

The Curriculum Statement for Wales has been produced by a working group consisting of members of the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS, the Welsh Association of Full-time Youth and Community Workers (WAFTYCW), the Further Education and Youth Service Association of Wales (FEYSAW), the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC), and the Wales Youth Forum; following the recognition by the Second Ministerial Conference at Birmingham of the legitimacy of a separate statement for Wales.

It has been endorsed by the Wales Youth Work Partnership and subsequently by the Wales Youth Agency.

May 1992

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 and mutual 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.

THE PURPOSES OF YOUTH WORK IN WALES

The purposes of youth work in Wales are:

- to promote 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 support young people in the transition to adulthood.
- to assist young people to develop attitudes and skills which enable them to make purposeful use of their personal resources and time.

Youth work thus offers young people opportunities which are:

- **EDUCATIVE** - enabling young people to gain the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to identify, advocate and pursue their rights and responsibilities as individuals and as members of groups and communities, locally, nationally, and internationally.
- **PARTICIPATIVE** - through voluntary relationships in which young people are partners in the learning processes and decision making structures which affect their own and other people's lives and environments.
- **EMPOWERING** - enabling young people to understand and act on the personal, social and political issues which affect their lives, the lives of others and the communities of which they are a part.
- **EXPRESSIVE** - encouraging and enabling young people to express their thoughts, emotions, aspirations and cultural identity through creative and challenging activities, particularly those which increase their understanding of the bilingualism, heritage and cultures of Wales.

The above opportunities should be designed to promote equality for all through the challenging of oppression and inequity, from the acceptance of differences which spring from race, sexual identity, gender, disability, age and religion, and the recognition of the diversity of culture and language in Wales.

THE DELIVERY OF YOUTH WORK IN WALES

Youth work in Wales is delivered through a partnership between voluntary organisations and local education authorities working together and independently to provide or facilitate:

- **informal and structured educational programmes** which challenge young people and enhance their personal and spiritual development, social and political education.
- **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 advocating the rights of young people.

The delivery of youth work in Wales will be assisted by appropriate **research** into issues and trends which particularly affect young people's lives, and by **collaboration** with appropriate agencies and services whose expertise may be harnessed in order to advance young people's needs, interests, and rights.

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.
- The identification of priority groups and issues will be determined nationally, locally or organisationally and would be based on the principles of ensuring equality of access and opportunity.

PROVISION

- The type, method and mix of youth work provision should be determined locally and/or organisationally.
- The establishment of appropriate provision should be considered in relation to the needs of individuals and groups, desired outcomes and purposes. 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

MEASURING PROGRESS AND ASSESSING OUTCOMES

- The Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales should provide the basis for establishing agreed criteria by which process can be measured (by an organisation, authority, or unit) and specific outcomes of the work identified.
- 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 measuring progress which are appropriate to the work being undertaken.
- In assessing Outcomes, providers should take account of the needs being addressed, the resources utilised, the processes adopted, and the specific benefits that accrue to young people.
- The ongoing process of evaluation will enable good youth work practice to be identified, and will contribute to the determining of future youth work strategies.

17 May 1991

Dear colleague,

WALES YOUTH WORK CURRICULUM GROUP

The inter-agency group comprising representatives of CWVYS, FEYSAW, WAFTYCW, WJEC, and WYF, serviced by WYWP, was established in 1990 following proposals made by FEYSAW, and subsequently supported by the other agencies, to look at core curriculum issues in Wales. The Group has thus far:

- carried out a curriculum survey of full and part-time workers in Wales and published its results.
- acted as the planning and organising group for a Welsh Office Day Seminar on the Core Curriculum.
- received and considered papers emanating from the two Ministerial Conferences on the Core Curriculum.
- received and considered a draft document prepared by a WJEC Working Group concerning core curriculum for the youth service in Wales.
- noted responses sought by the WJEC Working Group on its draft document.
- received and considered an example of Measurement of Performance from the Powys Youth Service.

The group considered its immediate agenda to include:

- the consideration of the WJEC draft document
- receiving and giving consideration to any additional papers relevant to the discussion.
- consulting with its constituent groups regarding the subsequent draft document and to their views as to the way forward thereafter.

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Wales Youth Work Curriculum Group (..... page two)

As a result of the completion of the first two tasks of the immediate agenda, the group has now produced the subsequent draft document, based on the WJEC draft document (to whom grateful thanks are extended). The group would now be grateful if, as a constituent agency, you would:

- i) consider the document and propose amendments and additions as necessary.
- ii) offer advice as to how the re-drafted document should be disseminated in a wider consultative process to your members.

Responses to this draft statement are requested by 12 July 1991 - this will give you the opportunity of dovetailing discussions with those relating to the establishment of the projected Wales Youth Agency.

There remains much to be done in terms of measuring progress and measuring outcomes and the group will, in its continuing role, be considering processes by which these may be defined.

Finally, the Inter-Agency Curriculum Group has been invited to consider the possibility of drawing together representatives to discuss the issue of the core curriculum for Wales with a view to its endorsement. At the end of the consultation, a mechanism by which the statement may be endorsed and adopted on an all-Wales basis will be considered by the group. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Brian Williams
Director