

The YOUTH WORK CURRICULUM STATEMENT for WALES

2021

Educative

Expressive

Participative

Empowering

THE STANDING CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH WORK IN
WALES

The **YOUTH WORK** CURRICULUM STATEMENT for **WALES 2007**

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- 1. The Curriculum Statement**
- 2. The Policy Context**
- 3. The Delivery of Youth Work in Wales**
- 4. The Purposes and Principles of Youth Work**
- 5. Measuring Progress and Assessing Outcomes**
- 6. Evolution of the Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales**

CONTENTS

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The **YOUTH WORK** CURRICULUM STATEMENT for **WALES 2007**

This Statement IS intended to:

- **establish the main purposes of youth work in Wales;**
- **inform those outside the service of these purposes;**
- **provide common understanding of these purposes;**
- **provide a framework for the development of practice and determining of priorities;**
- **create a means by which progress towards the achievement of these purposes is measured.**

This Statement is NOT intended to:

- **lead to a single, prescriptive and inflexible curriculum which would restrain diversity or restrict initiative.**

1. THE CURRICULUM STATEMENT

The **YOUTH WORK** CURRICULUM STATEMENT for **WALES 2007**

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The policy context within which the Youth Service operates is described in the following documents:

- Secretary of State for Wales, UK Government - Better Health Better Wales, 1998;
- UK Government - The Learning and Skills Act 2000;
- National Assembly for Wales – Extending Entitlement: supporting young people in Wales, 2000;
- National Assembly for Wales - Children and Young People: A Framework for Partnership (consultation document), 2000;
- National Assembly for Wales - A Plan For Wales (strategic plan), 2001;
- Welsh Assembly Government - The Learning Country, 2001;
- Basic Skills Agency/Department for Education and Lifelong Learning, Welsh Assembly Government - The National Basic Skills Strategy for Wales, 2001;
- National Assembly for Wales – Extending Entitlement: support for 11 to 25 year olds in Wales (Directions and Guidance), 2002;
- Welsh Assembly Government - Iaith Pawb: a National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales, 2003;
- Welsh Assembly Government - Children and Young People: Rights into Action , 2004;
- UK Government - The Children’s Act 2004;
- Welsh Assembly Government - Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship - a Strategy for Action (information document), 2006;
- Welsh Assembly Government - The Learning Country: Vision in to Action, 2006.

2. THE POLICY CONTEXT

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Youth work is delivered by both the statutory and voluntary youth service in Wales through a voluntary relationship between young people and youth workers. Youth workers operate within their own organisations and communities and in partnership with others.

The Youth Service, as a universal entitlement, is open to all young people within the specified age range 11-25.

The type, mix and priorities of youth work are determined on a local, national and organisational level.

The establishment of appropriate provision should be determined by the needs, wants, interests and aspirations of young people.

Youth work provides or facilitates:

- places and relationships within which young people can enjoy themselves, feel secure, supported and valued, learn to take greater control of their lives, and recognise and resist the damaging influences which may affect them;
- non-formal, informal and structured educational programmes which challenge both the institutions and young people themselves to enhance their personal, social and political development;
- access to relevant information, advice, guidance and counselling which includes the understanding of rights and responsibilities.

3. THE DELIVERY OF YOUTH WORK IN WALES

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Youth work is provided through both the voluntary and statutory sectors. It might, for example, include:

- centre-based work;
- detached, outreach and mobile work;
- curriculum specialities like arts and culture, first aid, sport, etc;
- information, advice, guidance and counselling services;
- project work;
- residential work;
- targeted provision for specific groups;
- one to one work;
- partnership working;
- mechanisms for involving young people in decision-making processes;
- opportunities for volunteering.

3. THE DELIVERY OF YOUTH WORK IN WALES

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The YOUTH WORK CURRICULUM STATEMENT for WALES 2007

The purposes of youth work in Wales are:

- to promote and actively encourage opportunities for all young people in order that they may fulfil their potential as empowered individuals and as members of groups and communities;
- to support young people through significant changes in their lives and assist them to understand their rights and responsibilities;
- to encourage young people to develop knowledge, understanding, attitudes and values which enable them to make constructive use of their skills, resources and time.

