

FURTHER EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICE ASSOCIATION IN WALES

WORKING PARTY ON THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR THE YOUTH SERVICE

Notes of the meeting of the above-named Working Party, held on Friday 26 January 1990 at the Area Education Offices, Powys County Council, Watton Mount, Brecon, Powys

Present; M Greenaway, D Hall, J Rooney, S Skinner
Apologues; P Williams

The Working Party met to consider the role of FEYSAW in relation to the development of the National Curriculum for the Youth Service in Wales.

BACKGROUND

Following the Ministerial Conference in December, it is emerging that the significant points to note concerning future developments are:

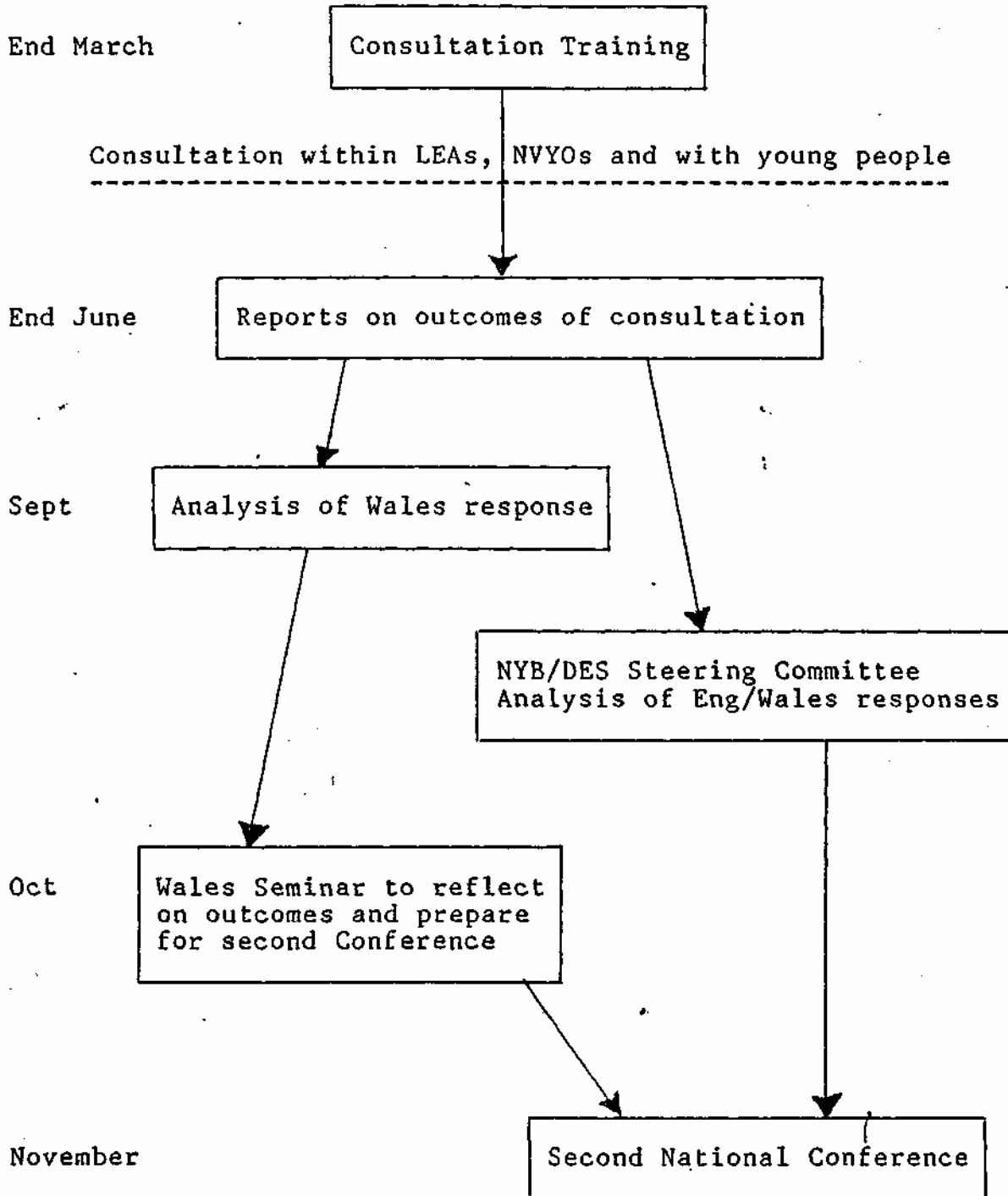
1. A Conference Report will be produced by NYB before the end of February;
2. Consultation documents-are currently being prepared by NYB for circulation to those who attended the first Conference. These should be available by mid-March and will focus on four themes:
 - a) Outcomes: clarified out of the confusion arising in the first Conference to mean 'learning gains';
 - b) Targets: which groups of young people with what differentiated needs;
 - c) Methods: for example, through individual work/small groups' work etc, in centres, clubs, detached, outreach work;
 - d) Performance measures/indicators: by what criteria do we know we have achieved the outcomes we set out to achieve.
3. NYB's role in this consultation process will be to provide training and support for those carrying out the consultations.
4. The consultation period will be until approximately the end of June from whence the England and Wales responses will be analysed and papers and conference format for the second
 - Conference determined accordingly.
5. The second Conference will probably take place in early November in Birmingham.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It may be considered appropriate that FEYSAW approach WYP, so that, through WYP Management Committee, all nationally involved organisations and representative bodies for the LEAs and voluntary organisations may indicate their agreement to a proposal that a parallel response to that being engaged nationally in England and Wales be undertaken in Wales alone.
2. That the consultation training for LEAs and national organisations involved, be held for those participants from Wales, in Wales, providing an additional opportunity for sharing approaches to the process.
3. That the consultation be undertaken in Wales as in England.
4. That, whilst the results of the England/Wales consultations are evaluated by NYB, a copy of all results from Wales are retained and .that the process be similarly undertaken evaluating the Wales results.
5. That the group to undertake this final component of this process within Wales be comprised of representatives from FEYSAW, WAFTYCW, CWVYS, WJEC, WYF and' WYP (servicing the group in the capacity of secretariat, drawing on the experience gained from the involvement in the process of evaluation of the England/Wales results).
6. That there be a meeting of those involved to reflect on the consultation outcomes and prepare for the National Conference.
7. That it would be inappropriate to seek a Wales Conference to address National Curricular issues, before the process outlined above is undertaken.
8. That a Wales Conference be called for subsequently, to address the resourcing and training implications of the outcomes of the consultation process.

