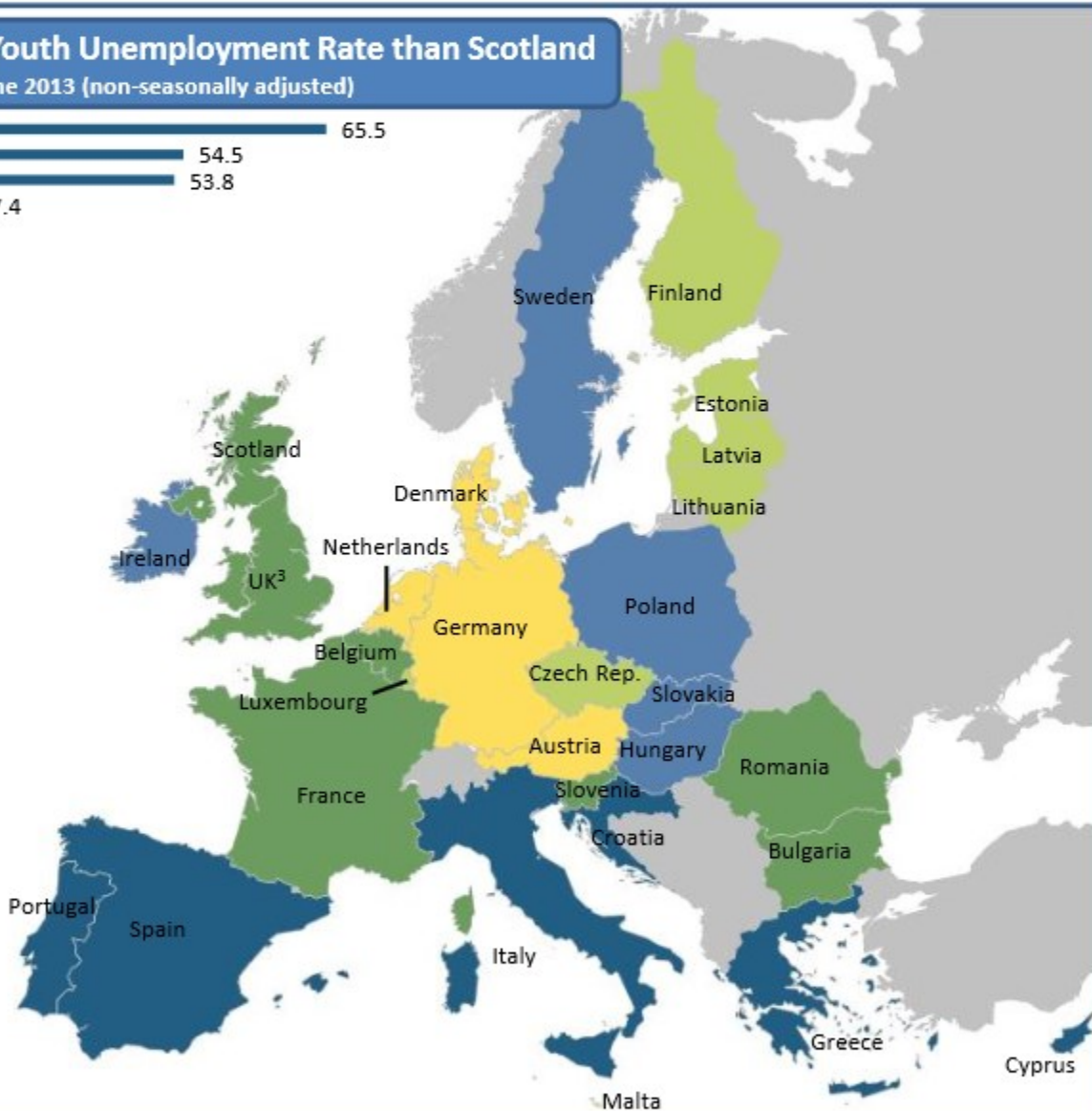
Source: Eurostat

Boundaries: ESRI

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Scottish Government Labour Market Statistics Team – September 2013



