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Introduction

This paper has been compiled by the *Wales Principal Youth Officers' Group* (PYOG) primarily as a tool for observing themes of good practice as part of a process of improving quality and providing evidence that youth work delivery on the whole has remained at a consistently high standard across this 8 year period.

In the last decade, Estyn's inspection role with the Youth Service in Wales has evolved from a full and specific inspection of the service to specific feedback as part of a broader inspection of Youth Support Services, to no specific feedback under current arrangements for inspection of local authority education services for children and young people (LAESCYP).

Whilst Estyn's role is to inspect quality and standards in education and training, they also have a role in spreading good practice.

As the Youth Service has received less of a focus, this has been reflected in inspection reports by fewer comments attributed to the sector. The PYOG continues to share good practice at its national forum of meetings and increasingly at regional level. This is being supported by ongoing work with the Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and the Local Government Data Unit (LGDU) e.g. the development of a workforce profiling tool (currently being piloted in 4 local authorities) and an in-depth analysis of data published in the annual WG data collection exercise of the Youth Service, work which is planned to provide another mechanism for improving service delivery.

Summary of comments

Some of the main positive themes/ comments to be drawn from inspection reports include:

- Work with Schools and other partners (including in particular the Health sector); comments include the role of youth work in reducing school exclusions to support and guidance around sexual health, substance misuse and teen parenting amongst other issue based work
- Increased and better use of management information and data
- The role which the Youth Service plays in delivering good quality training to youth workers and other Youth Support Services staff
- The level of reach (percentage of young people engaged with the Youth Service in each local area)
- Broad range of high quality non-formal accreditation opportunities
- Information, Advice and Guidance
- Peer Education
- Alternative education provision
- Impact and use of Youth Forums
- Support of voluntary providers

Other comments include:

- Recognition of lack of capacity and funding in some areas
- The Youth Service should be taking more of a strategic lead (echoing recent comments from the Minister for Education and Skills)
- Reliance on external funding to deliver core services

2004		
Oct	Rhondda Cynon Taf	<p>p10: Services in the directorate effectively work together. For example, the work of the youth service is making a significant contribution to supporting pupils at risk of exclusion in schools, as well as fostering substantial involvement by young people in a wide range of activities in the community.</p>
Oct	Torfaen	<p>p5: Many buildings used by the Youth Service are poor. Multi-purpose venues are often not suitable for the needs of young people. There are good, accessible information shops and information points. A vibrant web site provides comprehensive information for all young people in the county borough.</p> <p>p8: Young people achieve well through the Mayor's Award. This initiative, developed by the Youth Service, enables young people to participate in a range of activity and receive public acknowledgement for their success. In the Youth Service, a small number of young people have progressed through senior member youth work training, to become workers or helpers in youth clubs.</p> <p>p9: Other young people progress to formal learning routes and have received Open College Network accreditation through participation in Youth Service activities.</p> <p>p12: A few youth centre activities are not well planned, with staff too often being reactive rather than being proactive. In these cases, evaluation of activities is at too low a level to provide enough information to encourage improvement.</p> <p>p13: In a few youth club settings, activities are aimed at or dominated by young men. This is successful in engaging young men, and these clubs are attended well by males in their late teens and early twenties. However, staff do not consistently challenge gender issues. In one visit, young men were engaged in working towards an OCN involving cars whilst young women were following a babysitting OCN.</p> <p>p14: The local health board used high quality data within a well established partnership with the Youth Service to target a programme of activities to improve sexual health of young people.</p> <p>p16: The Youth Service has developed a vibrant and appealing website...</p> <p>p18: The C Card scheme in particular is widely accessed across a number of youth centres and outreach projects.</p> <p>p21: The Youth Service does not have enough staff to deliver services bilingually, particularly for services delivered in a Welsh medium setting.</p> <p>p22: Staff working with young people, including detached and outreach youth workers do not always have a safe environment to work in. There are no agreed protocols for working on a detached and outreach basis and a lack of focus on the health and safety needs for the staff delivering these services.</p>