Youth Work is driven by the voluntary principle which recognises that young people have the right to choose whether to engage with youth work provision.

Youth Work through its practice should:

- promote opportunities and access for all young people whatever their race, gender, sexual identity, language, religion, disability, age, background or personal circumstances;
- challenge oppression and inequality;
- recognise the importance and value of the Welsh language and the need to promote its use;
- recognise that Wales is a country with a diversity of languages and cultures;
- recognise the importance of sustainable development;
- recognise that citizenship encompasses responsibilities and rights as global as well as local and national citizens.

4. THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF YOUTH WORK

The **YOUTH WORK** CURRICULUM STATEMENT for **WALES 2007**

Educative

Expressive

Participative

Empowering

The Four Pillars of the Curriculum Statement

Youth Work, through its voluntary relationship with young people, offers inclusive opportunities for learning that are:

EDUCATIVE

Enabling young people to gain skills, knowledge, understanding, attitudes and values needed to identify, advocate and pursue their rights and responsibilities as individuals and as members of groups and communities, locally, nationally, and internationally.

EXPRESSIVE

Encouraging and enabling young people to express their emotions and aspirations, through creative, sporting and challenging opportunities which raise an awareness of:

- cultural identity;
- bilingualism and the value of one's own language;
- heritage;
- respect for diversity;
- citizenship and respect for others.

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Participative

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The Four Pillars of the Curriculum Statement

Youth Work, through its voluntary relationship with young people, offers inclusive opportunities for learning that are:

PARTICIPATIVE

Where young people are encouraged to share responsibility and to become equal partners, fundamental to the learning processes and decision-making structures which affect their own and other people's lives and environments.

EMPOWERING

Encouraging and enabling young people to understand their rights and responsibilities so that they, as responsible citizens of the communities of which they are a part, are able to engage with the personal, social and political issues which affect their lives and the lives of others.

4. THE PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF YOUTH WORK

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Educative

Expressive

Participative

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Each youth work provider is expected to establish methods of planning, monitoring and evaluating their provision and the development and progress of the young people with whom they work. Youth Service providers should identify and share good practice whilst at the same time challenging areas of concern and offering appropriate support and training where needed.

The Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales can provide the basis for establishing agreed criteria by which the Youth Service can be scrutinised, internally and externally, in order to identify the specific outcomes of youth work delivery. Such criteria should be determined at every level within the context of the provision.

In assessing outcomes providers should have established systems for the planning, monitoring and evaluation of each piece of youth work delivered and be able to identify the positive benefits for young people.

Providers should take account of the Youth Service Strategy of the National Assembly for Wales and the Estyn framework for the inspection of services for young people.

5. MEASURING PROGRESS AND ASSESSING OUTCOMES

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The **YOUTH WORK** CURRICULUM STATEMENT for **WALES 2007**

The Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales was written and approved in 1992 and reviewed and updated in 2001 and 2006-07.

The 2006-07 review was managed by the Standing Conference for Youth Work in Wales. The review working group consisted of members of the following organisations:

- The Standing Conference
- The Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS)
- Principal Youth Officers Group
- Education and Training Standards Group (ETS)
- The Youth and Community Work Training Agencies
- Estyn

6. EVOLUTION OF THE YOUTH WORK CURRICULUM STATEMENT FOR WALES

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Educative

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The review process was participative. In keeping with past practice, consultation was widely sought. Comments from individuals, groups and organisations were submitted to the review working group for consideration. Those with an interest in the review process were invited to make comment through direct mailings and through the National Assembly Extending Entitlement web page.

The Curriculum Statement will be updated as appropriate and reviewed by the Youth Service every five years.

This document is widely available from the Youth Services in Wales.

6. EVOLUTION OF THE YOUTH WORK CURRICULUM STATEMENT FOR WALES