
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

National Assembly for Wales
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Eluned Morgan AM
Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning

18 January 2018

Dear Eluned

What type of youth service does Wales want? Committee Follow up into its Youth Work Inquiry

I am writing to keep you informed of the proposed approach that the Children, Young People and Education Committee (the Committee) will be taking in following up on its inquiry into Youth Work. It was good to meet with you in November, and have some early dialogue with you regarding this.

The Committee is grateful to the previous Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language for providing a six month update on progress against the Committee's recommendations. However, the Committee is committed to undertaking on-going scrutiny of this inquiry, to help ensure that work is undertaken against all of the recommendations made in its report.

The Committee is also keen to establish whether work undertaken since publication of our report has made, or is making, a difference to those involved with delivering youth work/youth services on the ground. With that in mind, the Committee will be launching a targeted consultation in the coming weeks, seeking feedback from key stakeholders on the Committee's recommendations and how these are being taken forward.

However, in advance of the consultation, the Committee would welcome a further update from Welsh Government on progress made against the Committee's recommendations. A full list of the recommendations, together with the relevant information provided by Welsh Government to date, is at Annex 1. It would be very much appreciated if you could provide an update on the recommendations where appropriate, but in particular on:

- 'Extending Entitlement' and the National Youth Work Strategy, and establishing the National Youth Support Service Board;



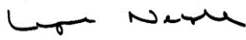
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- Youth work sufficiency assessments;
- The development of an accountability framework for local authorities' use of funds for youth work via the revenue support grant;
- Securing access to Erasmus+.

The Committee will use your update on the points above to help inform its consultation with stakeholders, so we would be grateful if you could provide this information by February half term.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair



Annex 1

CYPE Committee Recommendation	WG Response
<p>Recommendation 1. The Minister should review the National Strategy and refresh the statutory guidance in consultation with stakeholders and young people. A detailed action plan for implementation, including timescales, must be developed alongside a new strategy.</p>	<p>Accepted I have already committed to refresh Extending Entitlement - the statutory guidance which underpins the provision and delivery of youth support services in Wales. Reviewing the National Youth Work Strategy will, by necessity, need to form part of this work. A detailed action plan for implementation will be developed and published by the end of March 2017.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2. The Minister should hold urgent discussions with the Ministerial Youth Work Reference Group to address the concerns from within the sector about a lack of engagement from Welsh Government.</p>	<p>Accepted I met with the Youth Work Reference Group on 8 December 2016. I have asked the group to work with my officials on the refresh of Extending Entitlement. My officials will maintain regular engagement with the group and the wider sector as we develop our thinking around future plans for youth work delivery in Wales.</p> <p>When considering the Committee’s report and recommendations, my officials engaged with the reference group to ensure their views were taken into account.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3. There should be a clear and meaningful route for young people to be equal partners in developing youth services in Wales. This should be developed by the Minister, stakeholders and young people.</p>	<p>Accepted The Welsh Government remains committed to enabling the voice of young people to be heard in decisions which affect them. We will continue to engage with young people and utilise the expertise of stakeholders including Children in Wales and Young Wales to engage with a broad range of young people around developing youth services in Wales.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4. The Minister should introduce a national model for youth work, encompassing statutory and voluntary provision. The Minister should report to this Committee on progress within 6 months of the publication of this report.</p>	<p>Accepted Any consideration of a national model for youth work needs to be informed by the refresh of Extending Entitlement and the review of the National Youth Work Strategy. I am happy to report back to the Committee as this work progresses.</p> <p>6 Month update (21.6.17): Any consideration of a national model for youth work needs to be informed by the review of Extending Entitlement and the review of the National Youth Work Strategy.</p> <p>The formal consultation for Extending Entitlement will take place in</p>



	<p>the autumn. Feedback from this consultation will inform the new Extending Entitlement direction and guidance which will be formally launched summer 2018.</p> <p>A review of the existing National Youth Work Strategy is currently being carried out by Glyndwr University, this review will inform the Extending Entitlement consultation paper. A formal consultation process for a new National Youth Work Strategy will be carried out following the publication of Extending Entitlement. The Youth Work Reference Group will play a key role in the development of a new youth work strategy.</p> <p>We have begun the process to establish an independently chaired, National Youth Support Service Board. The Board will be able to provide constructive challenge and scrutiny of the Welsh Government's policies and proposals for Youth Support Services, including youth work. The Chair and Board members will be subject to the Public Appointment process. I expect the Chair to be in place by the autumn. The Chair will then support me to appoint all other board members, who we will have in place by spring 2018.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5. The Minister should report back to the Committee within 6 months of the publication of this report on how he intends to assess the extent to which his commitment to universal, open access provision, in English and Welsh, is being delivered.</p>	<p>Accepted in Principle</p> <p>It is clear from the evidence provided to the Committee that the youth work landscape in Wales is changing. Local authorities have had to adapt to a challenging financial climate and the changing needs of young people in their area. This has often meant adopting different approaches to engaging with young people that go beyond traditional youth work provision. In order to get a better understanding of the situation I have asked my officials to work with key representatives from the sector to explore if sufficiency assessments might be a suitable vehicle to assist local authorities to assess the needs of their local populations. Sufficiency assessments may be able to provide a better understanding, at a local level, of what youth work support looks like on the ground. This is because any sufficiency assessment undertaken by a local authority would need to take account the current provision available to young people (both open access and targeted) which is provided through the statutory and voluntary sectors. Sufficiency assessments also provide a useful source of evidence for Public Services Boards to take account of in preparing their assessments of local well-being. I expect this work to inform the refresh of Extending Entitlement and any national model of youth work delivery. I am happy to report back to the Committee as this work progresses.</p> <p>6 Month update: (Recommendations 5, 6 & 7). My officials have begun to explore if sufficiency assessments might be a suitable vehicle and the best way</p>