2004		
Nov/ Dec	Carmarth -enshire	<p>p11: Taken overall, the good range of opportunities available through the Young People's Partnership, including school youth work links and the wider curriculum contributes well to the attendance, retention and achievement of young people in learning.</p> <p>p13: Youth workers deliver much-needed courses to homeless young people and those with no family support, in order to boost their confidence and explore future goals.</p> <p>p14: School-based youth workers provide an important element of learning and support for young people and schools are keen for this provision to expand.</p> <p>p15: In youth centres, there are good examples of community links that inform the development of local project-based activities to benefit young people, the local community and support regeneration initiatives.</p> <p>p15: In Communities First areas, joint funding is used well in youth centres to provide a curriculum that meets individual and community needs, including cross-generational work.</p> <p>p16: Youth centres provide information and guidance leaflets for young people, but the range of those available, does not adequately reflect their needs.</p> <p>p17: Youth workers in schools and colleges work particularly well with outreach services to provide continued and integrated support for young people who are disengaged.</p> <p>p22: The demands on the Youth Service mean most workers have heavy workloads. Frequently, managers are diverted from their management role, undertaking direct delivery at the expense of supervision activities (p. 21) This additional working masks under capacity of staffing levels within the Youth Service.</p> <p>p22: The youth service staff development policy has supported a good number of full-time youth workers, part-time workers and voluntary sector workers to gain valuable qualifications locally.</p>

2005	
Mar	<p data-bbox="240 286 383 353">Monmouthshire</p> <p data-bbox="424 286 1334 353">p8: "Through...specialist youth service projects young people in Monmouthshire gain a wide range of skills and experiences.</p> <p data-bbox="424 394 1497 461">p11: The youth workers also work well with parents and provide a positive link between the school and the parents.</p> <p data-bbox="424 501 1501 689">p11: The Youth Service holds an annual Awards night to celebrate the achievements of young people who use the rich variety of activities offered. Too often, however workers are missing opportunities to accredit young people for the activities that they have undertaken, or are not offering young people opportunities to gain accreditation at Level 2 or above.</p> <p data-bbox="424 730 1449 842">p12: Staff in part time youth centres regularly invite specialist workers from inside and outside the Youth Service, to enrich the curriculum that they offer to young people.</p> <p data-bbox="424 882 1458 994">p12: There are examples of workers in the Youth Service providing high quality, accredited work experience placements within their own service area.</p> <p data-bbox="424 1034 1497 1290">p13: The Youth Service recognises the need to provide activities bilingually and through the medium of Welsh and has made links with the Urdd to develop this aspect of its work. However, despite the option for youth workers to gain Open College Network credits in Welsh through courses sponsored by the County Council, youth workers are not using this to improve young people's entitlement to a service in a language of their own choice.</p> <p data-bbox="424 1330 1485 1518">p14: The Youth Service, in partnership with the Youth Offending Team delivers a parenting group. This group has been successful in supporting adult carers of teenagers to explore effective parenting skills. The Eye-to-Eye counselling project run by the Youth Service fills an identified need for easily accessible counselling services for young people.</p> <p data-bbox="424 1559 1474 1704">p15: The Youth Service Basic Skills project works well with young people on a one to one basis to develop their basic skills. This project is effective in fully involving young people in developing a negotiated individual learning plan.</p> <p data-bbox="424 1744 1382 1778">p17: The youth service delivers an effective parenting programme.</p> <p data-bbox="424 1818 1469 1919">p23: The youth Service administers local cluster groups of youth support service providers, which discussed issues highlighted by the (Youth Service) audit</p> <p data-bbox="424 1960 1485 2063">p25: The Youth Service staff development policy supports a good number of youth workers, and voluntary sector workers to gain valuable qualifications locally. (P.25)</p>

