

# Issues for the 90s

policy and practice issues affecting youth workers

## 1. Self Development



## 2. Issues



## 3. Community



## 4. Activities



## 5. Culture / Identity



These are the five categories of assessment used by Powys County Youth Service

**Y**outh workers have for a long time laid claim to a whole range of skills, knowledge and personal qualities which young people develop as they mature.

There is no doubt that young people do develop a range of positive attributes through their contact with the youth service. The recent round of national and regional conferences bears testimony to this. A number of young people addressed the conferences and testified to the value of the youth service in their personal and social development. Quite a number of prominent councillors also paid credit to their contact with the youth service in enabling them to develop the personal qualities and skills which

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stand them in good stead in their role as councillors.

The opportunities which youth organisations offer to young people bring positive gains to their lives. Young people do some truly amazing things in youth organisations but their achievements are often overlooked by the outside world, because we do not systematically record what young people do during their time with us.

Certain voluntary organisations, like Guides, Scouts or Duke of Edinburgh's Award, have a tradition of giving awards for achievement. Many LEA services utilise the Duke of Edinburgh's Award as a way of offering young people opportunities for progression. But much of youth work is based on informal relationships with young people, who may not want to enter into schemes which they may perceive to be formal and

# The Youth National Achieve

structured.

Since 1991 all young people in year 11 will have embarked upon the compilation of a Record of Achievement (ROA), which helps them record and present their achievements across a wide range of contexts. The scheme is delivered across Wales and England and marketed as the National Record of Achievement.

The record of achievement is a portfolio presented in a burgundy file which enables young people to record their:

- Academic achievements
- Work experiences
- Voluntary work
- Other experiences e.g. Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Youth Clubs etc..
- A personal statement

Some youth organisations have always tried to tie their work into ROAs. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award produce a form for young people to include with their ROA. This form helps young people to identify the skills and personal qualities they have gained from undertaking the award. Young Farmers Clubs also offer an

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achievement scheme which allies itself to the National Record of Achievement scheme. Cwmaman

## 1 Self Development

WHAT I DID?

WHEN?

WHERE?

WHY?

HOW?

WHAT I LEARNED

Signed ..... Date.....

Youth Club in Dyfed provides young people with certificates which acknowledge achievements they make within the club and specify the tasks they have undertaken and the skills they have gained. Llandudno Youth centre has recently embarked upon an achievement award.

The Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) is the body in Wales responsible for ensuring the quality of ROA delivery to young people, and it already has a set of guidelines for schools and adult education providers who are part of the scheme. The Wales Youth Agency is currently working with a group of youth work organisations and the WJEC to set up a system for the youth service which will enable youth organisations to gain accreditation from the WJEC for delivering ROA in their units. The participating youth organisations

# Service and Records of Achievement

## WORKERS ENDORSEMENT

**KNOWLEDGE**  
(New facts learned)

**ATTITUDE**  
(Change of views/values  
eg. More self confidence)

**SKILLS**  
(Practical skills developed  
eg. Leadership)

Signed .....Date.....

## National Record of Achievement

are Cwmaman Youth Club, Colwyn Bay Youth Centre, South Powys Youth Service, West Glamorgan Community Education Service, and Young Farmers Clubs. The initiative is viewed very positively and the participating groups are currently preparing materials for pilot projects. These projects are looking at implementing records of achievements in youth organisations which build upon the voluntary and informal nature of young people's involvement in the youth service.

Materials focus upon what young people do, how they are involved and what they learn from

their involvement in terms of knowledge, skills and attitudes. Importantly schemes take on board the fact that young people participate in youth organisations to different degrees.

So for example the schemes offer something at one level, to young people who come along to a club or unit to take part in activities. At another level schemes offer a means of progression for young people who may get involved in the planning, organisation and implementation of activities or who represent their club or unit at events.

Materials are based around the curriculum areas offered by organisations. For instance the Cwmaman scheme and the South Powys scheme reflect the main areas through which they work. They consist of a portfolio of certificates which focus on what young people have done, when, where, why, how and what was learnt. The task of the youth worker is to support young people through this process and enable them to record their achievements.

So what value does all this have for young people and why should the youth service get involved with ROAs?

Well for a start offering young people the opportunity to explore what they gain from their youth club or aelwyd or young farmers club should help them articulate those learning outcomes to others, for example, potential employers or at college interviews. Furthermore young people will be able to provide evidence of their achievements which has the credibility of a nationally accredited scheme behind it.

As far as the youth service is concerned ROAs provide evidence of learning outcomes and the value that youth work has for the lives of young people. Progression - the acquisition of knowledge and skills - is a buzz word at the moment. ROAs provide us with an opportunity to demonstrate how we enable young people to progress. Allying ourselves to the National Record of Achievement scheme also provides us with a recognised quality standard.

