

**Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg](#) ar [Flaenoriaethau'r Chweched Senedd](#)**

**This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) consultation on [Sixth Senedd Priorities](#)**

**CYPE SP 19**

**Ymateb gan: Paul Glaze, Cyngor Cymreig y Gwasanaethau Ieuenctid Gwirfoddol**

**Response from: Paul Glaze, Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWWYS)**

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Beth yn eich barn chi yw'r prif flaenoriaethau neu'r materion y dylai'r Pwyllgor eu hystyried yn ystod y Chweched Senedd? Os oes modd, nodwch eich barn o ran sut y gallai'r Pwyllgor fynd i'r afael â hyn.

What do you consider to be the main priorities or issues that the Committee should consider during the Sixth Senedd? Where possible, please set out your view about how the Committee could address them.

**Thema 1: Addysg oedran ysgol | Theme 1: School-age education**

The voluntary youth work services sector is well-placed to continue to play an essential role in the development of the new Curriculum, as it has done for several years now. However, the process would benefit from a greater strategic approach, collaboration and funding for sector. Greater involvement of the sector would assist in greater collaborative working in support of more young people, for the benefit of those young people and for improved strategic links.

We also recommend more guidelines and support for the voluntary youth work services sector in how they can best support the new curriculum, which might include learning resources and links to formal education programmes.

We support the call that local authorities should commission advocacy services for children and young people in education settings when they need representation.

School exclusions should not be permitted for care experienced children and young people. We support the call for equality of educational outcomes and to see provision of additional support for care experienced children and young people.



As part of the recovery from Covid-19, youth work services should be engaged to provide support, information, advice and extra safeguarding measures across formal education settings.

## **Thema 2: Addysg bellach ac addysg uwch | Theme 2: Further and higher education**

Young people leaving care should be offered a mentor to support them with access to further education.

We also support the call for a review of personal financial allowances to enable young people to access education and provide support for housing needs during these times.

## **Thema 3: Iechyd a lles, gan gynnwys gofal cymdeithasol (i'r graddau y maent yn ymwneud â phlant a phobl ifanc) | Theme 3: Health and well-being, including social care (as they relate to children and young people)**

Mental health issues are frequently identified by young people as being a vital issue. The CYPE Committee could play a key role in supporting mental health and emotional wellbeing to become more child-centred and rights-based. The 'Mind Over Matter' report recommended that Welsh Government strengthen its mental health and emotional wellbeing provision through active offers of independent advocacy for each young person who engages with mental health services. The Committee is well-placed to shape and influence the direction and success of this work.

Welsh Government has publicly committed to end youth homelessness by 2027. A youth homelessness strategy is necessary to effect this change, with CYPE Committee scrutinising and supporting such work.

Children and young peoples' concerns about global issues such as climate change, poverty and inequality affect their mental health and wellbeing. If opportunities are provided to understand these issues young people will be empowered to make informed decisions and to feel more welcome and able to participate in community and political life as citizens.

## **Thema 4: Plant a phobl Ifanc | Theme 4: Children and young people**

### **Funding**



CWVYS would like to see more creative ways being adopted to channel Welsh Government funding for the delivery of programmes through the Youth Support Grant to the youth work services sector. Recent examples include the additional £2.5M secured funding to support the mental health and emotional wellbeing of young people.

We believe there is an opportunity for that creativity here i.e. for available monies to be used in support of a fully collaborative approach, to encourage and reward innovative responses to the needs of young people and to reach a much larger number of young people. Another example of a funding stream which could enhance such collaboration is the new International Learning Programme (ILEP).

CWVYS also believes that this would all happen if the voluntary sector were fully engaged in such opportunities as part of the planning-design-delivery-evaluation cycle.

To try to mitigate this, we would argue that:

- To further enhance collaborative practice opportunities by working with all local authorities on, bids and approaches for Youth Support Grant and Revenue Support Grant funding should be co-signed per local authority area by the voluntary sector partners involved in the design and delivery of the services
- Consideration be given to supporting the additional costs of providing open access provision at voluntary youth work sector premises. CWVYS Member organisations are reporting on the need to cover the cost of such provision as 'things re-open' i.e. the need to staff youth centres to accommodate specific work of this nature within an open access environment and when young people are returning in large numbers but where hard-hit organisations do not have the financial resources to pay for staffing requirements
- There needs to be increased scrutiny of funding in order to understand how, where and when it is being used; how many young people are benefiting from the support; and how/when the voluntary sector is being properly engaged in the process of design and delivery of youth work services

### **Interim Youth Work Board (IYWB)**

CWVYS continues to be supportive of the IYWB's approach to securing a sustainable future for youth work services in Wales and, in turn, deliver better outcomes for young people.



We would urge the CYPE Committee to take full note of the IYWB's final report (published September 2021) and its recommendations as the basis of a hugely positive way forward for the sector – as a blueprint for meeting the needs of young people now and in the future.

### **Youth Work in Wales: Principles and Purposes**

CWVYS asks the Committee to take note of this key document which sets out the key principles underpinning youth work and an overview of its nature, purposes and delivery. We would also urge you to consider the 'Five Pillars of Youth Work'.

BOOKLET ([cwvys.org.uk](http://cwvys.org.uk)) BOOKLET ([cwvys.org.uk](http://cwvys.org.uk))

### **Children's rights**

The CYPE Committee could consider how to support the full incorporation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) directly into Welsh law.

### **Participation**

The Committee should consider how young people's participation with its work programme would benefit the quality and direction of the issues under scrutiny.

### **International exchange and global citizenship opportunities**

Such transformational opportunities need to be available to all young people. CWVYS continues to be very supportive of, and very active within, the ILEP. However, this should be scrutinised to ensure it is accessible to young people and that the funding for youth work services is used for that purpose.

### **Missing Children**

There is a need for independent return interviews to become a statutory requirement whenever children are reported missing. Such interviews assist in identifying any harm done to the child or young person whilst missing and support a safer future for those individuals.

