

WALES YOUTH WORK
Partnership

**THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE WORK OF
THE WALES YOUTH WORK PARTNERSHIP**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report has been requested by the Minister of State for Wales. Its purpose is to provide information about the work of the Partnership during its first three years, what it is doing now, and what it may do in the future. It shows why the Partnership is necessary, the work it is uniquely placed to do, and the outcomes expected from its future work.

1.2 It assumes that the Minister is aware of the reasons for setting up the Partnership, its aim and objectives, its management, staffing and budget.

2 COLLABORATION WITHIN THE YOUTH SERVICE

2.1 Collaboration between Youth Service interests is achieved by:

- * regular meetings of the Management Committee
- * regular working group meetings concerned with training and information
- * ad hoc working groups for specific tasks
- * training events, conferences and information work

2.2 These activities have ensured that staff from the voluntary and statutory sectors, who often work in comparative isolation, have been able to share concerns and issues that affect them and their work with young people. The Partnership provides common ground upon which staff share information, seek resolution to conflict, and support each other in developing their youth work.

2.3 In three years, the Management Committee has met 12 times, the Training Group 10 times and the Information Group 11 times. 24 working group meetings have been convened and 9 training courses or conferences held. Partnership staff have contributed to meetings of the representative bodies, England and Wales Youth Service bodies, professional associations, LEA and voluntary organisation staff meetings, conferences, training courses and promotional events.

2.4 Collaboration between Youth Service interests has been more frequent and more purposeful since the Partnership was set up. Individuals have made useful contacts with colleagues in other agencies and specific collaborative ventures have been made possible by the infrastructure provide by a Youth Service body in Wales. Perhaps the best example of this is current work on the ESG programme in the Valleys.

3 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT WORK

- 3.1 Prior to the Partnership, opportunities for training at an all-Wales level were limited to periodic conferences and HMI short courses. The Partnership has, therefore, concentrated on training which has relevance and impact across the range of LEAs and voluntary organisations. An all-Wales programme of courses, conferences and seminars have been organised for youth workers and youth officers and details of these are given at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Consultancy and advice has been provided for LEAs on staff development as well as on new approaches to training part-time youth workers. Mid Glamorgan and Dyfed have taken advantage of substantial consultancies whilst advice has been provided to Gwynedd and West Glamorgan. In Wales, this work has been complementary to that of the Council for Education and Training in Youth and Community Work (CETYCW).
- 3.3 Development activities have been initiated in response to requests from HMI and others. Current examples include:
- * co-ordinating an Education Support Grant (ESG) scheme in the Valleys Initiative Area between three LEAs
 - * contributing to the management of a DES/Welsh Office experimental project on staff development in the voluntary sector
 - * managing, with CWVYS, a project to develop video-led training materials on youth work with girls and young women
 - * helping to design advanced training for part-time youth workers with the University of Wales, College of Cardiff and the South East LEAs
 - * helping the WJEC design a scheme for validating and moderating training for part-time youth workers