2005		
May	Powys	<p>p5: Most youth workers and other staff working in youth support services develop supportive relationships with young people based on friendship and trust. Workers provide a wide range of activities in individual sessions that engage young people appropriately and they respond well to young people's different needs as and when they arise. Most workers help young people to recognise their own achievements and organise events to celebrate success (P.5)</p> <p>p12: Workers plan well for specialist activities, but in informal youth work settings, there is undue variation in the quality of planning for sessions and in post-session evaluations.</p> <p>p13: In a few cases where youth workers are working in schools, the school staff and the youth workers do not plan together for the transfer of basic and key skills assessments or to agree acceptable standards of behaviour.</p> <p>p14: The Youth Service runs regular customer satisfaction surveys.</p> <p>p21: Several (partners) have effective and well-established evaluation systems.</p> <p>p23: The Youth Service in particular has a good training and personal development programme and shares its training with other agencies such as health and careers.</p>

2006		
Jan	Blaenau Gwent	p26: The Youth Service is very proactive in offering free open access training in youth work...workers such as the police, health care, teaching, community work, play work and also elected Members access this training.
Mar	Flintshire	p19: Many partner organisations such as the Youth Service...have well developed quality systems.
May	Denbigh-shire	<p>p11: The local authority is a large provider of activities for the Young People's Partnership.</p> <p>p11: The Youth Service responds well to national agendas and follows the principals of the Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales.</p> <p>p12: Through the Youth Service, young people have links with Funky Dragon and make strong links with other young people throughout Wales.</p> <p>p17: The local authority's Youth Service plays a pivotal role within the partnerships which reflects the Welsh Assembly Governments vision for YPP's.</p> <p>p20: Staff in the Youth Service use a wide range of systems to help them plan and monitor their work.</p>
Nov	Ceredigion	<p>p3: The under-funding of the statutory youth service limits the capacity of the local authority to address the needs of young people through the YPP.</p> <p>p9: "...staff in the Youth Service have worked practically with schools to make sure that as many young people as possible know about their entitlements".</p> <p>p10: The statutory Youth Service provision, however, is limited. This leads to low participation levels in the service.</p> <p>p15: "... the capacity of Ceredigion Youth Service to contribute to the work of the Partnership and the delivery of youth support services is limited and insufficient".</p>

2006		
Nov	Newport	<p>p13: The Youth Service leads effective community-based interventions in disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>p13: Effective partnerships enable providers to deliver a wide curriculum. An example of this is the work of the Youth Service and LHB's Inequalities in Health team.</p> <p>p14: Targeted training enables the Youth Service to expand its curriculum by providing staff with further skills and resources.</p> <p>p24: A few organisations, such as the Youth Service have useful processes in place to monitor the quality of services, capture feedback from young people and drive forward service improvements. Other projects such as the Info Shop, Young Carers project and the Learning Development Initiative have effective approaches to monitoring, tracking and evaluation of young people's progress.</p> <p>p26: The Youth Service has good training and personal development programme.</p> <p>p26: There is a very good partnership between the youth Service and the YMCA, resulting in good examples of partners pooling and sharing resources and expertise.</p> <p>p27: The youth service has a very good mobile unit for taking visual arts, sports and information resources out to young people.</p>

2007		
Jan	Caerphilly	<p>p4: The local authority youth service makes a valuable contribution to the work of the framework.</p> <p>p4: The leadership shown by the Youth Service fulfils well the role required of it by the Welsh Assembly Government.</p> <p>p12: The local authority youth service provides much of this (accreditation) good work through its own direct provision and through good partnership working with other youth support services.</p> <p>p15: The Youth Service has good arrangements in place which helps these (disabled) young people get involved in community recreational provision.</p> <p>p17: The youth service is a key member of the framework. It makes an important contribution to the work of the partnerships and LPTG's.</p> <p>p17: In particular, the Youth Service is responsible for delivering high quality training for workers from all youth support services and piloting effective quality assurance procedures for later sharing with partners. The youth Service is also leading the development of joint projects in response to the YPP's priorities and annual action plan.</p>
Mar	Cardiff	<p>p13: In the youth service staff have good access to training on safeguarding children and the protection of vulnerable adults.</p> <p>p18: The good partnership between the Youth Service and Leisure Service means that young people can regularly use gyms, sports halls and dance studios.</p>
May	Merthyr	<p>p9: Local Community organisations and the Youth Service frequently work together to good effect...and increased the number of drop in youth clubs and increased street based youth work teams to engage a wider range of young people.</p> <p>p16: The training programme (for staff from all youth support services) is well informed by a training needs analysis led by the local authority Youth Service".</p>

