



Ein cyf/Our ref MAP/ARD/7510/16

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair of the Committee
Children, Young People & Education Committee

12 December 2016

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 23 November seeking additional clarification regarding funding arrangements for the Council for Wales Voluntary Youth Organisation (CWVYS).

As the committee is aware I have reconsidered my approach to transition to a new approach to securing representation and support for the voluntary youth work sector and have communicated this change to CWVYS.

As was apparent in the evidence provided to your enquiry, there is great dissatisfaction within the sector. What is also clear is that there is no clear consensus on the best way forward.

Regular and ongoing dialogue has been, and continues to be, a feature of our relationship with CWVYS, the Youth Work Reference Group and other stakeholder and representative groups. I have recently met with representatives of the Principal Youth Work Officers Group and met as planned with the Youth Work Reference Group on 8 December. The Reference Group were able to offer a number of constructive and positive suggestions for future working which I have asked officials to take forward. In particular I look forward to the group having a fresh focus in the new year on working collaboratively with us to refresh and renew Extending Entitlement.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Our National Youth Work Strategy (2014-18) set out that support to the broader voluntary sector should be reviewed during the lifetime of the strategy. It is this consideration of the most effective way to achieve our objectives that I have been engaged in; this is separate and different to consideration of the need for a new National body or framework for youth work which is a matter still very much under deliberation with the sector.

In January 2016 Welsh Government commissioned Trinity Saint David to explore the most appropriate arrangements for supporting the voluntary youth work sector beyond 2016. [Their report](#) highlighted many issues that chime with those raised in evidence to the committee. For example, national and local organisations identified they have different ways of working and required different ways of support. The report identified a number of gaps, including a lack of consistency in the support for the voluntary sector across Wales and a lack of awareness among local voluntary organisations about where and how youth work policy is developed. The report recommended, amongst other things, establishing a grant to support local CVCs to share good practice in youth work, to work as a link between the statutory and voluntary sector and to provide vital support.

More broadly, we will also be exploring options for future models of youth work delivery. CWVYS, as participants of the Reference Group, will be able to play a full part in these discussions and any recommendations the group may put forward to me following those discussions.

It is clear that there is much to do but also that there is an appetite to work collaboratively to develop a cohesive vision for the future and a structure that is fit for purpose. Any new model of provision and support will need the space and resource to enable it to function effectively, and in the current climate that means doing things differently to make better use of existing resource. I intend to make a statement on the timetable for this work and general direction of travel in the spring.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alun Davies AC/AM
Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language