ROAs also supply youth organisations with a basis for

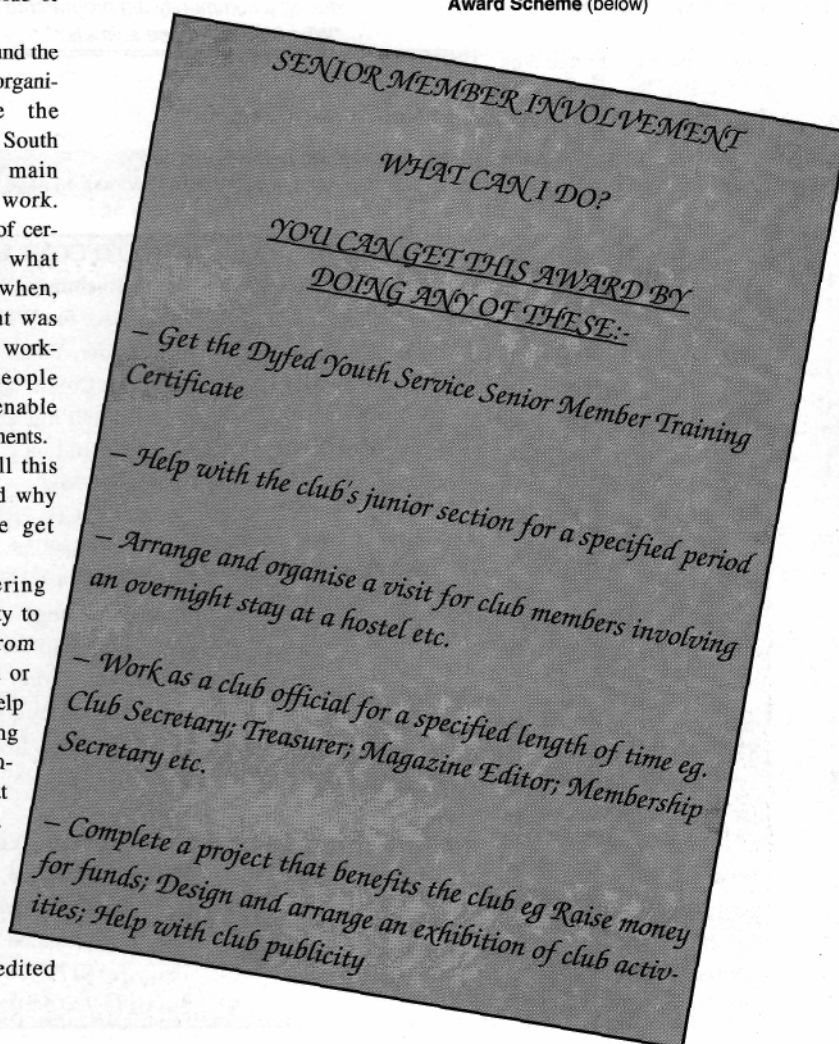
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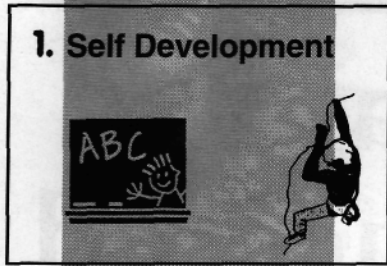
reviewing how well they are doing in all areas of their work. For example in the South Powys scheme if a lot of young people had gained awards in the 'Activities' area, but few in the 'Issues' or 'Culture and Identity' areas, then this would provide a basis to look at what was being offered to young people.

Indeed OHMCI, in its draft framework for inspection, cite ROAs and how they are used, as one of the items of evidence they will look for as part of their assessment of quality.

The working group is launching a system of accreditation during Youth Work Week this year. If anyone would like further details of the project then please contact Liam Kealy at the Wales Youth Agency or Malcolm Bowring at the WJEC.

Examples from the Powys Records of Achievement Scheme (left), and the Cwmaman Youth Club Achievement Award Scheme (below)





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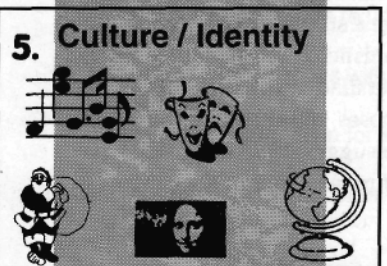
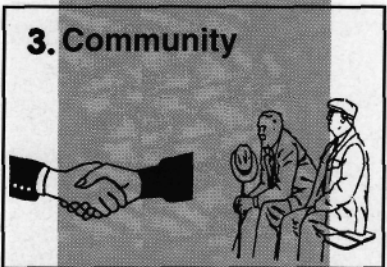
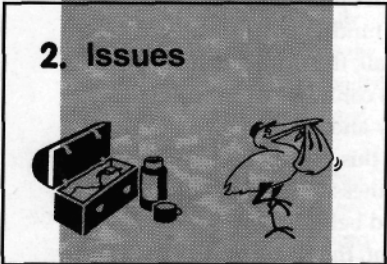
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