2008		
Jan	Vale of Glamorgan	<p>p9: The local authority Youth Service works well with the Vale Safer Communities Partnership and voluntary sector organisations to develop flexible responses to work with young people who meet together on the streets or in public spaces. Street based youth work helps ensure young people remain safe and helps reduce community disorder and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>p11: ...the local authority youth service works well with the basic skills team, Careers Wales and Weston Spirit to help young people prepare for the world of work.</p> <p>p15: ...the local authority youth service has taken the lead to develop a good training strategy for the YPP. As a result, all youth support services staff have opportunities to attend a good range of accredited training.</p> <p>p16: In particular, the local authority youth service is training Welsh-speaking pupils to be bilingual youth workers of the future. (P. 16)</p>
Mar	Gwynedd	<p>p12: School youth workers offer good support to young people in schools and youth clubs.</p> <p>p18: There are good examples of partners sharing staff training; for example the local authority youth service delivers specific training events to its own staff, the youth justice service, the regeneration and leisure departments and Careers Wales North West.</p>
Apr	Ceredigion	<p>p4: Providers, particularly the Youth Service, provide good accredited opportunities for young people and ensured consistent standards in delivery.</p> <p>p4: The Youth Service produced an informative staff handbook on behalf of the YPP. Youth organisations use this effective tool for planning, monitoring and evaluating work. The Youth Service, as lead agency, has monitored the use of the handbook and used the analysis well to plan further activities including a relevant range of training opportunities for staff".</p> <p>p5: The Youth Service is leading the work to fill some of the gaps, such as the provision for young people in the main market towns of the county. The Youth Service also coordinates supports and challenges un-regulated providers of youth services across the county."</p>

2008		
Apr	Ceredigion	<p>p8: The Youth Service has responded very well to the challenge of working more effectively to lead its partners within youth support services. The council has facilitated a £20, 000 increases in funding for the service. Despite this, the Youth Service remains under-resourced and is the lowest funded service in Wales per head of 11-25 year olds.</p>
Jun	Neath Port Talbot	<p>p5: The recent strategic review of youth services in Neath Port Talbot and its detailed action plan set aspirational goals and high-level targets. However, the local authority youth service does not take an effective lead in developments across the partnership.</p> <p>p5: The local authority youth service in particular has achieved a significant income (£752,730) over and above its core budget from the local authority. However, the local authority only passes on 53% of the funds the Welsh Assembly gives it for its youth service.</p> <p>p7: In many youth clubs, young people learn about ways they can contribute to their local community. They help to raise money for their club and for local charities. For example, in Cymmer, young people produced and arranged a concert, which raised £300 for charity.</p> <p>P8: A few young people who are members of youth clubs progress onto leadership training (called senior member training)... Two of these senior members now run their own part-time youth club.</p> <p>p9: The detached youth work team plans its activities and projects well. Workers define clear learning outcomes and cater well for the different needs and abilities of the young people with whom they work.</p> <p>p9: The detached youth work team plans its activities and projects well. Workers define clear learning outcomes and cater well for the different needs and abilities of the young people with whom they work.</p> <p>p11: There is also good collaboration with the local authority's youth service, to provide opportunities for these young people to help with community activities.</p> <p>p13: The short message service (SMS) Texting Service, recently launched by the local authority youth service, provides valuable information on a wide range of issues direct to young people's mobile phones. However, the numbers accessing the service are relatively small and it is not available bilingually.</p>

