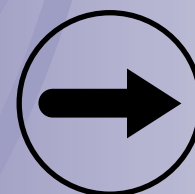


# Extending Entitlement supporting young people 11-25 in Wales. Working Together to Provide Young People's Entitlements. Responses to Consultation.

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Support for  
Young People

- Title of Document:** Extending Entitlement supporting young people 11-25 in Wales. Working Together to Provide Young People's Entitlements. Responses to Consultation.
- Audience:** Organisations involved with Youth Work and Young People's Partnerships in Wales
- Overview:** This document outlines the response to a consultation on Extending Entitlement.
- Action required:** No further action required.
- Further information:**  
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- Further copies:** This document is only available in electronic format.

## CONTENTS PAGE

Summary of Discussion	1
1. Advisory Group	3
2. Sub Groups	4
3. Communication and Evaluation	6
4. Training, Education and Workforce Development	9
5. Integrated Approaches	12
6. Connect Cymru / Education Training Standards Committee of Wales	13

## **EXTENDING ENTITLEMENT**

### **Working Together to Provide Young People's Entitlements**

#### **Summary of Discussion**

This document sets out the responses received to the document published by the Welsh Assembly Government on the proposals contained within the Extending Entitlement: Working Together to Provide Young People's Entitlements which was published in May. In preparing this response, we have included comments collected at 15 events throughout Wales as well as written comments received by the Welsh Assembly Government. We would like to thank the Principal Youth Officers Group, Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services and Bwrdd yr Iaith for facilitating these events across Wales. Without their support, such a widespread inclusive approach would not have been possible.

The comments on the proposals and the response are set out under the various key headings as described in the consultation document.

The comments have helped the Welsh Assembly Government shape the final version of its proposals while we hope that the document released shortly will answer other comments received where clarification was sought.

The Welsh Assembly Government would also like to thank the Board of the Wales Youth Agency who supported this process and those individuals/groups who responded at events or sent in written comments.

## **1. Advisory Group**

### **Comments**

There were a number of comments raised about the membership of the proposed group ranging from those looking for a rationale why some groups had been listed and others adding groups to the list. Concerns were raised about the possible size of the group and its operational effectiveness if it became too large. Some individual national groups requested a place on the group. Suggestions were also raised regarding if the Advisory group should not reflect the membership of a Young People's Partnership at local level.

Questions were in particular raised about the capacity for the part time (both voluntary and statutory sector) to become involved in the group. The Voluntary sector also wanted fair systems that would allow them to consult their workforce effectively.

Questions were asked about how young people would be involved with these groups and for example would Funky Dragon members be the only ones involved in the process.

Respondents stated that the Advisory group should meet more frequently in the early stages of its implementation because of the work that it would be required to do. The roles and responsibilities of the group also need to be clearly articulated. They have an important role in ensuring support reflects

the needs of young people and practitioners. The two year membership period was felt to be too short a timescale for serving on the group. It was felt that actual members turned up and that substitutes should not be permitted. Each group member should be clear about their responsibility in collecting views from their constituent body to express at meetings and how they would also provide feedback on decisions made.

Questions were asked about the roles of the various groups and also how membership of the groups would be decided.

## **2. Sub Groups**

### **Comments**

Specific comments regarding setting up a part time (voluntary and statutory group) sub group were received under the comments received here. Some respondents questioned the need for this group and others were concerned about the logistics of setting up either a regional group or national group. All respondents were agreed that some kind of funding support would be required to facilitate attendance at such a group. A few respondents suggested this representative group should be formed to undertake specific task and finish groups.

Suggestions were also made regarding additional groups, in particular focusing on issues concerned with the Welsh language, cross sector working, 14 - 19 Learning Pathways and mapping provision.

## **Response**

We are carefully considering the comments made by respondents for supporting these new proposals which will be focused on the delivery areas for the new team. It is unlikely however that we will have an Advisory Group that reflects the constituent members of a Young People's Partnership. The Welsh Assembly Government has set up the All Wales Young People's Organisation which reflects most of the bodies who would sit on the YPP. We want these groups to be working groups which will mean that they will need to have a small membership in order to operate effectively.

We want to engage as many stakeholders as possible in contributing to the work within the Welsh Assembly Government. In particular we will want to engage with young people in relevant programme developments as they are considered. We will want to explore the most effective way of undertaking this work including discussing issues with members from Funky Dragon.

### **3. Communication and Evaluation**

#### **Comments**

Respondents valued the current information supplied and expressed a desire to see it continue. They felt that it should not all be web based but the potential of accessing information via the web needed to be exploited to its full potential. Care would also need to be taken to be selective in what information was provided via email and that it should be as relevant as possible to the stakeholders.

The web system needed to be user friendly and the ability to easily navigate within it.

It was important that this work focused on selling youth work as a career and the new team needed to be proactive in this area. Publicity about youth work needed to be generated. Some respondents wanted an Award system that would recognise youth work as important.

Comments were received regarding the ability to access books and it should be in an accessible location with car parking facilities. One respondent felt that information services needed to be operated by those with the necessary skills and knowledge of the sector

There was a lot of support for the area of research and many respondents felt it was an important area of work and recognised its value in supporting Continuing Professional Development. Many of the respondents felt that practitioners should be funded to undertake this work with experts at hand to provide advice and support.