Members are asked to consider the recommendations above, graphically indicated on page 3.

DIAGRAM OF RECOMMENDATIONS



Core Curriculum for the Youth Service.
Preparation for Consultations - Day Workshop. 20 March 1990
(..... page two)

clarification of the task to be undertaken between now and the November conference

possible strategies for action by different authorities and organisations according to their needs and what is considered by them to be appropriate

the role of the National Youth Bureau

The day workshop is, I think, best targeted at those within your organisation who will be responsible for carrying out any consultations you intend to undertake.

The workshop will be held at the Pencerrig Hotel, Builth Wells, commencing at 10.30 a.m. and will finish at 4.00 p.m.

The cost of the day will be £25 to cover meeting rooms, coffee and lunch, and to meet the travel and consultancy fees of the National Youth Bureau.

Please return the pro forma so that we can make arrangements for the required numbers.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Jim Rooney
Director

CORE CURRICULUM UPDATE

It is assumed that most full-time workers and officers in Wales will now have seen and read the papers from the Ministerial Conference on the Youth Service in December, including the speech by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education, Mr. Alan Howarth. The interim mission statement, goals and objectives for the Youth Service which emerged at the conference were reproduced in Young People Now (January 1990) and a copy of this is attached.

A conference report is now being prepared by the National Youth Bureau and will be available shortly for conference participants, chief education officers and chairpersons of NVYOs. For wider publication NYB are preparing a book containing the conference background papers, the analysis arising from the previous NYB consultations and the conference report, price £5.00

Following requests at the conference for additional time for consultation, the date of the next conference has been set back towards the end of the year, probably early November.

Between now and then the conference steering committee is inviting further consultation within LEAs and NVYOs in preparation for the next conference. The themes for consultation will be concerned with clarifying youth work outcomes, target groups, methods and performance measures/indicators. To assist LEAs and NVYOs with this process consultation papers will be issued in March and the National Youth Bureau will be offering help to those who will be managing the consultations within their organisations. In order to allow time to process responses to the consultations it is expected that LEAs and NVYOs will be asked to respond by mid June.

In view of this it is probably prudent for LEAs and NVYOs to begin to make plans to conduct consultations during the April to June period to ensure a wide base of consultation with full-time, part-time and voluntary youth workers and with young people who currently use the service, and where possible, with some of those who do not.