2008		
Jun	Neath Port Talbot	<p>p15: The local authority Youth Service is well placed to lead on important developments. However, the role of the Youth Service within the partnership arrangements is not effective enough. The local authority does not make best use of its Youth Service's many strengths to provide good leadership and drive forward key partnership targets and developments. These include the early identification of young people's basic needs, the development of ways to recognise the 'distance travelled' by a young person and the accreditation of learning outcomes by learners in informal education settings.</p> <p>p15: In addition, the review (of youth services) does not identify clearly the lead role that the local authority youth service can take on behalf of the CYPP.</p> <p>p16: Staff in the local authority Youth Service are very well qualified. The proportion of staff with a nationally recognised qualification at National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level 3 or above is 97%...</p> <p>p16: Employees from all youth support services have good access to training programmes provided by key partners such as the local authority youth service, social services, health providers and the voluntary sector.</p> <p>p17: Generally, young people have good access to appropriate buildings and facilities through dedicated youth service buildings, shared use of school facilities, and community halls. The local authority has reviewed all of its buildings for compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. It has a strategy in place to bring all buildings up to a suitable standard. In response to recommendations arising from the Youth Services Review, the council has recently made available £400k over the next two years to upgrade its own and shared premises.</p> <p>p17: In 2006-2007¹⁷ the local authority youth service achieved a significant income (£753k) over and above its core budget from the local authority. Fifty-six per cent of the local authority youth service's gross operating budget is from additional income compared with a Wales average of 37%. This is an important achievement by the local authority youth service. However, conversely, the local authority youth service's core budget is the third lowest funded in Wales. Each local authority has, in its annual financial settlement from the Welsh Assembly Government, a nominal element for the local authority youth service. For Neath Port Talbot County Borough this is £1.1m. However, only £592k (53%) of this sum is used to fund the youth service.¹⁸ This leaves the local authority youth service over reliant on external funding to deliver its core services.</p>

2008		
Oct	Pembroke-shire	<p>p14: The leadership shown in the local authority within the CYPP is outstanding. The local authority has ensured its Youth Service is firmly embedded in the local authority's education service (LAES) strategic planning and management. This ensures that Pembrokeshire Youth is subject to the same performance management systems, including data collection and analysis, as the rest of its provision.</p>
Nov	Wrexham	<p>p10: Many young people in the Youth Work in Education programmes achieve good standards and make very good progress, in particular young travellers. (P. 10)</p> <p>p12: All Youth Work in Education staff support young people to reach their potential, especially with those who previously did not.</p> <p>p15: ...the local authority youth service has mapped local youth service provision against local issues affecting young people. This enables the service to start evaluating the outcomes of its services on young people.</p> <p>p15: Many partners from voluntary and statutory services work well together, to deliver joint services for young people...The youth service effectively leads many of these partnership projects, such as diversionary activities for young people at risk of becoming involved in crime.</p> <p>p18: The Youth Work in Hospital Inspire project provides outstanding support for young people who have been admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm. In addition, the Isis peer support group provides excellent support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender young people, and young people who are questioning their sexuality.</p> <p>p19: ...the work of the Youth Work in Education Boost project shows that support for young people identified as being at risk of exclusion is beginning to make an impact.</p> <p>p21: There are also youth workers in 9 schools. These programmes are having a positive effect on outcomes for learners.</p> <p>p29: The youth service, local health board, community councils and other local authority services work well together to ensure there are enough workers to deliver important projects. This has resulted in the location of workers in venues that give workers good access to young people. These venues include hospitals, community centres, schools and the college.</p>

2008		
Nov	Conwy	<p>p3: Overall youth workers develop positive relationships with young people and provide a good range of activities, teaching methods and learning resources. In the vast majority of cases, activities are managed well. This enables learners to achieve individual and collective goals. Almost all staff respond effectively to young people with personal difficulties and meets their needs well. They consistently challenge discriminatory and offensive language and set high expectations for behaviour. Staff also effectively encourages young people to learn about other cultures...</p> <p>p9: Overall youth workers develop positive relationships with young people. These relationships help staff to produce good quality work. As a result, young people increase their skills and confidence and develop new interests.</p> <p>p9: Almost all youth workers plan their work well and have clear objectives.</p> <p>p15: ...planning is ongoing to recruit bilingual staff from local communities to work in local authority youth clubs.</p>
Nov	Monmouths hire	<p>p19: The local authority's Youth Service works very well with schools and other partners to provide packages of alternative learning for pupils who have difficulty following the curriculum in schools.</p>

