

Joint Statement from Jane Davidson AM Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Management Board of the Wales Youth Agency.

First Minister Rhodri Morgan announced on the 30th November 2004 that the Assembly Government would consult the Management Board of the Wales Youth Agency (WYA) with a view to ceasing to fund the Agency from the end of 2005.

This announcement was part of the agenda for "Making the Connections, delivering better services for Wales" which includes the merger of ELWa, WDA and WTB and ACCAC, together with a number of other organisations.

Following the consultation, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Management Board of the Wales Youth Agency are making this joint statement regarding the future.

The Welsh Assembly Government will cease funding the Wales Youth Agency and from the 1st January 2006, will set up a new branch within the Assembly to take on the functions of the Agency and a number of other programme areas.

As a result of this decision, the WYA Management Board has determined that the Agency will cease to exist as a company limited by guarantee from that date.

The Management Board shares the Minister's commitment to the development of a world class youth service. The Minister has reiterated the continued importance of youth work to the Extending Entitlement agenda.

There will now be a period of consultation with all parties who deliver youth support services to develop the most efficient and effective method of working for the new branch. The consultation meetings will be jointly hosted by the Welsh Assembly Government and the Wales Youth Agency.

Jane Davidson said "The Wales Youth Agency has made a real contribution to all aspects of youth work since 1992. I'm committed to building on that foundation to ensure the best provision for our young people in delivering Extending Entitlement".

Acting Chair of the Wales Youth Agency Management Board Dr Howard Williamson added "I am proud to have been involved with the Agency since its inception. The Wales Youth Agency has discharged its varied and changing roles and functions with a strong commitment to youth work and to the young people of Wales. I hope that the new arrangements will strengthen that commitment in pursuance of fulfilling the vision and philosophy of Extending Entitlement".