

WORK PLAN OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THRIVING STRATEGY PARTICIPATION GROUP

JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

Background of Group

The Young People are Thriving Strategy Participation Group (SPG) was set up to ensure that we work towards the vision of the Youth Work Strategy, working with young people at each stage. This is to help ensure we have in place a youth work sector where young people are supported to have a voice, express their ideas, develop autonomy, build skills, make friends and have fun. This group will ensure that the voice of young people is heard in the implementation of the Youth Work Strategy for Wales.

The ambitions of this group are to:

- develop a consistent, quality, accessible and nationally recognisable youth work offer in Welsh and English that helps ensure that young people in Wales are thriving;
- embed a strengthened children's rights approach to youth work in Wales;
- improve youth information and digital youth work;
- ensure bespoke youth work support for vulnerable or marginalised young people; and
- help ensure a sustainable youth work model for young people in Wales to be at the heart of services and how they are designed.

Members of the Group

Sharon Lovell – Lead Board member

Catrin James – Urdd/CWVYS

Rachel Benson – Youth Cymru

Charlotte Davies – Consultant

Nick Hudd – Pembrokeshire Youth Service

Arielle Tye – Promo Cymru

Jane Houston/Representation from Children's Commissioners Office for Wales

Josie Powell – Cardiff University

Paul Williams - Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Youth Service

Arooj Khan – British Youth Council

Kelly McCarthy – University of South Wales

Ffion Pennant – Young Farmers Club

Donna Lemin – Welsh Government

Joel Hodson – Welsh Government

Key Tasks

The Interim Youth Work Board (IYWB) has given the Young People are Thriving Strategic Participation Group a range of functions to ensure the voices of young people are heard and the way in which services and strategies are developed across Wales includes young people at the heart of all the discussions. As with all SPGs, we have collective responsibility to support delivery of all commitments identified in the new Youth Work Strategy. Those specific to this group's focus include commitments to:

- Continue to invest in the development and delivery of consistent and quality youth work provision in Welsh and English, no matter where young people live, their age, identity or background
- Deliver a children's rights approach, rooted in the UNCRC, ensuring youth work policy and delivery:
 - Embeds children's/young people's rights
 - Ensures equality and non-discrimination
 - Empowers children and young people
 - Supports their participation
 - Establishes accountability
- Explore how young people access, create and interpret information to support their decision making and engage in youth work opportunities and experiences, and how digital tools can optimise our approaches
- Build on the intentions of the 2016 Wales Charter for Youth Work, working towards a nationally recognisable offer to young people in Wales
- Develop and strengthen specific provision aimed at supporting and improving outcomes for more vulnerable or marginalised young people.

The Young People are Thriving Strategic Participation Group (YPAT SPG) have set out our key work programme of activities for the year (January 2020 – December 2020). These will be:

Action	Activity will commence	Who
To feed into the "mapping" commissioned exercise on youth work provision in Wales. Looking at Who is/isn't engaging? What language do they speak? How old are they? What are their priorities for youth work? What are their needs and aspirations? How do they want to access support? Why are some young people not engaging? How can we evidence impact?	March 2020	Commissioned body/members of the YPAT SPG with support from the Welsh Language Task and Finish Group

<p>Disseminate a youth friendly version of the Youth Work Strategy for Wales in Welsh and English. Working with the Youth Work is Valued and Understood SPG and Digital Task and Finish Group we will launch a poster and social media products produced by young people for young people in Wales.</p>	<p>End of Feb 2020</p>	<p>Working with the Digital Task and Finish Group and Youth Work is Valued and Understood SPG</p>
<p>Young people will participate and engage with each of the SPGs and the IYWB. The Young People are Thriving Strategic Participation Group will oversee this engagement and participation plan.</p>	<p>Feb 2020 for recruitment of board and ongoing engagement during each key stage</p>	<p>Sharon Lovell to take lead</p>
<p>Ensuring our youth work offer is embedded within a children and young person's rights based framework. We will review the 2016 Wales Charter for Youth Work; ensuring the youth work offer is reflected and a rights-based approach is strengthened through extending entitlement.</p>	<p>April – May 2020</p>	<p>All members of group and the Youth Work is Accessible and Inclusive SPG</p>
<p>Examining the legislative framework that youth work currently operates within and make recommendations for any improvements. Explore/Identify other pieces of legislation/policy areas that influence youth work in Wales and make recommendations to strengthen these in order for youth work to be valued and understood.</p>	<p>April – May 2020</p>	<p>All members of group and Youth Work is Valued and Understood SPG</p>
<p>Collating evidence via case studies of the importance of a youth work offer in Welsh and English for young people in Wales.</p>	<p>June 2020 Collating in Youth Work Week and Youth Work Excellence Awards</p>	<p>All members of group and other SPGs and Communications and Marketing Task and Finish Group</p>

<p>Examine the distribution of funding allocations to the voluntary/statutory youth sector via the Youth Support Grant and NVYO Grant to ensure it is equitable and accessible for a sustained youth work offer in Welsh and English for young people.</p>	<p>March 2020 – June 2020</p>	<p>All members of group and Youth Work is Accessible and Inclusive SPG and the Welsh Language Task and Finish Group</p>
<p>Contribute to a shared set of indicators for the youth work sector that can measure the impact and value of youth work in Wales.</p>	<p>March 2020 – June 2020</p>	<p>All members of group and Voluntary and Paid Professionals are Supported to Improve SPG and Welsh Language Task and Finish Group</p>
<p>Continue to engage with young people in Welsh and English throughout the year at key stages through our “Let’s Talk” Participation Plan.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Make recommendations to the IYWB for the sustainability of Youth Work in Wales.</p>	<p>September 2020</p>	<p>All SPGs with support from Task and Finish Groups.</p>