Jim Rooney

Director : Wales Youth Work Partnership

Y NEWYDDION DIWEDDARAF AM Y CWRICWLWM CRAIDD

Cymerir yn ganiataol fod yr hyl^yiw o weithwragedd/wyr a swyddogion yng Nghymru wedi gweld a darllen y papurau o'r Gynhadledd Gweinidogaethol ar y Gwasanaeth leuencid a gynhaliwyd ym mis Rhagfyr erbyn hyn, gan gynnwys araith yr Is-Ysgrifennydd Seneddol o'r Adran Addysg Mr. Alan Howarth. Mae'r datganiad dros dro a amlygwyd yn y gynhadledd ynghyd a nod ac amcanion y Gwasanaeth leuencid wedi'u atgynhyrchu yn 'Young People Now' (Ionawr 1990) ac fe amgeuir copi o hwn.

Mae'r Biwro leuencid Cenedlaethol (NYB) wrthi ar hyn o bryd yn paratoi adroddiad am y Gynhadledd ac fe fydd ar gael cyn bo hir i gyfranogwyr y Gynhadledd, i brif swyddogion addysg ac i gadeiryddion y Mudiadau leuencid Gwirfoddol. Ar gyfer cyhoeddiad ehangach mae'r NYB wrthi'n paratoi llyfr yn cynnwys papurau cefndirol y gynhadledd, dadansoddiad yn codi o ymgynghoriadau blaenorol y Bwrdd ac adroddiad o'r Gynhadledd. Pris £5.00.

Yn dilyn ceisiadau yn y Gynhadledd am fwy o amser i ymgynghori, gohiriwyd dyddiad y gynhadledd nesaf tan diwedd y flwyddyn - mis Tachwedd yn 61 pob tebyg. Yn y cyfamser mae pwyllgor llywio'r gynhadledd yn gwahodd ymgynghori pellach oddimewn i'r Awdurdodau Addysg Lleol a'r Mudiadau leuencid Gwirfoddol fel paratoad i'r Gynhadledd nesaf. Bydd themau'r gwaith ymgynghorol yn ymwneud ag esbonio ac egluro canlyniadau gwaith ieuenctid, grwpiau targed, dulliau a chyfeiryddion am berfformiadau a'u grymuster. Er mwyn hwyluso'r gwaith i'r Awdurdodau Addysg Lleol a'r Mudiadau leuencid Gwirfoddol fe ddosberthir papurau ymgynghorol ym mis Mawrth. Fe fydd y Bwrdd leuencid Cenedlaethol yn cynnig cymorth i'r rhai fydd yn rheoli'r ymgynghori oddimewn i'w mudiadau. Er mwyn sicrhau digon o amser i brosesu'r ymatebion i'r gwaith ymgynghorol, disgwylir i'r Awdurdodau Addysg a'r Mudiadau leuencid Gwirfoddol ymateb erbyn canol Mehefin.

Yng ngoleuni hyn mae'n debyg mai doeth fyddai i'r Awdurdodau Addysg Lleol ac i'r Mudiadau leuencid Gwirfoddol gychwyn gwneud trefniadau i yrngynghori yn y cyfnod rhwng Ebrill a Mehefin er mwyn sicrhau sylfaen eang o ymgynghoriad gyda'r gweithwyr ieuenctid llawn a rhan amser a'r gweithwyr gwirfoddol ac hefyd y bobl ifanc sy'n gwneud defnydd o'r gwasanaeth ar hyn o bryd a lie mae'n bosibl gydag eraill nad ydynt yn gwneud unrhyw ddefnydd ohono.

