

A Proposed Structure for the Wales Youth Work Partnership

This paper is written for the Management Committee of the Partnership as a follow up to the paper entitled "Towards a Work Programme for the Wales Youth Work Partnership". It suggests a structure through which the Partnership may pursue its aim is:

To provide an infrastructure for the co-ordination and development of youth work practice throughout the voluntary and statutory youth service in Wales.

It is assumed that the term infrastructure in this context refers to a network of opportunities for people to meet across organisational boundaries in order to work towards common goals. The functions for which the Partnership is funded are staff development and training, information and the dissemination of useful practice. It is assumed that the Partnership will adopt a policy of involving the maximum number of youth work practitioners and managers consistent with efficient use of resources. The involvement of practitioners and managers in committees or working groups should, in itself, make a contribution towards meeting their development needs.

The Management Committee

The composition of the Management Committee is:

- a) The Chair, appointed by the Secretary of State
- b) Two persons nominated by the Central Council for Education and Training in Youth and Community Work. (CETYCW)
- c) Two persons nominated by the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services. (CWVYS)
- d) Two persons nominated by the National Youth Bureau. (NYB)
- e) Two persons nominated by the Welsh Joint Education Committee. (WJEC)

In addition, two persons are nominated by the Secretary of State who act as assessors to the Partnership including one member of HM Inspectorate. The draft memorandum of administrative and financial arrangements allows for additional co-opted members to be appointed for a period of no longer than one year as and when required.

Recommendations

- (1) That the Further Education and Youth Service Association of Wales be asked to nominate a co-opted member.
- (2) That the Director of the School of Social Studies at NEWI, Cartrefle, be asked to nominate a co-opted member.
- (3) That youth work practitioners be asked to nominate a co-opted member to be nominated by those practitioners who attend the Weekend Forum in July.
- (4) That, in principle, two additional co-opted places be allocated to young people's organisations in Wales. Nominations for these places should await the outcome of an initiative currently being pursued by members of the former IYY Committee for Wales, Youth Link Wales, and the Onliners.

Youth Link Wales is an organisation created by a group of young people involved in the CWVYS experimental project 'Young people in the prevention of alcohol, solvent and drug misuse.

The **Onliners** are the group of young people responsible for the production of the youth information handbook for Wales.

SOB-COMMITTEES

Training

One of the recommendations of the Working Group established by CETYCW/WJEC to develop a strategy for the in-service training of those who work full-time in the youth service in Wales was:

"We recommend to the Partnership that it establish a group charged with the development of training whose terms of reference include facilitating and keeping under review the promotion of opportunities for staff development and training, publicising training opportunities, monitoring the use made of training opportunities and establishing such groups as would further these purposes."

Such a group might appropriately be formed as a standing sub-committee of the Management Committee with a suggested composition and remit as follows:

Composition

Chair appointed by the Management Committee. Three representatives each in the following categories:

- (i) Employers representatives. who may be drawn from officers of LEA's, or office-bearers or officers of national, voluntary youth organisations.
- (ii) Practitioner representatives, drawn from the field to ensure that full-time part-time and voluntary workers may be represented.
- (iii) Training providers. drawn from Institutes of Higher Education, local authority and voluntary sector tutors and trainers.

Remit

- (i) to build on information gathered by the CETYCW/WJEC working group on in-service training for full-time staff and to initiate action on the recommendations made to the Partnership.
- (ii) to establish initiatives as appropriate in relation to the training and staff development needs of part-time and voluntary workers and senior member.
- (iii) to set up a register of staff development and training opportunities and identify resources available for course based and other forms of staff development and training.
- (iv) to promote and publicise training opportunities
- (v) to monitor the use made of training opportunities
- (vi) to consider ,in collaboration with other relevant bodies, how best to establish a scheme whereby modules of accredited training could lead to a national award
- (vii) to establish such Working Groups as may be required to further these purposes

Information and Resources

In order to ensure that the information work of the Partnership is firmly rooted in youth work practice, and to encourage practitioners to write about their work, it is proposed that the Field Information Officer works to a reference group of practitioners concerned about developing information and

Such a group may again be established as a standing sub-committee of the Partnership with a suggested composition and remit as follows:

Composition

Chair appointed by the Management Committee

Six youth workers or managers drawn from the local authorities or voluntary organisations representative of a range of youth work settings and geographical locations throughout the Principality.

Remit

(i) to contribute towards and advise on the publication of a regular newsletter, digests, reading lists, and materials related to youth work.

(ii) to encourage the establishment of writers' workshops involving youth workers throughout Wales.

(iii) to evaluate resource materials (publications, videos, packs, games, etc.) which are of use with young people or of relevance to the management, administration or training role of youth workers

(iv) to create an information bank of working' papers on youth work experience in Wales

(v) to monitor developments in information technology and its application to youth work

(vi) to establish such Working Groups as may be required to further these purposes

Recommendation

That the proposed structure of sub-committees and working groups be the subject of discussion at the Weekend Forum in July and that the proposals as amended by the Forum be put to the Management Committee for immediate implementation.

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