	<p>forward to assist local authorities in mapping out and developing their local youth work offer. We plan to include the consideration of sufficiency assessments within the formal consultation of Extending Entitlement. This will ensure stakeholders have an opportunity to have their views heard.</p> <p>I believe that sufficiency assessments may be able to provide a better understanding, at a local level, of what youth work provision within the statutory and voluntary sector looks like on the ground. I do not believe a national mapping approach is the best way forward. I am happy to report back to the Committee as this work continues to progress.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6. Within 6 months of the publication of this report, the Minister should commission an exercise to map voluntary youth work provision across Wales. The exercise should be refreshed periodically.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7. The Minister should ensure that youth work sufficiency assessments are undertaken by local authorities as part of their population needs assessments and report back to the Committee on progress within 6 months of the publication of this report.</p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8. The Minister should develop an accountability framework for local authorities' use of funds for youth work via the revenue support grant. The framework should include sanctions if outcomes are not delivered.</p>	<p>Accepted in Principle</p> <p>The RSG is an un-hypothecated funding stream, and it is therefore a decision of local authorities as to how this funding is utilised to best meet local needs and priorities. It is not possible to identify how much RSG is spent on youth work or to prescribe this amount – the Standard Spending Assessments are notional amounts that are used for calculation purposes only and are not targets for spending. However, historically the Welsh Government has provided direct support to a number of grant schemes intended to support the outcomes of youth work. We have begun the process to undertake a review of all these youth work funding streams to identify the true impact and to support future thinking for supporting youth work in Wales. I want to ensure we have better transparency and value for money.</p> <p>6 month update:</p> <p>We are currently in the process of externally reviewing our additional youth work grants, including the National Voluntary Youth Organisation (NVYO) grant, all evaluations are due to be completed</p>



	<p>this summer. It will be at this point I will consider our options and then announce my decision, which will include any changes to the NVYO grant. I am fully aware of timescales for current NVYO recipients, including the need to know of any future funding decisions by 31 December.</p> <p>My officials have recently met with the Principal Youth Officers Group (PYOG) and the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS), where they shared information relating to all current reviews taking place and how they all link. In July I will be meeting representatives from the Boys and Girls Clubs and Youth Cymru to hear about the benefits of the NVYO grant and the extra resources that it has enabled them to bring into in Wales, I will also be meeting with the PYOG.</p> <p>I'm sure you will agree that we are at a crucial point for youth work where we have the opportunity to take a step back and consider all our options relating to: funding, statutory guidance, sufficiency, the role of a new national board, a new youth work strategy and, how we support the youth work sector to work together. I can assure you that the Welsh Government is taking a strategic approach.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9. The Minister should explore the potential continuation of Erasmus+ funding, should the UK Government decide not to do so.</p>	<p>Accepted in principle</p> <p>We have published a White Paper, "Securing Wales' Future: Transition from the European Union to a new relationship with Europe", which can be found online at: www.gov.wales/brexit.</p> <p>The White Paper provides a comprehensive and credible plan for the negotiations with our partners in Europe on the UK's exit from the European Union – based on solid evidence that places Wales' priorities center stage but which is designed to work for the UK as a whole. It balances the message which the Welsh people gave us that we should leave the European Union with the economic reality that makes participation in the single market so important for the future prosperity of Wales, and indeed the UK as a whole.</p> <p>The decision is made that the UK will leave the European Union. The challenge we all face now is ensuring that we secure the best possible deal for Wales and the UK.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10. The Minister should ensure that the statutory and voluntary youth work sector play a central role in the process of curriculum reform.</p>	<p>Accepted</p> <p>The statutory and voluntary youth work sectors are both represented on the Education Reform Strategic Stakeholder Group (SSG). The group was established to ensure that key stakeholders, especially those who are not represented elsewhere in the governance structure or on working groups, are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -informed of and involved in developing the approach to implementing <i>Successful Futures: Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment</i>



	<p><i>Arrangements in Wales, and Teaching for Tomorrow's Teachers: Options for the future of initial teacher education in Wales</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-informed of and involved in developing the approach to implementing the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme (ALN-TP), and are-aware of alignment with Professional Learning for the workforce.
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