# Youth Unemployment 15-24 year olds



**Scotland 21.6%**



**Lithuania 20.8%**



**Latvia 20.2 %**

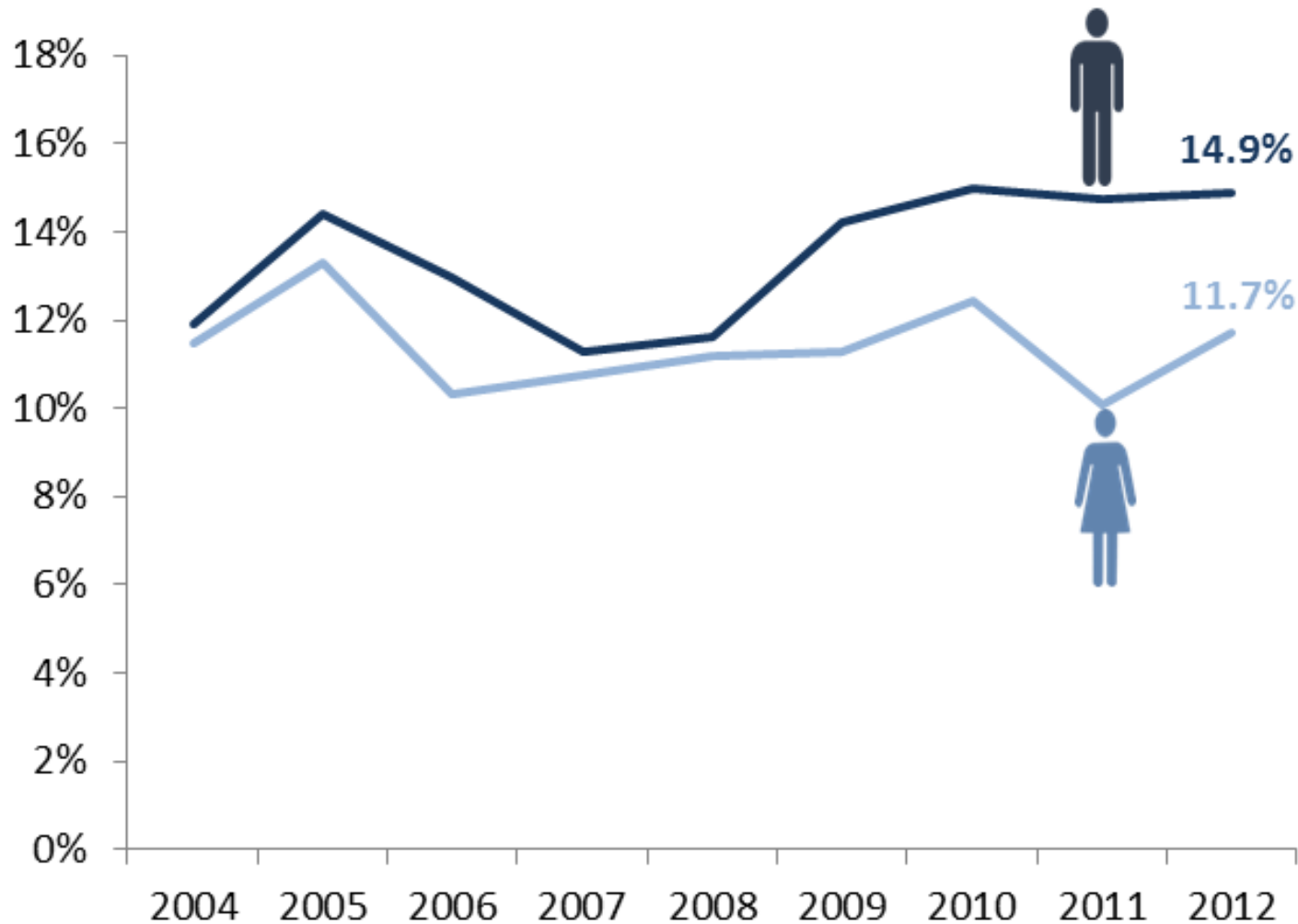


**Estonia 16.3%**



**Netherlands 11.1%**

# Percentage of 16-19 year olds NEET by gender, Scotland, 2004-2012



Source: Annual Population Survey, Jan-Dec, ONS

# Factors that 'predict' NEET

- **Having parents who are poor and/or unemployed**
- **Living in a poor neighbourhood and/or near schools with poor attainment**
- **Pre-16 educational disengagement**
- **(Some) ethnic minority background (e.g. Afro-Caribbean, Bangladeshi, Pakistani)**
- **Low-level or no qualifications at age 16+**
- **Experience of living in care**
- **Teenage pregnancy or parenthood**
- **Having a disability**
- **Being a young carer**
- **Having a mental illness**
- **Being homeless**
- **Misusing drugs or alcohol**
- **Being involved in offending**



# **Outcomes Associated with being NEET**

- **Post-18 unemployment**
- **More insecure and lower paid employment**
- **Youth offending**
- **Teenage pregnancy and earlier parenting**
- **More serious drug use**
- **Homelessness**
- **Mental and physical health problems**

