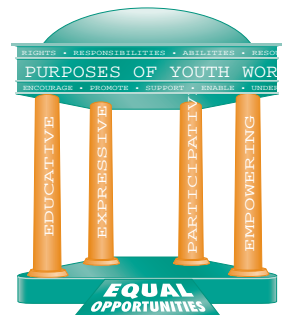


# The Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales



Cyngor Ieuenctid Cymru  
Wales Youth Agency



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All the cartoons and illustrations were ideas created by the Senior Youth Club members from Cardiff County Youth Services.



# THE YOUTH WORK CURRICULUM STATEMENT FOR WALES

The Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales was initially written and approved in 1992. The following statement was reviewed and rewritten in 2001. In future it will be reviewed every three years. The review working group consisted of the following members:

- The Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS)
- Representatives of the Principal Officers Group
- Advisory Council - Wales Youth Agency
- Education and Training Standards Group (ETS)
- The Youth and Community Work Training Agencies
- Young Voice/Llais Ifanc
- Curriculum Policy Manager – Wales Youth Agency (acted as the secretariat to the review process).

The Wales Youth Agency, The Principal Officers Group and CWVYS as the main groups responsible for the delivery of the Youth Work in Wales have endorsed the Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales (YWCSW).

Other groups were invited to endorse the statement and a record of their commitment and intent is kept at the Wales Youth Agency.

Consultations were widely sought, and comments from individuals, groups and organisations were submitted to the review working group for consideration. This was done not only to those bodies listed above but also through Pigion (Youth Information literature sent out to 1300 youth workers across Wales).

The Wales Youth Agency's Web page also invited comment from those not contacted by direct mailings or local consultations.

Estyn and the National Assembly for Wales Youth Policy unit were also asked for comment.

February 2002



# THE YOUTH WORK CURRICULUM STATEMENT FOR WALES

This Statement IS intended to:

- establish the main purposes of youth work in Wales
- inform those outside the service of these purposes
- provide common understanding of these purposes
- provide a framework for the development of practice and determining of priorities
- create a means by which progress towards the achievement of these purposes is measured

## The Statement IS NOT intended to:

- lead to a single, prescriptive and inflexible curriculum which would restrain diversity or restrict initiative.



Throw some light  
on your Future



## PURPOSES OF YOUTH WORK

The purposes of youth work in Wales are:

- to promote and actively encourage equality of opportunity for all young people in order that they may fulfil their potential as empowered individuals and as members of groups and communities.
- to actively support young people through significant changes in their lives and assist them to understand their rights and responsibilities during their transition to adulthood.
- to encourage young people to develop knowledge, understanding, attitudes and values which enables them to make purposeful use of their skills, resources and time.





Youth work, through its voluntary relationships with young people, offers inclusive opportunities to learning that are:

## EDUCATIVE

Enabling young people to gain skills, knowledge, understanding, attitudes and values needed to identify, advocate and pursue their rights and responsibilities as individuals and as members of groups and communities, locally, nationally, and internationally.

## EXPRESSIVE

Encouraging and enabling young people to express their emotions and aspirations, through creative, sporting and challenging opportunities which raise an awareness of:

- cultural identity
- bilingualism and the value of ones own language
- heritage
- respect for diversity
- citizenship and respect for others.





## PARTICIPATIVE

Where young people are encouraged to share responsibility and to become equal partners, fundamental to the learning processes and decision making structures which affect their own and other people's lives and environments.

## EMPOWERING

Encouraging and enabling young people to understand their rights and responsibilities so that they are able to act on the personal, social and political issues which affect their lives and the lives of others; as responsible citizens of the communities of which they are a part.



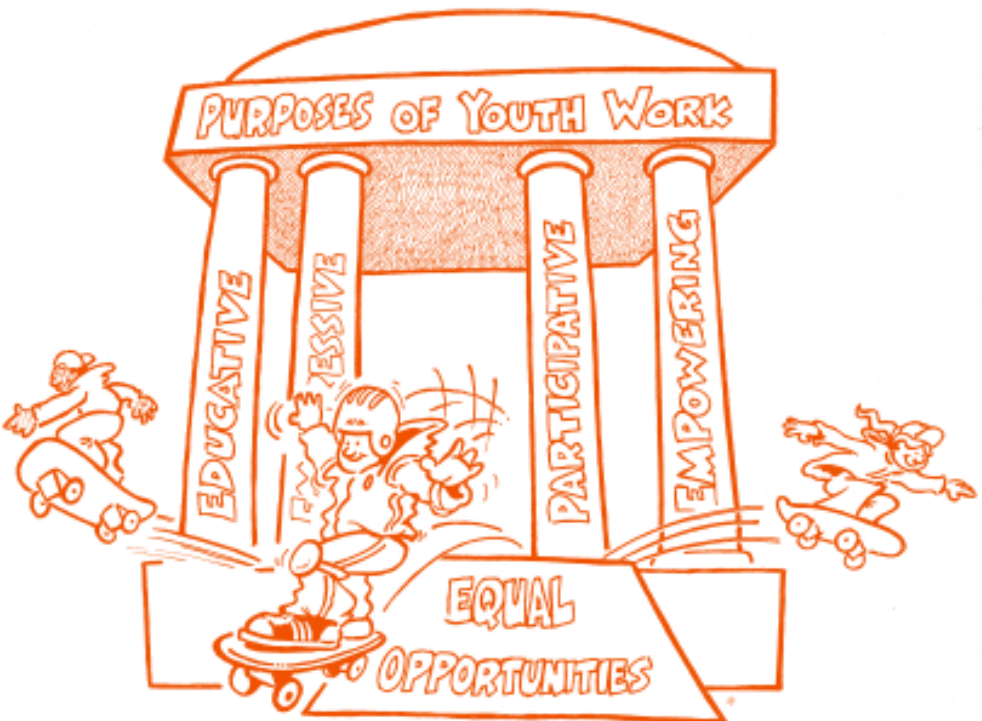
Young people working  
together to make a  
Brighter Future



## PROMOTE EQUALITY FOR ALL

They should:

- challenge oppression and inequality.
- promote acceptance of the differences that spring from race, sexual identity, gender, disability, age, religion and class.
- recognise the importance of the Welsh language and its heritage, other languages, and the diversity of cultures in Wales.







