

# Milestones in the Development of Youth Work

## Chronological Table

There is no agreed definitive starting point for youth work, mainly due to the fact that it grew from a number of individual organisations.

**1700s Sunday School and Day School Movement**

e.g. Griffith Jones, Landdowror  
1731 'Circulating' Day Schools  
Day School opened in Southwark 1790.

**1833 Althorp's Act** to regulate the labour of children and young people in mills and factories.

A motion before parliament for universal and national education was withdrawn. First government grant for education was made - £20,000

**1839 Government grant raised to £30,000**

**1842 Mines Act** prohibited child and female labour: boys under 10 not to be employed.

**1844 Formation of the YMCA** - 'concern for the spiritual welfare of young men in drapery and other trades by the introduction of religious services among them.'

**1852 YMCA introduced into Wales**

**1853 Formation of the YWCA**

**1856 Formation of the Prayer Union**

**1861 Formation of the Association for Girls.**

Newcastle Commission revealed no real diffusion of elementary education among poor classes - hundreds of parishes without schools.

**1870 Elementary Education Act (Foster)**

- position of existing voluntary schools to be secured;
- school boards to be established
- secure attendance of children between 5-13 years of age.

**1870 Clubs and institutes founded in Lancashire for young  
onwards unemployed girls** (cotton famine).

- 1872 Kensington Boys' Club**
- 1875 Girls' Friendly Society**
- 1876 School attendance made compulsory**
- 1880 YMCA Boys' Department established**
- 1883 Boys' Brigade formed - William Smith.**  
Most substantial organisation of its day which emphasised good character through drill and discipline.
- 1886 Hulme and Chorlton Lads' Club formed**
- 1888 London Federation of Working Boys' Club formed.**  
T W Pelham "to offer to the poor what public schools and universities have been to the rich. They develop as no other agency can, the *esprit de corps* in which the poor for the most part are so lamentably lacking."
- 1890 Housing of Working Classes Act.**  
Local authorities empowered to build houses.
- Clubs for Working Girls - Maude Stanley**
- 1899 School leaving raised to 12 years**
- 1900 School leaving raised to 14 years**
- 1902 Education Act.**  
County Councils and County Boroughs given duty to administer elementary and secondary education according to local needs and circumstances.
- 1906 Education Act.**  
Local Education Authorities empowered to make arrangements for school meals and to recover costs when parents could afford to pay,
- 1907 Boy Scout movement and first Scout camp - Robert Baden-Powell** "work for the good of your country, or for the business in which you are employed, and as you do this you will find that you will be getting all the promotion and all the success that you want.... it is your duty to your country to improve yourself."

**Education Act.**

Compulsory schemes of medical inspection in local education authority schools.

**1908**     **'Working Lads' Clubs.** Charles Russell

**1909**     **'Eight Hours Act' - working day eight hours.**

**Scouting for Boys: A Handbook for Instruction in Good Citizenship.** R Baden-Powell.

**1910**     **Girl Guides Movement.**

**'Choice of Employment Act'**

Local education authorities empowered to establish juvenile employment panels to offer guidance in the choice of employment

**1914**     **Start of World War 1**

**1916**     **National and Local Juvenile Organisations' Committee established.**

'to concern themselves with the physical and moral welfare of the young in time of war.'

The setting up of the 'Juvenile Organising Committee' was the start of the government intervention and the development of a policy for youth work. They were not successful in combating delinquency.

The Scout Movement was extremely popular during the war years as it appealed to the patriotism of the time of doing good for the community and country.

**1918**     **End of World War 1**

**Education Act (Fisher)**

- school leaving age 14 but local authorities were allowed to make by-laws raising it to 15;
- education free regardless of income;
- education authorities empowered to give assistance to voluntary youth organisations.

**1920**     **Young Farmers' Clubs formed in England and Wales**

**1922**     **Urdd Gobaith Cymru (Welsh League of Youth)**

**Treharris Boys Club opened**

**1925 National Association of Boys' Clubs**

**Boys Village** opened in St. Athan - Boys Clubs of Wales

There was a movement away from the uniformed organisations and a movement towards physical fitness and health.

**1928 Boys' Clubs of Wales founded**

Funded by the welfare section of the Ocean Coal Company

**1930 Youth Hostel Association set up**

**1933 Hitler comes into power in Germany**

**1934 Cardiff and District Federation of Girls' Clubs**

'Forerunner of the Welsh Association of Youth Clubs'

**1936 Standing Conference of National Voluntary Youth Organisations (SCNVYO) set up.**

**1939 Start of World War 2**

**Board of Education Circular 1486 'In Service of Youth'**

**1940 Board of Education Circular 1516 The Challenge of Youth'**

**1941 Air Training Corps scheme set up**

**1942 Wartime registration of all young people 16-18**

**1943 National Association of Training Corps for Girls**

The onset of World War 2 saw a rapid growth in the number of young people attending voluntary organisations which provided them with the *raison c'efre* that had previously been lacking. Grant aid was immediately available from the LEAs and from the Board of Education for capital expenditure maintenance and help towards full-time salaries.

**1944 Education Act (HMSO 1944)**

- foundation of the present education system primarily/secondary / further education
- 'government intention is to become a full and active partner in the provision of facilities for youth work..... no longer willing to entrust the social education of the adolescent population solely to existing voluntary organisations staffed overwhelmingly by well meaning amateurs.'

