PREPARING FOR CHANGE, PART 1

NOTES FROM KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Jim Rooney
Director, Wales Youth Work Partnership

Assuming that we know where we are now and how we got here, the next main sequence of events looks like:

7/8 November -	**National Ministerial Conference** Towards a Core Curriculum - the next step. Curriculum framework should emerge from this.
1 December -	Cooper & Lybrand, Deloitte report with DES consultation document released.
Spring 1991 -	National Ministerial Conference on management implications.
Late 1991/ Early 1992-	National Ministerial Conference on training implications

WHAT IS GOING ON?

The National Advisory Council for the Youth Service (established to advise the Secretary of State for Education) was discontinued in December 1988.

Government announced its intention to build on NACYS work by consulting Youth Service providers through a series of three national conferences over a period of two years.

A small steering committee of six people was appointed to advise the Minister on the content and format of the conferences.

The conference theme 'towards a core curriculum for the Youth Service?" was chosen in the light of the introduction of the core curriculum for schools through the Education Reform Act.

The first conference was held in December 1989. The conference was aimed at principal officers in LEAs and heads of national voluntary youth organisations with other observer members from various organisations.

DECEMBER 1989 CONFERENCE

WHAT THE MINISTER SAID:

stressed that youth work is education focused

he accepts youth work processes but wants greater clarity about outcomes

he wants to know what is unique about the Youth Service and how it can best relate to other provision

WHAT THE CONFERENCE DID:

established broad consensus that work on a core curriculum was needed

reached broad agreement on a mission statement, goals and objectives for the service

got a bit confused about what is meant by 'outcomes' in a youth work context

NOVEMBER 1990 CONFERENCE

IS CONCERNED ABOUT:

target groups and priority issues

outcomes

methods and types of provision

performance indicators

Before this conference there was a consultation process to examine these four areas.

The findings from the consultation process informs the background papers for the November conference.

What follows are the recommendations going to the November conference.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of youth work is to:

Ensure equality of opportunity for young people to fulfil their potential as empowered individuals and members of groups and communities; and help young people to avoid being harmed, harming themselves or others.

Youth work offers young people opportunities which are:

- educative
- promote equality of opportunity
- participative
- empowering

Youth work is delivered through a partnership between voluntary organisations and local authorities which provides or facilitates:

- INFORMAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES which challenge young people and enhance their personal development, social and political education;

  PLACES AND RELATIONSHIPS within which young people can have fun, feel secure and valued and learn to take greater control of their own lives;

  ACCESS to and ability to use relevant information, advice and counselling

  RESPONSIVENESS by other services to the needs of young people

  RESEARCH, MONITORING AND PUBLICATION of social trends and legislation which affect young people

TARGETS

The youth service age range should recognise that youth work is undertaken with young people during the transition from childhood to adulthood. This is identified in the responses to the Steering Committee Consultation Document as 11-25 with priority to the 13-19 age group.

Youth service should be open to all young people within the specified age range.

Target groups should be identified at local organisational level. Based on equality of access and opportunity and challenging oppression.

PRIORITY ISSUES

- The priority issues for the core curriculum are the twin issues of equality and empowerment which spring from the heart of the Statement of Purpose and should inform all work undertaken by the youth service. The processes used by the service should encourage and support young people's active participation.

OUTCOMES

The Steering Committee accepts the need for a national framework which could be used to determine outcomes at difference levels in the Service (unit, authority, organisation). Such a framework would logically group outcomes as skills, knowledge and attitudes in relation to the purpose of youth work - identified in the revised statement of purpose as:

- ensuring equality of opportunity for young people to fulfil their potential as individuals and members of groups and communities;

  empowering young people to understand and act on the personal, social and political issues which affect their lives and the lives of others;

- helping young people to avoid being harmed, harming themselves or others.

PROVISION

The youth service needs to be able to exercise flexibility and responsiveness in relation to the difference and changing needs of young people. In order to do so the Service needs a variety of types of provision and methods of work.

The very nature of the exercise means that provision (in terms of type and method) and the mix of provision, need to be determined locally.

The responses to the Consultation Document identify as desirable the development of:

detached work;
outreach work;
mobile provision (in rural areas/on urban estates);
information, advice and counselling services;
centres with curriculum specialities;

- separate provision for groups of 'disadvantaged' young people

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

INPUT INDICATORS

What the unit/service/organisation invests in terms of:

policy

management (including communications systems)

funding

premises: quantity and quality (appropriate/accessible)

resources (e.g. equipment)

staffing: levels (number volunteers, part-time, full-time

qualification

experience

in relation to building based/project/detached etc. training/supervision of staff

PROCESS INDICATORS

The 'quality control[1] indicators which require evidence of the ways in which work undertaken with young people:

- is educative
- ensures equality of opportunity
- is participative
- is empowering

OUTPUT INDICATORS

What the unit/service/organisation achieves in relation to its aims and priorities and in the light of specific outcomes identified by them in terms of:

- ability to deliver benefits for young people (in terms of fulfilment of potential, empowerment and prevention of harm)
- development of existing work/facilities/opportunities
- involvement of priority groups of young people
- development of new projects/areas of work
- level of responsiveness (eg. to changing needs)
- development of inter-agency work/partnership arrangements
- credibility/awareness of the youth service/youth work
- systems for research and monitoring

	Fulfilment of Potential	Empower-ment	Avoiding Harm
Skills			
Knowledge			
Attitudes			