

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

Buffy Williams MS  
Chair, Children, Young People, and Education Committee

Dear Buffy,

## **Youth Work in Wales**

Thank you for your active consideration of my previous letter to you in November last year about youth work in Wales. I understand that you have a general scrutiny session with the Cabinet Secretary for Education in the Welsh Government on 4<sup>th</sup> February. I thought I would follow up with some further thoughts.

The Interim Youth Work Board, which I chaired, published a clear set of recommendations in *Time to Deliver (September 2021)* and since then the Youth Work Implementation Board has taken that work further. It could prove instructive to ask to what extent Lynne intends to now implement the recommendations in *Time to Deliver*.

The three pressing issues remain:

Firstly, the so called 'definition' of youth work is neither a definition nor a statement that reflects the aspirations of a sustainable model of youth work delivery as set out in *Time to Deliver*.

Secondly, the proposal to establish a national body for youth work in Wales is welcomed by the sector but the rather top-down bureaucratic controlling body that seems to be envisaged is at odds with the offer of CWYVS and the WLGA to work with Welsh Government officials to develop a partnership model.

And, if there is to be a new framework for youth work with 'Draft Directions' and 'Draft Statutory Guidance' as outlined in last year's consultation paper, with little or no amendment, I fear that would be a mistake as the proposals are unrealistic and unworkable.

I wonder if it would be useful to see if the Welsh Government will maintain the well-established approach to the values of youth work services as set *Youth Work in Wales: Principles and Purposes* rather than the rather narrower ideas set out in the 2024 consultation. I attach a link to the *Principles and Purposes* below.

<https://educators.wales/sites/default/files/2023-02/YOUTH%20WORK%20IN%20WALES%20PRINCIPLES%20AND%20PURPOSES%202022.pdf>

To my knowledge the responses to the 2024 consultation have still not been published and I have not seen a Child Rights Impact Assessment in relation to what the Welsh Government propose.

I would be grateful if you would also share my letter with the membership of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Towler". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a horizontal line that starts under the first letter and extends to the right, ending under the last letter.

**Keith Towler**