- provided for all local education authorities to:  
'provide for the leisure and recreational needs of young people over compulsory school leaving age.'
- this set the youth service age range as 14-21.

- 1945**     **Methodist Association of Youth Clubs set up.**  
McNair report (HMSO 1944): The supply, recruitment, training of teachers and youth leaders.
- 1946**     **Outward Bound Trust set up**
- 1949**     **Jackson Report:** The Recruitment, Training and Conditions of Service for Youth Leaders and Community Centre Wardens.
- 1951**     **Fletcher Report: The Recruitment and Training of Youth Leaders and Community Centre Wardens.**
- General Election**  
5% cut in expenditure by local education authorities
- 1950s**     **Development of a 'youth culture'** - Teddy Boys and Coffee Bar era  
  
High employment and money in their pockets.  
Consumer Society. Challenging Society?
- 1956**     **Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme launched**
- 1958**     **'Albemarle' Committee appointed:** its whose main aim was 'to offer young people a constructive alternative,' consisting primarily of 'association, training and challenge.'  
  
Committee members **'saw the problem as one of social control.'** It was perceived to be urgent and the report was completed within 12 months without much research.
- 1960**     **Albemarle Committee Report (HMSO 1960)** leads to expansion within the youth service.
- building programme of purpose built centres
  - full-time workers
  - National College for the Training of Youth Leaders set up in Leicester
  - setting up of Youth Service Development Council

The new National Training College which had no previous existing tradition upon which to establish itself, began to develop a particular style and philosophy of youth work which was often at variance with the values of the voluntary organisations.

- professional ethos of non-directiveness, non-judgementalism, acceptance

This led to a gap between the 'professional statutory' sector and the Voluntary sector.

**1962 Bessey Report** on the Training of Part-time Youth Workers

**Abercrave Outdoor Centre** opened (Boys Clubs of Wales)

**1964 Life of National College for the Training of Youth Leaders** extended to 1970-71

**1965 Sports Council set up** to advise on the development of amateur sport and physical recreation: foster co-operation between statutory and voluntary sectors

**1968 Age of majority lowered to 18**

**1960s** A period of expansion with some authorities building youth wings on school campuses. These were not uniformly successful- The education production line has its refuse: that's where the youth service comes in." The Education Line. Youth Review No. 25.

**1968 Labour Government commissioned two reports** which were amalgamated into the single Milsom and Fairburn Report 'Youth and Community Work into the 1970s.' (HMSO 1970)

**1970 General Election**

The new Conservative Minister of Education, after an eight month delay, decided not to accept the report (Margaret Thatcher). Instead, the Minister proposed a strengthening of the relationship between LEAs and the voluntary sector.

National Training College for Youth Leaders closed

**1972 History of YMCA in Wales produced (Pate)**

**1973 The Story of the Urdd published (Davies)**

**1974 Local government reorganisation**

**1976 Major cuts in local government spending**

Late 1970s High Youth Unemployment

- 1978 Youth and Community Work Training Course started at Cartrefle College (NEWI), Wrexham**
- "The National Youth Bureau - Links and Services in Wales"**
- National Conference held at Llandrindod Wells
- 1979 General Election**
- 1980 Youth Service Bill to Parliament rejected.**  
Proposed by a Conservative back-bencher
- Young People in Wales - A New Perspective.** A national conference which made proposals for the establishment of a Welsh Youth Affairs Unit / Secretariat
- 1981 Thomson Report (HMSO 1982) (England) published**
- Not accepted by government
- 1984 Survey 13 (HMSO 1984).** By HMIs in Wales published
- 1985 Canllaw/On Line youth information booklet published**
- Youthlink Wales formed**
- 1986 National Advisory Council for Youth Service (NACYS) set up**
- Wales Youth Work Partnership (WYWP) set up**
- Youth Work Strategy document produced for youth work in Wales (WJEC/CETYCW)**
- 1988 Wales Youth Forum formed**
- Stage Two Course** introduced at the University of Wales, Cardiff, for the training of part-time workers.
- 1989 The Curriculum debate begins**
- 1990 Coopers, Lybrand and Deloitte reports on England and Wales.**  
Management Structures
- 1991 Welsh Federation of Boys' and Girls' Clubs founded**
- National Youth Agency (NYA) set up in Leicester**  
Takes over the roles performed by the National Youth Bureau (NYB): dissemination of information and research into youth services issues.

Survey of Youth Workers in Wales carried out (Wales Youth Work Partnership)

Rural Youth Work Curriculum Project - YMCAs of Wales

**Council for Education and Training of Youth and Community Workers (CETYCW)**

- accreditation and endorsement of training courses for youth and community workers
- this role taken over by the NYA - Educational Standards Board

**1992 Wales Youth Agency set up**

**Curriculum Statement for Wales produced**

**1993 Youth Work in Rural Areas (WYA)**

**1994 Quality Standards for Implementing the Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales developed (WYA)**

**Building the Future (WYA)**

**Education and Training Standards Committee formed in Wales**

**Guidelines to Endorsement of Initial Training for Youth and Community Work in Wales (ETS Wales)**

National Lottery became a significant financial contributor to youth and community work in Wales

**1995 A Scheme for the Validation of Initial Part-time Youth Work Training introduced (WJEC)**

**1996 Local Government Reorganisation**

**Framework for the Inspection of Local Education Authority Maintained Further Education produced (OHMCI)**

**Agenda for a Generation (UK Youth Work Alliance)**

John Rose  
Wales Youth Agency

October 1997