

Youth Work Statutory Framework - Response 100.

[Information redacted] actively participated in contributing to the consultation questions. We agree and are supportive of the responses submitted by [Information redacted].

[Information redacted] gladly welcomes the opportunities that a statutory framework can bring to Wales for young people and youth work, and we see this as a progressive movement in terms of bringing greater alignment and synergy to youth work across the 22 Local Authorities. [Information redacted] would also like to see the development of national measures in Youth Work. We understand the need to be flexible and responsive to local need, however, to measure impact across Wales we would like to see meaningful youth work measures adopted, strengthening the possibilities for clearer reporting on impact and outcomes. Using a combination of hard and soft national measures clearly defining the 'so what' would shape a more defined understanding of what a quality youth work offer is.

Although WG commissioned the review into youth work funding, the fact that a service will only be as effective as those working in it, cannot be overlooked. Opportunities for young people to thrive in Wales has diminished in line with the diminishing youth work offer. We have seen less opportunity for students to embark upon the youth work degree in university, we have seen less people apply to universities to study, we have less degree qualified youth workers, we have less full-time working opportunities. We have lost our JNC (in most local authorities) and youth work is no longer a competitively paid employment option like other vocational professional qualifications such as social work, probation, teaching, nursing or police etc. More and more vacancies are for part time youth work support roles. This change in landscape has undoubtedly had an impact on the effectiveness and quality of youth work offers for young people. The fact that youth work in some local authorities sits in leisure and parks, housing and communities, and public health protection etc speaks an unspoken dialogue about understanding and valuing the profession.

The statutory framework proposed is welcomed and seen as a highly positive move in ensuring that young people in Wales access equitable and well-resourced provision, that is staffed by suitably qualified skilled and knowledgeable professionals and overseen by a multi disciplined hierarchy that is accountable for its delivery.

[Information redacted].