

Could you be the next Sam?



So, do you want to be a youth worker?

YouthWorkWales

people like you make it what it is



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Climbing Boulder Wall
Vale of Glamorgan Youth Service
Cowbridge / Rural Vale

**“Thanks Sam
Getting this wall gave
us a great feeling of
achievement. We didn’t
think we could do it,
but we did!”**

Welsh Assembly Government 2008

This pack and the young people's resource was developed by CWVYS and Promo Cymru through a tender from the Welsh Assembly Government.

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- Black Voluntary Sector Network
- Carmarthenshire County Council Youth Service
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- Glamorgan County Scouts
- Grassroots (City Centre Youth Project) Cardiff
- KPC Youth Project Bridgend
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- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Youth and Community worker
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- Wales Young Farmers
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- Sue Muxworthy, Vice Chair CWVYS

Young people

- Paul Bassett • Mark Bassett
- Kieon Raffel • Grant Simpson
- Mark Waynes • Leon Davies

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Duke of Edinburgh's Award Wrexham

**“Thanks Sam
I got such a great
feeling of achievement.
It made me feel good
that I got the same award
as people who usually
do better than me!”**

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Background



Young people's development between the ages of 11 and 25 provides the foundation for the rest of their lives – their relationships, family lives, contribution to their communities and to their employment opportunities.

All young people in Wales need access to a range of activities and experiences which help them make positive and constructive choices, gain skills and emotional competence, and learn from their experiences in supportive surroundings.

They also have the right to participate in making decisions, planning and reviewing actions which concern them. Our commitment to supporting the Youth Service in creating these opportunities is set out in this strategy.”

Welsh Assembly Government
National Youth Service Strategy for Wales 2007

Many young people of school age have participated in the Youth Service in a voluntary capacity and carry that experience into their personal and professional lives. The experience of youth work and contact with youth workers inspires and motivates young people to become involved in a career in youth work or allied professions. For some this is the beginning of a career in youth work, both paid and unpaid, and this can occur when young or at a later stage in life.

One of the targets of the National Youth Service Strategy for Wales is to increase the number of young people engaged with the Youth Service by 50% from 200,000 to 300,000 and this requires a trained and experienced workforce. To ensure that the Youth Service is fit for purpose there is a need to ensure that the workforce is there to deliver the work with young people. There is also a need to develop a workforce that can deliver in the medium of Welsh so that young people can have opportunities to use Welsh in community activities, outside of school and their families.

The National Youth Service Strategy has clearly identified that workforce development is a priority:

'The Youth Service workforce is its most valuable asset. The effective delivery of the Strategy will be dependent on the ability of the workforce to translate the goals of the strategy in to action.'



'Inspire' Youth Work in Hospital
Wrexham County Borough Council

Recruitment and retention of workers and volunteers is a problem for the local authority and voluntary Youth Service. Many voluntary youth organisations have a shortage of adult leaders so cannot satisfy the demand for their services as there are not enough volunteers coming forward.

The voluntary experience of young people is very strong in this agenda. The value of volunteering and community participation and work experience in promoting active citizenship and developing skills for future

life and work is recognised in strategic initiatives such as the Russell Commission, the 14–19 Learning Pathways and the Welsh Bacallaureate.

The development of this resource that youth workers and allied professionals can deliver with young people is a vital tool in capturing the energy and enthusiasm of young people and could encourage young people to think about continuing involvement in the Youth Service as an important part of their future. The benefits to them as individuals and accessibility of information are important aspects in enabling young people to have a positive vision of youth work and their contribution to it.

The Development of 'Could you be the next Sam?'

This bilingual resource has been developed through a partnership between CWVYS (Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services) and ProMo-Cymru, commissioned and funded by the Welsh Assembly Government that has overseen its development. It is one of the actions of the National Youth Service Strategy for Wales.

This resource has involved extensive research and piloting with youth workers and young people from a range of settings. Advice has also been sought from a range of people that work to support young people and assist in their career development.



**KPC Youth
Pyle near Bridgend**