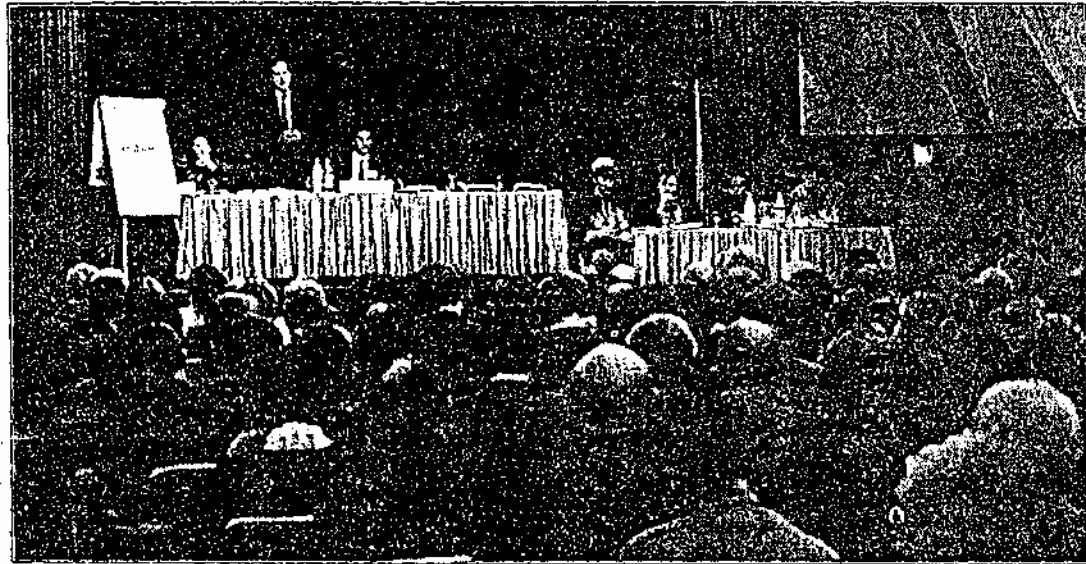
Jim Rooney

Cyfarwyddwyr : Partneriaeth Gwaith leuencid Cymru

Reports

Outcomes versus processes

Education minister Alan Howarth (right) claims that the youth service curriculum is 'not a straitjacket, but a spotlight'. Tim Burke reports on a major conference held recently to discuss the future for youth work



THERE are times in history when the earth moves, let's now make the earth move for the youth service.' The portentous words with which steering committee chair Mike Nichol opened the first ministerial conference for the youth service indicated the scale of expectations from the most high-profile gathering of youth service personnel for many years.

More than 250 representatives from local authority youth services and national and local voluntary youth organisations attended the conference, billed as 'an opportunity to move from theoretical discussion to laying the basis for concrete action'.

According to the Department of Education and Science, the conference was called in order to help the youth service secure its place as a distinct service at a time of significant change both in education and the wider socio-economic sphere.

Under-Secretary of State for Education Alan Howarth MP

explained this aim further in his opening speech. He made it clear that with other agencies starting to adopt a young person-centred approach, it was no longer sufficient for the youth service to justify its existence by reference to its processes alone.

'What I am looking for is not just a statement of aims or an expression of basic beliefs and values, nor a justification of the process the youth service adopts, but a clear consensus as to the practical outcomes which the youth service, and only the youth service, can and should offer,' he said.

Mr Howarth stressed repeatedly the need for consensus on what the youth service should be doing. He indicated that future funding from the DES and other providers would be dependent on the extent to which the service could create this definite space for itself.

The minister's speech consisted mainly of a series of questions for the conference to consider. What age-range should the service work with?

How should the service relate to schools and colleges? How should it relate to the social services, the health service and the probation service? Should it target specific groups of young people or should it cater for all?

He also gave some positive indications of DES thinking on a number of key issues. He stressed that the best youth work is educational in the sense of 'a planned programme of personal and social education based on a concept of development for the individual and differentiation according to need.'

In practice, said the minister, this means the DES would expect to fund youth services based in education departments - a view he later reaffirmed despite a contribution from the floor of the conference backing Nottinghamshire youth service's move into the county's leisure services department.

Funds for the voluntary sector, he added, would go to work which is 'clearly education-based' and planned

in conjunction with statutory providers.

The minister also indicated that he expected the youth service to go through a process of prioritising certain groups. 'The Government is convinced that a directed fusillade is better than a scatter-gun approach.'

In response to a contribution from the Young Muslims Organisation, the minister said he saw the family as the bedrock of society and looked to the youth service to remedy some of the failures of family life in Britain. 'With a 30 per cent divorce rate and 20 per cent of children born out of wedlock - can you even call that a society at all?' he commented.

Conference members also heard the results of the National Youth Bureau's consultations with young people on what they looked to the youth service to provide.

The survey revealed needs which centred around information, personal development - such as confidence-building and experience in organising events - new experiences and meeting new

people, and help with problems such as bullying, school work and sex education.

The evening session of the conference consisted of contributions from representatives of further education, intermediate treatment, employment training, the careers service and the Commission on Citizenship.

All the speakers spoke of how they valued and wanted to expand the contribution made by youth work to their area, although one conference member questioned the 'illusion of harmony' on this panel, and called for greater recognition of the real tensions experienced.

The practical work of the conference centred on three small-group sessions. In the first, conference members were asked to discuss and amend a 'mission statement' for the youth service prepared by the DES. They were also asked to come up with five key objectives for a youth service curriculum.