2009		
Jan	Flintshire	No specific reference to Youth Service
Jan	Caerphilly	No specific reference to Youth Service
Feb	Swansea	p15: The local authority Youth Service provides a comprehensive training programme ranging from Senior Member Training to a degree in Youth and Community Work. This is effective, valued and offered to all partners.
Mar	Denbighshire	<p>p23: Youth service accommodation has not been a priority and any refurbishment has been mainly to address health and safety needs. Developing community-focused assets has not been a priority. However, there is a track record of completing building projects on time and to budget.</p> <p>p32: The local authority youth service's youth forums help young people to become more aware of community issues and to contribute to local, regional and national developments.</p> <p>p32: The local authority youth service basic skills action plan has not progressed.</p>
May	Carmarthenshire	p13: The youth access partnership of youth workers, further education, the voluntary sector and other agencies provide a good range of alternative education provision at key stage 4 to young people excluded or at risk of exclusion.
Jun	Swansea	p15: The local authority youth service provides a comprehensive training programme ranging from senior member training to a degree in youth and community work. This is effective, valued and offered to all partners.
Jul	Ceredigion	No specific reference to Youth Service

2009		
Sept	Wrexham	<p>p6: Elected members have better access to a range of qualitative evidence when identifying priorities to develop local authority youth support services such as the youth service.</p> <p>p6: The local authority, in consultation with other youth support services, has robustly reviewed and restructured its youth service. Through this work and better management information, the youth service has a clearer strategy for future development. This strategy is starting to inform capital investment and the youth service has been successful in accessing funding for refurbishment and DDA adjustments for key buildings.</p> <p>p7: Youth support services have worked well in supporting schools to reduce fixed term exclusions by the improved integration and direction of youth workers in schools.</p>
Oct	Merthyr	No specific reference to Youth Service
Nov	Ynys Mon	<p>The number of young people who attend open access youth clubs provided by the local authority is high and has doubled in the last three years. Most young people have very positive, supportive and respectful relationships with their peers and staff.</p> <p>p8: Youth workers provide young people with access to a good range of sporting, leisure, cultural and volunteering opportunities. Most workers make good use of a wide range of styles of working to support young people's learning. Youth workers in part-time youth centres regularly invite specialist workers from inside and outside the Youth Service, to enrich the curriculum that they offer to young people.</p> <p>p8: Many youth workers use their good specialist knowledge and skills to provide a range of activities in their work with young people.</p> <p>p8: Youth workers deliver ASDAN and Youth Achievement Awards to provide nationally recognised qualifications to a range of young people. The youth service also makes use of a Record of Achievement scheme and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.</p> <p>p11: There is improved leadership and management of the local authority youth service. Key elected members have worked well with officers to set the vision for the youth service but this vision is not yet supported by a meaningful strategy to further develop the service.</p>

2009		
Nov	Ynys Mon	<p>p12: The local authority's youth service has progressed well since the last Estyn inspection and is starting to put effective systems in place to manage quality and assess the impact of their services on young people. The local authority's youth panel works well with elected members to understand the work of the youth service and to identify its strengths and weaknesses. They also work successfully together to look at best practice elsewhere in Wales and this is helping to inform and improve their work.</p> <p>p13: Almost all employees from youth support services have access to suitable training opportunities. The youth service provides much of this training...</p> <p>p13: The youth service suffers from a lack of management capacity at a number of levels. A combination of sickness, delays in recruiting staff and the recruitment of inexperienced staff are limiting the ability of the service to achieve improvements. Consequently, staff appraisals are not carried out systematically within the service and the recently produced draft Staff Training and Development Policy has not yet been formally approved.</p> <p>p13: The youth service keeps accurate and up-to-date records of CRB checks and ensures that all new staff are suitably checked. However, in many cases three-yearly renewals have not been finalised and, in a very few cases, staff start work under supervision before their completed CRB check has been received.</p> <p>p13: A detailed Asset Management Plan enables the youth service to undertake regular reviews of the assets at its disposal and the condition of the buildings that it uses.</p> <p>p13: Except for the small number of Digi-Labs available, there is not enough access to ICT resources through the local authority's youth clubs.</p>

