

POE25 Peter Jeffery, Director,

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Bil arfaethedig – Bil Addysg Awyr Agored (Cymru) | Proposed Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill

Ymateb gan Peter Jeffery, Director, | Evidence from Peter Jeffery, Director,

Are you (your organisation) currently a provider of outdoor education?: Yes

Your opinion

How important is outdoor education to children and young people's overall education and development?

Very important

What are the main benefits to children and young people from having a residential outdoor education experience?

Resilience, Teamwork, Meta cognition

Should children and young people have a guaranteed opportunity to participate in a residential outdoor education experience, at some stage during their school years, if they wish to?

Yes

Should an opportunity to participate in a residential outdoor education experience, at some stage during their school years, be free of charge on one occasion to pupils?

Yes

What are the main barriers which you believe currently exist to children and young people accessing residential outdoor education experiences?

Financial constraints; Child anxiety / uncertainty; Parental anxiety / uncertainty;

Equality Considerations: Could the proposed Bill have any positive impacts on some children and young people in particular? If so, who and why?

I believe the positive impacts on young people are huge, I believe that outdoor education and its associated personal development is a preventative in the development of mental health conditions which are currently a very serious issue among our young people. I believe that

Equality Considerations: Could the proposed Bill have any negative impacts on some children and young people in particular. If so, who and why? What could this Bill do to mitigate any negative impacts?

I cannot see any reason why there would be negative impacts as long as the provision is effective and thought out.

What age do you believe is most suitable for children and young people to be offered an opportunity to undertake a residential outdoor education experience?

Older (please state below)

12-14

Is four nights/five days the best length for a residential outdoor experience?

Yes

Please explain your answer and highlight any possible implications from having a standard approach of four night/five day experiences (whether positive or negative).

There is a lot of evidence to show shorter trips have little to no impact, that impact increases to 8 days and that it does not increase after that. Trips of shorter lengths focus the majority of time on trip in the travel and staying away from home (which are also important experiences) rather than the outdoor development that the activities / nature experiences provide.

Do you agree there is a need for legislation to ensure all children and young people are given an opportunity to access a residential outdoor education experience, at some stage during their school years?

Strongly agree

Is there anything else you would like to say about this proposal?

I think this is a step forward and it is hugely important that this is applied in order to improve access to young people who would not normally be able to access the outdoors. The majority of children who get to come away currently already have external to education access to these experiences. These should be shared with all and starting that in education leads to self sufficient access in later life. The class divide in outdoor activities could be fixed by this bill and that could be life changing to a huge amount of communities across wales.