

# FIRST SUPPLEMENT TO THE GIBRALTAR GAZETTE

No. 5271 GIBRALTAR Thursday 18th December 2025

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## YOUTH SERVICE BILL 2025

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# THIRD SUPPLEMENT TO THE GIBRALTAR GAZETTE

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B. 24/25

## BILL

FOR

AN ACT to make provision for a Youth Service and for connected matters.

ENACTED by the Legislature of Gibraltar.

### Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Youth Service Act 2026.

### Commencement.

2. This Act comes into operation on the day of publication.

### Interpretation.

3. In this Act-

“Senior Youth Worker” has the meaning given in section 7;

“Minister” means the Minister with responsibility for the Youth;

“Principal Youth Officer” and “PYO” have the meaning given in section 6;

“youth” means a person who-

- (a) has attained the age of 8 years but is not more than 25 years old;
- (b) has learning needs and has attained the age of 25 but is not more than 30 years old.

### The Government’s duties in relation to the youth.

4.(1) The Government, or such person, agency or entity to whom the Government may delegate its functions under section 8 shall be charged with control and superintendence of matters relating to the youth in Gibraltar.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Government to-

- (a) provide the youth with structured and safe environments;
- (b) offer programs that promote informal education and personal and social development;
- (c) manage youth facilities such as youth clubs;
- (d) administer and manage any committees established by the Government for any purpose connected or incidental to any of the duties under this Act;
- (e) encourage as many youths as possible to access and participate in youth activities;
- (f) ensure equal access to youth services for all young people, regardless of background;
- (g) carry out any other function conferred on the Government or the Minister in pursuance of the provisions of this Act.

**General principles of youth policy.**

5. In the exercise of all the powers and duties conferred and imposed by this Act, the Government shall, so far as is compatible with the promotion of youth services and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure, have regard to the following general principles-

- (a) any major issues of policy affecting the youth and youth services;
- (b) the need to use resources in the most efficient and effective way;
- (c) the need to increase the diversity of the people who access and participate in youth services;
- (d) progressive development and improvement of facilities and opportunities to participate in and enjoy youth services.

**Principal Youth Officer.**

6.(1) The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, appoint a person as Principal Youth Officer (the “PYO”), who shall be responsible to the Minister for the discharge of any duties and functions conferred by or under this Act.

(2) An appointment under subsection (1) shall be for such a period, and subject to such terms and conditions, as may be specified in the instrument of appointment.

(3) The PYO, subject to any general or special directions of the Government, shall carry out the functions imposed by this Act, as well as any of the Government’s functions under section 4 which are delegated to the PYO.

(4) The PYO may do anything that appears to the PYO to be incidental or conducive to the carrying out of the PYO's functions.

**Senior Youth Worker.**

7. The Minister may, by notice in the Gazette, appoint a person as the Senior Youth Worker who is responsible to the PYO, and who may discharge the PYO's duties under this Act when the PYO is unable to discharge such duties, whether through illness, leave of absence or otherwise.

**Powers and delegation of duties.**

8.(1) In accordance with the general principles set out in section 5 the Government may-

- (a) improve, refurbish, maintain or assist in maintaining youth clubs as are within the Government's possession, and otherwise, with the consent of the relevant landowner or tenant (as the case may be);
- (b) erect, equip and maintain any facilities and premises used for youth purposes;
- (c) contract with any person for the supply of any goods, services and personnel;
- (d) whether in print, digital or such other electronic form, compile, prepare, print, issue, circulate, and distribute, such papers, leaflets, magazines, periodical books, and other literary matter as may be conducive to the duties of the Government under this Act.

(2) The Government may delegate in writing, to such an extent, for such a period and on such terms and conditions as it shall generally or specially authorise, the discharge of any of its duties under this Act to the PYO, or to any suitably qualified and competent person, agency or entity, or to both.

(3) The delegation by the Government of any of its duties under this Act shall not affect the exercise by the Government of such duties.

**Liability.**

9. Neither the Government, nor any person to whom the Government's duties have been delegated (including, any officer or employee of such person), shall be liable in damages for anything done or omitted in the discharge or purported discharge of any powers or duties conferred by this Act unless the act or omission is shown to have been in bad faith.

**Regulations.**

10. The Minister by regulations provide for any matter that is required for the purposes of carrying out any functions or duties under this Act.

**Consequential Amendments.**

11. In section 30(1) of the Education and Training Act delete “youth clubs, youth centres,”.

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**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

This Bill makes provision for the control and superintendence of matters relating to the youth in Gibraltar.

Clause 4 sets out the Government’s duties in relation to the youth. These are set out in subclause (2) and are delegable. Clause 8 makes further provision in that regard.

Clause 5 sets out the general principles that are to be observed when exercising any powers and duties that are provided for in the Bill.

Clauses 6 and 7 respectively provide for the appointment of a Principal Youth Officer and a Senior Youth Worker.

Clause 9 limits liability, except where there has been bad faith.

Clause 10 provides for regulations to be made by the Minister.

Clause 11 enables a consequential amendment to be made to the Education and Training Act.