# THE DELIVERY OF YOUTH WORK IN WALES

Youth work in Wales is delivered through a voluntary relationship between young people and youth workers working within their own organisation and in partnership with others to provide and/or facilitate:

- non-formal, informal and structured educational programmes which challenge both the institutions and young people themselves to enhance their personal, social and political development.
- places and relationships within which young people can enjoy themselves, feel secure, supported and valued, learn to take greater control of their lives, and to recognise and resist the damaging influences which may affect them.
- access to relevant information, advice, guidance and counselling which includes the understanding of their rights and responsibilities.

The delivery of youth work in Wales will be assisted by appropriate research into issues and trends, which particularly affect young people's lives. Collaboration with appropriate agencies and services is important so that their expertise can be used to advance the identification of needs, interests, rights and responsibilities of young people.





## PRIORITIES

- the youth service is open to all young people within the specified age range 11-25, but gives priority to transition to adulthood in the 13-19 age group.
- priority groups and issues may be determined on a national, local or organisation basis and should be founded on the principles of ensuring equality of access and opportunity.

## PROVISION

- the type, method and mix of youth work provision is determined on a unit, local, national, and organisational level.
- the establishment of appropriate provision should be considered on the basis of need.

The needs of individuals are vital in this process not only to achieve social policy outcomes but also to target their own aspirations and desires.

The delivery methods used might include:

- centre-based work
- centres for curriculum specialities
- detached work
- information, advice, guidance and counselling services
- mobile provision
- outreach work
- project work
- residential work
- targeted provision for specific groups
- one to one work
- partnership working
- mechanisms for consulting with young people
- providing opportunities for volunteering





## MEASURING PROGRESS AND ASSESSING OUTCOMES

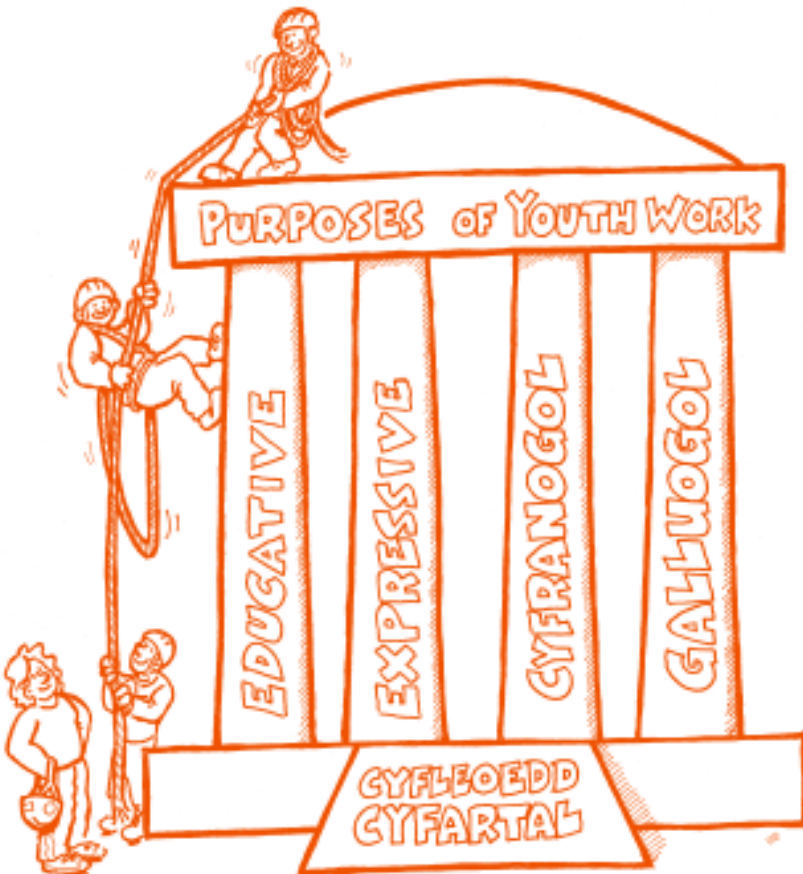
- the Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales should provide the basis for establishing agreed criteria by which the Youth Service can be scrutinised, internally and/or externally, in order to identify the specific outcomes of Youth Work delivery.
- such criteria should be determined at every level within the context of the provision.
- it is incumbent upon each youth work provider to establish methods of monitoring and evaluating progression. Youth Service Providers/Organisations should identify and share good practice, whilst at the same time challenging areas of concern and offering appropriate support and training where needed.
- in assessing outcomes providers should have established systems for the planning, evaluation and monitoring of each piece of youth work delivered and that the positive benefits for young people are clearly identified.



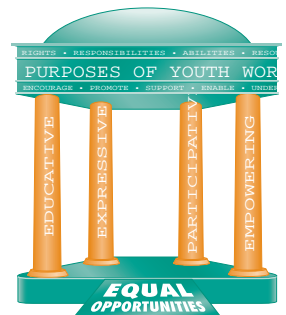
**DREAM MACHINE**



- providers should (also) take account of National Assembly for Wales guidelines and the Estyn framework for the inspection of services for young people.
- the ongoing process of evaluation and action planning will promote improvements, enable good youth work practice to be identified, and will contribute to the development of future youth work strategies.



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