

## PROPOSALS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WALES YOUTH AGENCY

### A CONSULTATION PAPER

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek views about the development of the Youth Service in Wales.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 On 5 April 1990 the Secretary of State for Education and Science announced the establishment of a National Youth Agency (NYA) for England. The NYA has been established on the basis of the existing non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), funded largely by the Department of Education and Science - the National Youth Bureau (NYB) and the Council for Education and Training in Youth and Community Work (CETYCW). The NYA became operational in April 1991.

2.2 In the context of the changes in England, the Secretary of State for Wales stated his intention to examine the implications of the NYA for the Youth Service in Wales and to publish his views on the way forward in due course.

#### 3. THE YOUTH SERVICE IN WALES - PRESENT INFRASTRUCTURE

3.1 In Wales both the maintained (LEA) and the voluntary sectors are active in youth work. There are also a number of national bodies involved in the development of youth work. In 1985 as part of International Youth Year and as a result of the findings of HMI Survey 13 (Youth Service Provision in Wales), Welsh Office Ministers announced the creation of the Wales Youth Work Partnership (WYWP) to co-ordinate and develop youth work practice. The "partners" were drawn from CETYCW, the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS), NYB and the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC). Other members were co-opted to provide the Partnership with views from the main interest groups involved in youth work. The Partnership has gradually developed and extended its services to work closely with the youth service, the Welsh Office and other youth work bodies throughout the United Kingdom.

3.2 In addition to WYWP, the Welsh Office also funds the work of CWVYS, the umbrella body for the voluntary youth sector and, since 1988, the Wales Youth Forum (WYF) which acts as a focal point for young people on matters of national and local concern. The Welsh Office has encouraged WYWP, CWVYS and the WYF to introduce co-ordinated, pertinent programmes of work designed to complement each other's areas of interest. These programmes became fully operational for the first time in April 1990.

#### 4. THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE YOUTH SERVICE IN WALES

4.1 The decision by the DES to establish the NYA has implications for the relationship between those involved in youth work provision in England and Wales and the (national) structure of the youth service in Wales.

4.2 The Welsh Office carried out a series of informal discussions with the major youth work bodies in Wales during the summer months of 1990. In addition to receiving written comments, officials also met with those bodies directly affected by the proposal. The response recognised that the time had come for a major appraisal on how the youth service infrastructure in Wales should evolve in the coming years and of Wales' relationship with the NYA.

4.3 It is now necessary to consider what action to take to ensure that youth work in Wales is properly supported. Two possible options suggest themselves:-

- i. to continue with the present co-ordinating structures provided by CWVYS, WYWP and the WYF, but strengthening relationships with the NYA; or '
- ii. to establish a new, unified body on the basis of the NYA to co-ordinate, plan and develop youth work in Wales.

4.4 From the informal discussions which have already taken place, it is apparent that option (i) would be unlikely to provide a sound and reliable base for ensuring Wales is kept abreast of latest youth work developments. Option (ii), however, seems to provide an opportunity to rationalise the present structures; to provide a unified focus for youth work throughout Wales; to improve co-operation and to draw together the knowledge and expertise already available in the field.

4.5 In considering these options it is important to take account of the individual requirements of Wales as a country, its culture and language and the educational and social needs of its young people. It is equally important that the national infrastructure in Wales, in whatever form it eventually takes, is able to work closely and effectively with others in the UK and Europe.

#### 5. A WALES YOUTH AGENCY

##### 5.1 *PROPOSED STRUCTURE*

5.1.1 To enable recipients to reach informed views, this document outlines the possible functions and structure of an Agency, together with its potential implications for existing bodies. These implications would need discussion. It has been proposed that any new body should seek to draw together youth work interests at an all-Wales level. In effect, this would mean channelling existing Welsh Office resources to target funds where most needed.

5-1.2 An independent Wales Youth Agency would have the capacity to take on board a wide-ranging remit straddling both voluntary and maintained sectors and, with full consultation with other agencies already working in this field (ie. NIACE Cymru), might be in a position to extend its role to become directly involved in the increasingly active area of community education.

## 5.2 FUNCTIONS

5.2.1 A Wales Agency by its very nature would undoubtedly mirror several of the NYA's activities. The main difference would be the need to tailor its work to Welsh circumstances drawing on existing knowledge and experience of local and national priorities. It is proposed that such an Agency would require a work programme based on the following list of functions (not listed in any order of priority):-