2009		
Nov	Gwynedd	<p>p18: The local authority youth service has worked well with elected members to map its current provision and to look at good practice elsewhere to inform its work. It has also put suitable structures in place to plan its work more effectively and evaluate outcomes. However, partly due to restructuring over the last year, the youth service has not yet completed work on creating a development strategy and an improved management information system.</p> <p>p20: There is good focus on training youth workers to raise awareness of the opportunity to accredit young people's work.</p> <p>p20: The local authority youth service has provided a range of training for staff to support to help staff prepare more challenging and varied programmes. Targets and priorities for individual youth clubs for 2009-10 show an improved focus on work such as sexual or mental health or alcohol and drug awareness. IT provision within youth clubs is improving.</p>
Dec	Caerphilly	No comment specific to the Youth Service

2010		
Jan	RCT	<p>p4: They (Young People) contribute well to the Authority's decision-making that affects their school life and their activities in the wider community. Children and young people benefit from a good range of multi-agency and school-based initiatives that help them to feel safe in their communities.</p> <p>p4: Children and young people receive good support to develop and maintain healthy lifestyles. Generally, they enjoy high levels of physically active pursuits and have confidence in making informed healthy choices about diet, nutrition and exercise. As a result, they have a good understanding of how they can stay healthy through what they eat and through physical activity.</p> <p>p6: The authority's Youth Service focuses provision well to meet young people's expressed needs. There is clear use of community profiling and analysis, leading to multi-agency working, which is increasingly responsive.</p> <p>P6/7: The broad range of opportunities for young people to engage in volunteering, to gain accreditation, undertake training and to receive personal support, information, advice and counselling in school, FE settings and in the community is good.</p> <p>P6/7: The improving partnership working with a wide range of stakeholders is increasing the range and accessibility of youth support services to young people. The authority's focus on local planning has increased young people's opportunities to get involved in a wider range of these. This includes the good practice delivered through community-focussed schools.</p>
Mar	Bridgend	<p>p9: The Youth Service does this well and is a good example of using a strategic approach to the planning of priority, sufficiency and adequacy of services against identified needs.</p> <p>p11: The Youth Service provides very good youth information services in a choice of locations. They make sure that most children and young people know about and receive their entitlements. There are good standards in place to ensure that the information they give is impartial.</p> <p>p11: The Youth Service works well with the local health board to provide sexual health information services to a very good standard. Services are easy to access and staffed by specially trained youth workers. Youth workers give appropriate sexual health advice to young people with learning.</p>

2010		
Mar	Bridgend	<p>p11: The Youth Service provides good and immediate community and school based support to children and young people affected by suicides.</p> <p>P12: Youth workers are effective in the learning coach role and support various groups of children and young people with additional needs who do not achieve well at school. These include children and young people who use drugs, school phobics, and teenage parents.</p> <p>P12: The Youth Service adds good value to the work of the inclusion service, using its supportive environment well to address behaviour issues.</p> <p>P14: The youth service uses data well to prioritise clearly and plan effectively. It has undertaken a good analysis of the data and of provision to identify what aspects of services need to improve. It has developed very good systems that enable staff to monitor young people's attendance at events and provision.</p> <p>p15: The statutory youth service is a good example of a provider ensuring that all staff have appropriate qualifications and up to date training to deliver good quality services to young people. Youth workers are well trained and qualified and the service shares good quality training widely with partner youth support services. This provision is highly valued.</p>
Mar	Vale of Glamorgan	<p>p5: Attendance at youth service provision compares well with other local authorities in Wales. However, too few young people engage in learning that leads to accredited outcomes in youth settings.</p>
Nov	Neath Port-Talbot	<p>p6: In a few areas, young people do not have good access to youth clubs.</p> <p>p6: In 2009, the number of young people attending youth support services provision (including the local authority youth service) is very good at 41% of the population (11-25).</p> <p>p8: The maintained youth service has increased the range of opportunities for young people to gain accreditation for their work.</p> <p>p11: There is some inconsistency in planning, monitoring and evaluating the work of youth support services. However, there is now a useful management information system in place within the statutory youth service to address this.</p>
Nov	Wrexham	<p>p5: Because the youth service works well with partners such as the health service, young people in hospital engage effectively with project workers. These young people are less likely to self-harm or be readmitted to hospital as a result of the Inspire project.</p>