The reports from 19 groups were examined overnight by the steering committee and a summary produced. This document, reproduced opposite, will now form the basis of consultation by local authorities and voluntary organisations with their workforce.

The discussion also formed the basis of further discussion aimed at producing a list of practical outcomes - specific activities to be run by the youth service and specific benefits to young people from their involvement with the service. A document summarising these outcomes will form part of the conference report.

Conference groups also discussed and amended an 'outline curriculum planning document' presented by the DES and designed to help planners determine the 'nature

and scope of the curriculum' they might offer to young people.

It is likely that the DES will circulate this document for further consultation before a recommended version is made available nationally.

Throughout the two days it seemed clear that the two major areas of concern were that the uniqueness of the youth work process was being downgraded and that the freedom of local youth services was liable to be curtailed by a centrally-generated curriculum.

Both these fears were addressed by Alan Howarth in his comments to the final plenary session of the conference. The debate about process was, he insisted, only a semantic problem: 'You are saying that process is as valid as outcomes, I am saying that outcomes are at least as valid as process.'

The need for a consensus on outcomes will help boost public recognition of what the youth service stands for, claimed the minister. Being able to say 'these are the outcomes, these are the fruits' would make it much easier for him as a minister to obtain money. 'Of course I recognise that without the process there would be no fruits,' he added.

On the issue of central control, he was insistent that it was essential that youth workers maintained their flexibility. The great virtue of the youth service, he said, was the variety of its work and the nature of any curriculum would be a core or skeleton - something to be fleshed out at local level. 'It is not part of our purpose to prescribe from the centre what you should do,' concluded the minister.

'What we are looking for is a statement that can be interpreted locally but forms part of an overall pattern.' □

INTERIM MISSION STATEMENT

The following statement and list of objectives is a summary of the reports of 19 group sessions. It was written and prepared by the conference steering committee and is expected to form the basis of a consultation with the wider youth work field. The DES bowed to pressure from the conference and has delayed the date of a follow-up conference until early autumn 1990 in order to allow this consultation to be as complete as possible.

'The youth service is an integral part of the educational provision available to young people. It should be a partnership between the statutory and voluntary sectors which aims to empower young people to understand and act on the personal, social and political issues which affect their lives, the lives of others and the communities of which they are a part. It does this through a process that is freely chosen, challenging, encourages self-determination and is fun.'

Its goals include enabling young people to:

- (a) develop self-awareness, self-confidence, competence in relationships, spiritual and cultural awareness;
- (b) make informed decisions, choices and independent judgments;
- (c) actively explore, understand and express their opinions and values, and effect change;
- (d) defend and extend their own rights, opportunities and choices and those of others;
- (e) challenge prejudice and promote equality of opportunity.

Its key interrelated objectives are:

1. to design and implement with young people planned educational programmes which:
 - increase their ability to identify, advocate and pursue their rights and responsibilities as individual citizens and as group members;
 - enable them to understand values in society and develop the skills to focus and measure their own attitudes, judgments and values;
 - foster their personal development;
 - enhance their life skills and basic competences;
 - achieve effective participation in the decision making and programming of the youth groups and organisations;
 - reflect equality of opportunities, challenge oppression and affirm differences which spring from culture, race, language, sexual identity, gender, disability and age.
2. to ensure young people have access to appropriately placed and relevant information, advice and counselling services on matters which concern them, and have the skills to understand and use them effectively.
3. to provide places and relationships within which young people can feel secure and valued and learn to take greater control of their own lives.
4. to facilitate responsiveness by other services to the social and learning needs of young people.

evaluation, where it is possible, is also time-consuming. The work programme for 1990/91 was AGREED.

MINUTE 159: MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES

Submitted: MCI 7.4

David Hall explained the thinking behind the FEYSAW paper which identified the need for and the method proposed to achieve a unified voice for Wales for the second national conference and also to prepare the ground for the debate in Wales regarding training and resource implications which would arise at the third conference. Committee APPROVED in principle the recommendations in the FEYSAW paper.

Members representing WAFTYCW, CWVYS and WJEC confirmed their organisations' commitment to the way forward as described in the FEYSAW paper.

At this stage Welsh Office and HMI had been notified through the papers for the meeting of the FEYSAW proposal and the role of secretariat envisaged for the Partnership. It was assumed that they were content with this.

Jim Rooney to write to FEYSAW, WAFTYCW, CWVYS, WJEC and WYF to establish the composition of the Wales Youth Work Curriculum Group.

NOTED the day workshop on preparation for consultations about the curriculum and AGREED to invite a representative of NEWI to attend the day on 20 March 1990.