- |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>i. Training and Staff development</i>                                     | A Wales Youth Agency would act as a facilitator of training and staff development through consultancy services, and be involved in the direct provision of training contracted with the local authorities and voluntary youth organisations.                                                                                                                             |
| <i>ii. Endorsement and Accreditation of Training</i>                         | A Wales Agency would not attempt to duplicate expertise previously on offer from CETCYW (now part of the NYA). Endorsement and accreditation requirements would be negotiated with the NYA as and when necessary, bought and paid for as a service. The Wales Agency would provide a range of consultation services in respect of these functions much as WYWP does now. |
| <i>iii. Information collection and dissemination. Research/ Publications</i> | The NYA (ex-NYB function) would remain a major source of youth related literature and information. Welsh youth organisations would still be able to purchase this service. A Wales Agency's role would be to disseminate information relevant to Wales and for example to co-ordinate youth card in Wales.                                                               |
| <i>iv. Consultation with and support for the Welsh Office</i>                | A Wales Youth Agency would be expected to work closely with the Welsh Office on youth related matters and other relevant issues.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <i>v. Consultation and support for youth work providers</i>                  | A Wales Youth Agency would be expected to work closely with the local authorities, youth work bodies and other providers of services for young people.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <i>vi. International Work</i>                                                | A Wales Youth Agency would be expected to participate in and, where necessary, initiate or co-ordinate international youth related events and initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <i>vii. Youth Participation</i>                                              | A Wales Youth Agency would actively seek to encourage participation by young people in all areas of its work. Special attention would need to be given to ensuring that young people are given an effective voice in the planning and operation of the Agency.                                                                                                           |
| <i>viii. Welsh language and culture</i>                                      | The Welsh language and culture would be taken into account in all areas of the Agency's work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

ix. *Curriculum development* - Liaison with the LEAs and voluntary sector on curriculum issues. The Wales Youth Agency would play a key role in the development of a youth work curriculum and related issues in consultation with local authorities and voluntary organisations.

### 5.3 *STATUS*

5.3-1 The formal status of a new Agency would hinge upon its final structure and terms of reference. It could, for example, be a company limited by guarantee and the possibility of obtaining charitable status could be examined.

### 5.4 *STAFFING AND GOVERNING STRUCTURES*

5.4.1 It is envisaged that an Agency would require a Chief Executive (plus personal assistant), and 4 officers covering training and staff development, development, information/marketing and publications. Clerical support could be provided by a team of up to 3 administrative/clerical officers.

5.4.2 It is proposed that the Chief Executive's post would be filled by open competition. Staff of existing bodies directly affected by the proposal would have the opportunity to apply for transfer to posts within the new Agency.

5.4.3 It is proposed that the internal governing structure is based on three distinct components:-

- i. members drawn from the youth service and other closely related disciplines;
- ii. members appointed by the Secretary of State; and
- iii. observers.

5-4.4 It is proposed that one nominee each be invited from CWVYS, FEYSAW, WAFTYCW, WJEC and the Wales Youth Forum. The Secretary of State's appointments would include the Chairperson and members drawn from the public, voluntary or private sectors who may be chosen for their expertise in specialist areas such as financial management. These appointments should not exceed a third of the total committee membership. Provision for observers would, for example, include representatives of the Welsh Office and the NYA. A reciprocal arrangement would be sought with the NYA.

### 5.5 *FINANCE*

5-5-1 An Agency would require Welsh Office financial support. In calculating this, regard would be had to the present Welsh Office support for those functions presently undertaken by CWVYS, WYWP and WYF which might transfer to the Agency. Welsh Office resources currently earmarked to support the work of the national voluntary youth organisations are not affected by these proposals.

5-5-2 As a limited company and a charitable trust an Agency would be expected to generate resources as a result of its activities. This could take the form of a charge for services carried out on behalf of a customer. Resources raised in this way could be used to offset running costs, to fund work additional to the Agency's main programme or to support services to particular youth service clients.

## 5.6 *WORKING RELATIONSHIPS*

5.6.1 A new Agency would need to have clear working relationships with youth service bodies in Wales, the UK and Europe. It would operate on a programme basis - that is it would plan and negotiate a coherent programme of work with each of its "customers" to produce an overall package of activities for the year. The work programme might be designed in such a way as to enable the production of a medium term business plan. Both would be subject to final approval by the Secretary of State, and would form the basis of the grant allocation for future years' operations.

5.6.2 An Agency's relationship with certain existing national youth bodies (eg CWVYS/WYF) would call for particular attention. One option would be for these bodies to continue their representational functions while other activities and day-to-day operations could be carried out by the Agency's officers on their behalf - see paragraph 5-6.1.

## 5.7 *LOCATION*

5.7.1 This would need to be determined taking into account the location of existing youth work provision at a national and local level, and communications.

## 5.8 *TIMING*

5-8.1 It is important that sufficient time is allowed for consultation to enable a co-ordinated transition from the present structures to any new one which might be agreed. It is proposed therefore that any new body should be established from 2 April 1992.

## 6. ACTION

6.1 Comments are invited on this paper to reach the Welsh Office (Education Services Division) by Monday 8 July 1991. Queries and requests for additional copies of this paper should be directed to Russell Dobbins at the Welsh Office Education Department, Government Buildings, Phase II, Tyglas Road, Llanishen, Cardiff CF4 5WE or telephone (0222) 761456 extension 5483.