

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc
ac Addysg**

**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

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Lynne Neagle MS
Cabinet Secretary for Education

9 December 2025

Youth Work in Wales – Progress and Next Steps

Dear Lynne,

We write seeking clarity on the Welsh Government's approach to youth work in Wales, following recent concerns raised by sector representatives. As you will recall, our predecessor committee undertook an inquiry into youth work in 2016, during your time as Chair. That inquiry highlighted the importance of a sustainable model for youth delivery work and set the foundation for subsequent developments, including the recommendations published in *Time to deliver for young people in Wales* (September 2021) by the Interim Youth Work Board and the work of the Youth Work Implementation Board.

Recent correspondence from sector representatives, including Keith Towler, has raised concerns about the direction of the proposals consulted on by the Welsh Government in October 2024. In light of these concerns, we would be grateful if you could provide an update and address the following key points:

1. How does the proposed definition of youth work align with the aspirations for a sustainable model of youth work delivery as set out in "*Time to deliver for young people in Wales*"? What steps will be taken to ensure that the definition reflects the sector's vision and addresses the concerns highlighted through the consultation process?
2. While the sector welcomes the creation of a national body for youth work, concerns have been raised about a perceived top-down approach. How will the Welsh Government



ensure that the new body operates as a genuine partnership model, working collaboratively with CWYVS, WLGA and other stakeholders?

3. We note that the full consultation responses have not been published, can the Welsh Government provide details of the changes it intends to make to the final statutory framework, specifically those informed by consultation responses? Can the full consultation responses be provided to aid transparency?
4. If the new framework is to proceed largely unchanged from that outlined in last year's consultation, how will the Welsh Government address concerns raised with us that these proposals: risk creating barriers for voluntary organisations, potentially impose 'unrealistic' qualification requirements, and lack sufficient clarity and flexibility to ensure consistent implementation across Wales?
5. Given that it will be nearly ten years since the Committee's original inquiry by the end of this Senedd term, what is the timeline for implementing this very important next phase of youth work policy? How will progress be monitored and reported to ensure accountability?

Youth work plays a vital role in supporting children and young people across Wales and we are keen to ensure that the Welsh Government's approach reflects the sector's expertise and builds on the foundations and collaborative approach laid over the past decade.

We look forward to your response by 22 January.



Buffy Williams MS

Chair

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.