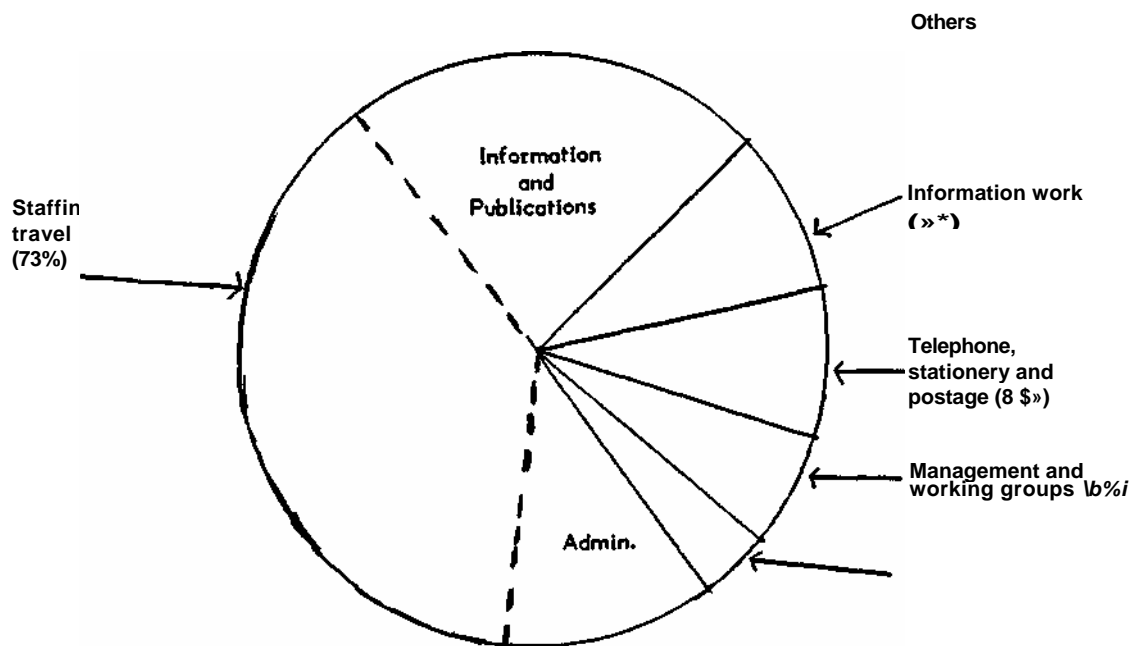
4 INFORMATION WORK

- 4.1 Prior to the Partnership, youth workers in Wales received information through their own organisation, via the publications of the NYB, and by targeted information supplied to senior staff by CWVYS and the WJEC. The Partnership has ensured, as indicated below, a wider dissemination of information at all levels in the Service. It is important within the Principality that there is a national agency which produces material bilingually.
- 4.2 Symud! is the flagship of the information service. An attractive, bilingual publication which serves as a house journal for the Youth Service, its aim is to inform and to enthuse its readers so that the quality of their work is enhanced. It is intended primarily for part-time and voluntary youth workers. Circulation is 2,300 of which 1530 go to the statutory sector and 770 to the voluntary sector and other organisations. The 8th issue was produced in December. See appendix 2.

- 4.3 Pigion is a regular information mailing targeted at all the full-time staff in the Service. It carries information about training opportunities, funding, publications and training materials, and issues affecting young people and youth work. Information is gathered from Government, Youth Service bodies in the UK and other sources. The 10th mailing was sent out in December with a circulation of 350. See appendix 2.
- 4.4 The resource base at Penarth has 550 titles. A postal loan service is available to youth workers and a bulk loan service to LEAs and voluntary organisations. Within the resources held at Penarth is a series of good practice examples written by youth workers in Wales. A data bank of information is held on computer and enquiries which cannot be dealt with at Penarth are referred to the NYB. Close co operation exists with the data bank at NEWI, Cartrefle and with the Urdd resource base at Aberystwyth.
- 4.5 The Partnership's first book, a Directory of Youth Workers and the Youth Service in Wales will be published by the NYB in the Spring.

5 UTILISATION OF RESOURCES

5.1 Where the money goes - 1988/89 Total budget £64,000



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otes: (i) Building costs are met by CWVYS from Welsh Office grant (ii) there is no budget to provide training

5.2 The Partnership's successes manifest themselves in the activities of others at varying times. For example, certain LEAs have taken new approaches to training, individual workers have applied new skills developed on training courses, and voluntary organisations have been informed of new sources of funds. Whenever possible, completed work is carefully evaluated in order to ascertain whether or not the best possible value for money has been achieved. For example, there was an external validation of the management course which became the first in-service course in Wales to be endorsed by CETYCW. With regard to information, questionnaire responses have shown a high level of customer satisfaction with both Symud! and Pigion.

6. A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

6.1 The Partnership has made a useful contribution, in three years, to the development of the Youth Service in Wales. It enjoys the confidence of those whom it serves and has delivered effective services within the resources available to it. A good foundation has been laid for the future.