# ACTION FOR JOBS - SUPPORTING YOUNG SCOTS INTO WORK

SCOTLAND'S YOUTH EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY



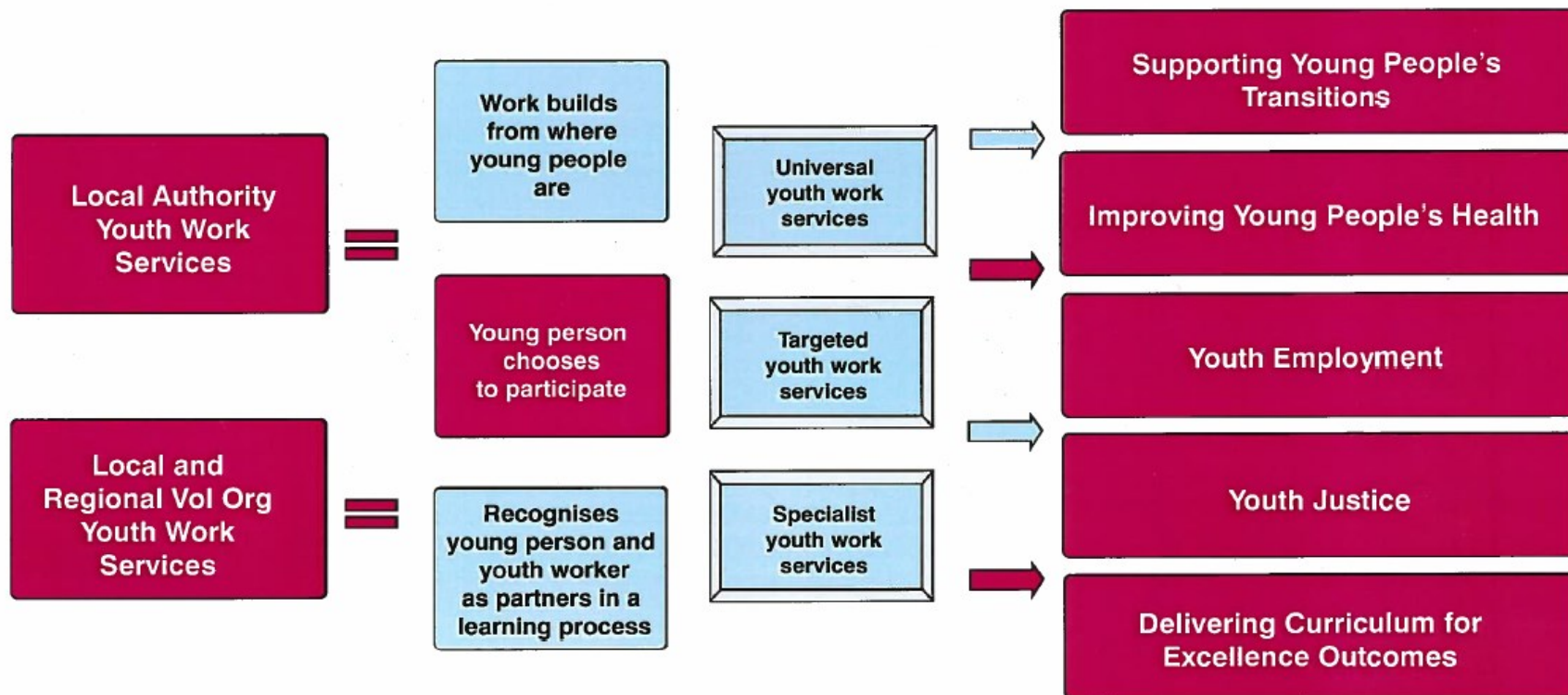
# **Youth Work: Supporting Positive Destinations**

**Through youth work, hundreds of thousands of young people across Scotland are accessing a wide range of activities that help to improve their life chances and wellbeing, and support them to build skills in preparation for further learning and employment. Youth work provides opportunities for young people to develop confidence and resilience, acquire leadership and negotiation skills, learn to solve problems and work well with others.**

**(Scottish Government 2012)**

# What is Youth Work?

# LOCAL YOUTH WORK IN SCOTLAND



Improving the Lives and Life Chances of Young people in Scotland

Changing Services and Preventative Spending Agenda

**Youth work is neither social care nor formal teaching. It is an intervention that combines elements of both in the context of creating learning and supportive opportunities for free association and fun, empowerment and enfranchisement and critical thinking**

(McKee, Oldfield & Poultney 2010, p.6)

# Mapping Youth Work

## Youth Work Settings

Youth Club  
Youth Centre/Project  
Street work  
Detached/Outreach  
Residential  
Outdoors  
International  
Schools  
Community  
Uniform Organisation  
Faith-based

## Youth Work Methods

Informal Education  
One-to-one support  
Issue-based  
Group work  
Sport & Recreation  
Arts & Culture  
Outdoor Adventure  
Project-based  
Youth Participation

## Youth Work Purpose

Learning  
Personal Development  
Individual Support  
Skills Development  
Health & Wellbeing  
Positive Transitions  
Employability  
Crime Prevention  
Accreditation  
Community Engagement

# **Purpose of Youth Work in Scotland**

- **Build self-esteem and self-confidence**
- **Develop ability to manage personal and social relationships**
- **Create learning and develop new skills**
- **Encourage positive group interaction**
- **Build the capacity of young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control**
- **Develop a 'world view' which widens horizons and invites social commitment**



# **Current Challenges for Youth Work Voices from Practice**

**‘It’s challenging to discuss rights when the dominant discourse is firmly set to talk about responsibilities over rights. Employability is a perfect example, unemployment is replaced with employability, individualising the problem’**

# **Current Challenges for Youth Work Voices from Practice**

**‘Every meeting I go to about young people focuses on moving them into positive destinations - nothing else (at least through government agencies) seems to matter.’**

# Some questions...

- **How do we best support the current generation of young people through the on-going global economic crisis?**
- **Should we focus on employability as the key solution?**
- **What are the barriers to be overcome by service providers?**