Data collection was seen as important although the system for what was collected and for what purpose needed to be clarified. Any data collection needs to be robust and their needs to be support for collecting relevant data at local level and to assess its relevance for planning.

The data collection work needs to be carried out in partnership and support provided on how to undertake it at local level. Resources should be provided to allow this to happen.

## **Response**

We are committed to maintaining the important aspect of communication within the sector. This communication will be available in its widest sense including updates, bulletins, training material etc. We will also want to employ staff with knowledge of the sector to assist in developing this range of communication materials.

We recognise concerns about the Library but we cannot support the argument regarding accessibility, as we believe that wherever a Library was based, it

would not be convenient for all practitioners in Wales. We are however committed to making the Library systems regarding sending out books, inter library loans as user friendly as possible. The Board of the Agency has agreed to transfer the Library into the Welsh Assembly Government in Cardiff and we will work with the sector to develop the area of activity.

There was strong support for the development of opportunities for practitioners to undertake small pieces of research activity based on their own work areas. We would hope that this would allow them to reflect on practice which would be a very important aspect of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) on any workers/officers. We will need to consider any funding aligned with this programme because of the current funding awarded through the statutory sector for supporting CPD opportunities. We will need to consider support for any staff in the voluntary sector who wishes to undertake up this opportunity.

We welcome the comments regarding the importance of data collection which is relevant and can be analysed, particularly at local level. This data collection needs to be robust and reliable and which will then assist strategic planning and judgements to be based.

## **4. Training, Education and Workforce Development**

### **Comments**

Co-ordination of training delivery needed to be considered and the issues of cross Authority working needed to be developed and enhanced in order to support those local authorities who were small in nature or where the work of external organisations crossed local authority boundaries.

We received a number of comments regarding the need to have a database of accredited trainers to ensure quality of delivery who could be available to support local activity. Comments were received regarding the need to increase the number of Welsh speaking trainers available and to develop training resources and activities through the medium of Welsh.

Questions were raised regarding accreditation and the importance of it in any courses that were delivered. Some concerns were raised about the impact of the loss of accredited courses via the Wales Youth Agency Staff College.

A number of respondents suggested that a clear training structure was required to support the needs of Welsh speakers at all levels within the current developments in Wales.

There was a view that the voluntary sector requirements need specific mechanisms to be put in place to support its work.

Continuing Professional Development was seen as a priority for the work of the new team and in particular the needs of aspiring managers at all levels needed to be considered.

There was very little specific comment regarding the suggestion of consulting on the Workforce Development Strategy. However, a number of respondents commented on the need to have a group to advise and monitor the final strategy.

## **Response**

We recognise the importance of this area of work, in particular the need to consider economies of scale when developing material, providing training and having qualified staff to deliver the range of training required. We have asked Local Authorities to consider joint training where appropriate within the context of the current funding awarded via the Assembly Government for the training of youth workers.

We recognise in the short term the problems for some local authorities with the withdrawal of funding which will impact on provision of support for accredited courses at local level. We are currently considering how this issue can be addressed in the short term before we move towards a local delivery model with input and support from the Assembly Government to develop local capacity.

We welcome the idea of a database of trainers who are accredited but this will need careful consideration and discussions with a wide range of stakeholders before any final decision can be made. We will shortly commission a study which will collect evidence and work with a small working group to finalise an agreed process for this work in Wales.

We put forward a proposal to form a sub group to support this area of activity. We will need to consider if this group should also have responsibility for advising and monitoring the final workforce development strategy.

## **5. Integrated Approaches**

### **Comments**

There were few comments regarding this section within the document.

Respondents welcomed the approach on a range of key issues connected with supporting a number of cross cutting issues. Respondents welcomed the messages given regarding the continuation of the National Voluntary Youth Grants Scheme (NVYO) and the clear distinction between advice/support and the decision making process.

The support being proposed for the voluntary sector representatives on the YPP's was welcomed because it met an identified need.

Comments were received about the internal process within the Assembly Government and that the new team to ensure a range approaches to make programme delivery better co-ordinated.

### **Response**

We are pleased with the comments received. It is clear that some areas of this work activity will need more time to be developed and enhanced. It is important that the NVYO scheme continues as it is delivered now. We will also need to take into account comments received following the review of the scheme regarding further support for evaluation.

We have clearly stated that the work of the new team will include work to inform colleagues across the Assembly Government about the most effective way to work in the sector to facilitate a more cohesive approach to programme delivery within the context of policy delivery.

## **6. Connect Cymru / Education Training Standards Committee of Wales**

### **Comments**

Although not directly relevant part of this process, we have received some comments regarding the above programme areas.

### **Connect Cymru**

We received comments about this work needing to continue in Wales and not being based in London. It was important that the knowledge and experiences of a committee process was continued. Wales had developed an expertise in this area of work that should not be lost.

### **Education Training Standards Committee of Wales**

Respondents commented on the importance to supporting youth, community and play work in Wales through this committee. It was also important that the

committee was impartial of Government in terms of decision making processes.

## **Response**

These comments are important and we have made clear that the Assembly Government would want to see both these work stream continue in Wales. Discussions are ongoing with the relevant bodies/organisations that support this work in looking at the most effective way of delivering these work programmes.