

OE-019 - ADEW, PYOG, OEAP and WLGA

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

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

Ymateb gan ADEW, PYOG, OEAP and WLGA | Evidence from ADEW, PYOG, OEAP and WLGA

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



WLGA - Joint Consultation

17 March 2023

Welsh Parliament Development of the Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill

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Welsh Local Government Association - The Voice of Welsh Councils

We are the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA); a politically led cross-party organisation that seeks to give local government a strong voice at a national level. We represent the interests of local government and promote local democracy in Wales.

The 22 councils in Wales are our members and the 3 fire and rescue authorities and 3 national park authorities are associate members.

We believe that the ideas that change people's lives, happen locally.

Communities are at their best when they feel connected to their council through local democracy. By championing, facilitating, and achieving these connections, we can build a vibrant local democracy that allows communities to thrive.

Our ultimate goal is to promote, protect, support, and develop democratic local government and the interests of councils in Wales.

We'll achieve our vision by

- Promoting the role and prominence of councillors and council leaders
- Ensuring maximum local discretion in legislation or statutory guidance
- Championing and securing long-term and sustainable funding for councils
- Promoting sector-led improvement
- Encouraging a vibrant local democracy, promoting greater diversity
- Supporting councils to effectively manage their workforce



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Introduction

This is a joint response from the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Partners/Officers from across Wales; Wales' Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel OEAP (Cymru), Wales' Principal Youth Officers' Group (PYOG), and Wales' Association of Directors of Education (ADEW).

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

- Very important
- Quite important
- Don't know
- Not very important
- Not at all important

2. What are the main benefits to children and young people from having a residential outdoor education experience? Please list your top three benefits:

Our top 3 would be:

- **enjoyment**,
- **experiential learning - which leads to wider skills development such as confidence, leadership, team work and character building,**
- **health and wellbeing**

These 3 would be closely followed by **increased motivation** and **appetite for learning**.

3. 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
- No
- Don't know

4. 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
- No
- Don't know



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Subject to this being fully funded, strategically managed, and seed funded to create greater resources.

5. What are the main barriers which you believe currently exist to children and young people accessing residential outdoor education experiences? (please tick all that apply)

- Financial constraints
- Health reasons
- Disabilities
- Additional Learning Needs
- Parental anxiety/uncertainty
- Child anxiety/uncertainty
- Other (Please state) Cultural.
- None

6. Equalities considerations:

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

As for Q2 plus,

- developing and extending key skills of communication, problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking, leadership and co-operation.
- Broadened horizons and becoming open to a wider range of employment opportunities and life chances.
- Becoming alive to the natural local and global environment and understand the importance of conservation and sustainable development.
- Demonstrating increased initiative and innovation, enthusiasm, curiosity, self-reliance, responsibility, perseverance, tenacity and commitment.

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?

None considered

7. 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?

- Year 6 (age 10-11)
- Younger (please state)



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- Older (please state) (age 13-14)
- Not at any age

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

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

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

Schools may wish to have a 3-day 2 night stay that would suit their learners more so than a 5-day programme. It may be beneficial for a later return visit in the pupil's career to use up the allocation of days to reinforce the learning and benefits.

9. 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
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

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

We would need a formal arrangement with suppliers in place, and for the system to be failsafe, accountable and meet expectation without risk of litigation.

We require reflection on what a 'guarantee' in this context means.

-End-