6.2 The Youth Service in Wales also benefits from the services provided by the National Youth Bureau (NYB) and CETYCW based in Leicester. However, differences in youth work practice, demography, culture and especially language suggest that developments in youth work in Wales are most effectively supported by a Welsh body rather than one from outside Wales.

6.3 One of the Partnership's difficulties is that it is not a corporate body. One of its partners, the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services is both its landlord and the employer of its staff. CWVYS is, itself, an unincorporated association.

6.4 For these reasons it is now time to Review the legal status of the Partnership in such a way as to establish a Youth Service body for Wales which has a clear identity and, therefore, a greater capacity to be more Legal advice from the Welsh Office will be invaluable in this process.

FUTURE WORK OF THE PARTNERSHIP

7.1 The Partnership's work programme for 1989/90 has been set out in the form of action plans. These set objectives, outcomes, methods, performance indicators and targets for the year ahead. The identified areas of activity are :

- * Development
- * Training
- * Information and Publications
- * Promotion
- * Management

7.2 The programme builds upon existing commitments and identifies new work which could be undertaken with additional resources. The main outcomes to be sought from new work are:

7.2.1 Development

- * make a significant contribution to the development of a new strategy/for youth work in Wales, in collaboration with the Welsh Office, LEAs and voluntary youth organisations, by means of research, analysis and improved communications amongst all those engaged in the work
- * carry out such programmes and activities as may be requested from time to time by the Minister of State
- * increase collaborative work, with other national agencies such as the Welsh Arts Council and the Welsh Health Promotion Authority
- * respond promptly and effectively to development opportunities such as the development in Wales of a scheme parallel to the young Scot Enterprise Package and European Youth Cards.

7.2.2 Training

- * workshops for youth workers on themes identified by them as priorities
- * additional consultancies* on staff development and part-time worker training

7.2.3 Information and Publications

quality improvements in, and Increased circulation of, all information outputs improved use- by youth workers of resources information

7.2.4 Promotion

- * effective promotion of youth work at public events and through the media
- * provision of good quality, durable exhibition display materials for use by the Partnership and for loan to youth organisations for specific purposes

7.2.5 Management

- * securing Hew funds for development work
- * improvements in Staff and organisation management

7.3 In order to realise the above developments there is a clear need for additional resources as indicated below. The

difficulties involved in an additional resource allocation are fully understood, but the earliest possible decision on this would be greatly appreciated:

- (i) Appoint a Director to take responsibility for development work and agency management, and a Training Officer to maintain and develop training work.
- (ii) Appoint an administrative Officer and a Clerical Assistant to enable the Director and Training Officer to work to capacity.
- (iii) provide a budget for promotional work to include the purchase of exhibition and display materials and contract hire of staff
- (iv) install desk-top publishing facilities*" to improve the cost-efficiency of publications and the quality of all outputs
- (v) enable the chairman to play a fuller part in the Partnership's work and to have a vice-chairperson in post at the earliest opportunity

The implementation cost of these proposals for 1989/90 are:

- (i) £22,500 (salary, NI, superannuation, travel and subsistence for the new Training Officer. The Director costs are already in the budget)
- (ii) £8,000(salary, NI, superannuation for the Clerical Assistant. Upgrading the current post which is already in the budget).
- (iii) this item will require further detailed consideration with Departmental officials
- (iv) this item has already been met by Welsh Office in 1988/89
- (v) £2,000 towards additional travel and subsistence costs

8. CONCLUSION

This paper shows the Partnership's success to date within its current parameters and indicates a more valuable future role subject to an increase in resources. This will be money well spent because an even more effective Partnership will result in a better Youth Service in the Principality. There can be no doubt that a soundly based Youth Service is a cost effective way of meeting the needs of young people and of channelling their talents and enthusiasms into positive, constructive action.

Wyndham Heycock, Chairman
Jim Rooney, Training and Development Adviser
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