2011	
Jan	<p>Cardiff</p> <p>p8: The authority's youth service has a wide range of projects and activities that meet young people's needs well. The Keeping In Touch (KIT) initiative gives helpful analyses of learners receiving support. The new Youth Engagement Strategy provides an improved focus for supporting young people who are NEET.</p>
Feb	<p>Powys</p> <p>p4: Take-up by young people of the Powys local authority youth service is good at 25% of the youth population.</p> <p>p8: Attendance at youth clubs is already good and is growing, and these learners have good access to informal learning leading to accreditation. The youth service is making good progress in developing Welsh-medium provision.</p>
Mar	<p>Conwy</p> <p>p5: The number of young people attending the local authority youth service is good at 23% of the population. Young people engage well in programmes that promote healthier lifestyles. Pupil and parent evaluations, service monitoring and school reporting indicate that pupils are increasing their engagement in health and wellbeing initiatives that promote healthy eating, exercise, awareness of substance misuse and sexual health. Young people also develop improved self-esteem and communication skills through the peer education and support roles offered by these programmes.</p> <p>p5: The number of young people in the youth justice system is reducing. More young people are successfully avoiding offending because of effective early intervention by the youth offending team and the local authority youth service.</p>
May	<p>Blaenau Gwent</p> <p>p6: In 2009 only 12% of the young people involved with the local authority youth service achieved an accredited outcome. This is below the Wales average of 16%.</p> <p>p6: In 2009, the number of young people attending youth support services provision (including the local authority youth service) is very good at 41% of the population (11-25).</p> <p>p7: The local authority youth service's managers are improving their use of management information system to target youth support services work. However, it still has some way to go before data is used to best effect.</p>

2011		
Jun	Flintshire	p8The Youth Service, in partnership with Careers Wales, makes a significant contribution to the programme of support for learners identified as being at risk of becoming young people not in employment, education or training. (P. 8)
Jun	Pembroke-shire	No specific reference to Youth Service
Oct	Torfaen	However, youth service officers do not know if children and young people have access to a suitable range of appropriate youth support services. The youth service was restructured some five weeks prior to this inspection so it is too soon to judge the contribution that it will make to Torfaen's youth support services. (P.9)
Nov	Newport	Young people have increased their participation in sport and community-based learning by getting more involved with the local authority's youth service, libraries and arts and sports development programmes, including Positive Futures. (P.5)

2012		
Jan/ Feb	Denbigh-shire	<p>p6: Most learners engaged with the Youth Service make steady progress and gain appropriate non-formal qualifications across a range of areas. The local authority Youth Service has realigned its priorities and resources effectively to provide better services, opportunities, personal support and outcomes for learners.</p> <p>p9: The service and its partners have a leading role in the development of youth support services across the authority.</p> <p>p10: The authority's youth service is leading work with relevant partners based in local areas to improve access to a range of youth support services.</p>
March	Carmarthen shire	<p>p4: In addition, a good percentage of learners gain accreditation or informal recognition for their participation in the Youth Service and wider youth support services.</p> <p>p5: Nearly all learners involved with the Youth Health Team, social and emotional literacy development programmes and the school based counselling service report a positive impact on their lives and make considerable gains in confidence and in personal and emotional awareness. These learners respond well to bespoke interventions and demonstrate improvements in attitudes, behaviour, and educational attainment.</p> <p>p5: Young people benefit from participation in a range of youth services and the percentage of learners achieving recognition for their work is above the Wales average.</p>