

WORK PLAN OF THE YOUTH WORK IS ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE STRATEGY PARTICIPATION GROUP

JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

Background of Group

The Accessible & Inclusive Strategy Participation Group (SPG) was set up to ensure that quality youth work is available to young people, in English or Welsh, regardless of their background, identity or location. The group will work to remove barriers to engagement and participation, ensuring a youth work offer is accessible to all young people, particularly those who may feel isolated, marginalised, exploited or discriminated against.

The ambitions of this group are to:

- consider adopting a Service Design Approach to all activity: Discover, Design, Develop, Do it; and
- take our time and place young people at the heart of our approaches, don't make assumptions, take an iterative approach

Members of the Group

Dusty Kennedy – Lead Board member
Rachel Benson – Youth Cymru
Gill Adams – Carmathenshire Youth Service
Sophie Ann Morris – TGP Cymru
Kate Haywood – University of South Wales
Arooj Khan – British Youth Council
Amanda Evans - Menter Iaith Ogwr
Donna Lemin – Welsh Government
Joel Hodson – Welsh Government

Key tasks

The Interim Youth Work Board (IYWB) has given the Accessible and Inclusive Strategy Participation Group a range of functions, including engaging with young people and the sector in both the development of approaches aimed at delivering the Youth Work Strategy, and the development of evidence that will support a sustainable model for youth work in the longer term. In carrying out our work we will ensure we will give consideration to the Welsh language and the role of youth work in delivering the ambitions identified in Cymraeg 2050. As with all SPGs, we have collective responsibility to support delivery of all commitments identified in the new Youth Work Strategy. Those specific to the group's focus include commitments to:

- Develop a better understanding of the role and availability of Welsh language provision across Wales, and develop a programme of work to increase opportunities for youth work in the medium of Welsh
- Consider research and best practice on the creation of accessible, safe spaces for the delivery of youth work and develop guidance to support their implementation
- Pilot approaches for making youth work more accessible, including through outreach, in collaboration with schools and a range of partners, and digitally
- Strengthen links between local authority and voluntary provision through the development of shared expectations for partnership working across a unified youth service
- Pilot a formal mechanism and principles for establishing sufficient levels of youth work provision at a local level, and roll it out on a national basis
- Map and better understand existing provision, including transitional provision (pre-11), and provision for those aged 18 to 25 where services are less consistent and accessible
- Continue to seek opportunities for young people to benefit from improved mobility, opportunities, and experiences beyond Wales and the UK

The Accessible and Inclusive Strategy Participation Group have agreed our draft work programme of activities for the year (January 2020 – December 2020). These have been initially identified overleaf as:

Action	Activity will commence	Who
Define what young people and the sector understand by accessibility and inclusivity	February 2020	SPG Members, young people and sector
Consider longer term evidence needs to inform our programme of work, and engage with mapping and research to better understand the scope of youth work in Wales	March 2020	SPG Members
Collaborate with other SPGs and T&F Groups to map interdependencies	March 2020	All SPG Members, Welsh Government and IYWB
Establish interface with Digital Task and Finish Group to share best practice and explore approaches for widening accessibility and sharing information	March 2020	SPG Members, Digital T&F Group
Collaborate with the 'Youth Work is Valued and Understood' SPG to explore how partnership approaches can ensure greater access to youth work to a wider range of young people	April 2020	SPG Members
Collaborate with the 'Young People are Thriving' SPG and Digital Task and Finish Group to consider how young people can better access training and information on youth work opportunities	April 2020	SPG Members, Young People
Collaborate with the 'Workforce' SPG and consider how youth workers can access a breadth of training and information to better support a wider range of young people and their needs.	April 2020	SPG Members, Sector
Investigate place-based approaches to youth work delivery across urban, rural, and coastal settings, and explore the role of outreach in ensuring youth work reaches isolated young people	May 2020	SPG Members, Youth Services (maintained and Voluntary)
Identify and engage with youth work provision delivered through Welsh and other languages to understand what works in creating an inclusive environment.	June 2020	SPG Members, Young People and Youth Services (maintained and Voluntary)
Work with Welsh Language Group to consider how to increase opportunities through the medium of Welsh.	Ongoing	SPG Members and Welsh Language Group

Collate research and best practice on the delivery of safe spaces for young people, working with them to agree up to date principles for planning and delivery	July 2020	SPG Members
Collaborate with the 'Youth Work is Valued and Understood' SPG and create partnerships with Youth Services delivering innovative approaches to ensuring the accessibility of provision. Supporting them to gather evidence and develop best practice case studies.	Ongoing	SPG Members, Young People and Youth Services (maintained and Voluntary)
Review work done to date on the concept of sufficiency assessments for youth work and engage with Ministerial Play group to consider what youth work can learn/how a continuum of planning and provision across both sectors might be secured	Ongoing	SPG Members
Explore and collate evidence on the benefits and impact of mobility	Ongoing	SPG Members, Young People and Sector Partners
Collaborate with the 'Youth Work is Valued and Understood' SPG to explore barriers and opportunities to partnerships between youth work and other sectors	August 2020	SPG Members