

## Let's Talk Youth Work

An opportunity for young people in Wales to talk about youth work with the Interim Youth Work Board for Wales

### PROGRESS REPORT – January 2021

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My name is Keith Towler and I am the Chair of the Interim Youth Work Board for Wales. The role of the Board is to advise Welsh Government on how youth work services across Wales can work for all young people.

It is really important to me and the Board that young people have a central role in helping to shape how youth work services in Wales work. We are grateful to all the young people across Wales who have fed back ideas and made suggestions.

I thought it would be a good idea to report back on what we have done in response to your contributions over the last few months.

Please do contact me directly if you have any comments or questions. You can contact me by email at [YouthWorkBoard@gov.wales](mailto:YouthWorkBoard@gov.wales)

The first thing to say is that we have heard loud and clear that young people expect to be involved in shaping the future of youth work services in Wales. That is great to hear and the Board are very keen to make sure that we put something in place so that young people can have a say in how youth work services are developed locally, regionally and at a national level.

In response we are forming a Young People's Committee to work with us at the Interim Youth Work Board. We will be working with the Urdd Gobaith Cymru, Llamau and EYST to take this forward.

The Board have also submitted their first [report](#) to the Welsh Government. The report was published on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 alongside a research [report](#) on youth work services in Wales. An [easy read](#) version is also available. We have made some recommendations for Welsh Government which include:

- Establishing a new youth information service for young people in Wales.
- Establishing a new youth entitlement card for all 11 to 25 year olds in Wales.
- Making sure young people are at the heart of planning and developing youth work in Wales.
- Establishing a new legal basis for youth work in Wales.
- Reviewing how youth work in Wales is funded.

We know that youth work services have made a massive difference for young people during the COVID-19 crisis. Young people told the Board during lockdown that they were concerned about their own and their friend's mental health and well-being. They have also told us that they want to be part of decision making as things get better for young people.

2021 is an important year for young people in Wales. For the first time, 16 and 17 year olds will be voting in the Senedd elections, so there is no better time for young people to have their voices heard on the issues you care about.

We are very excited to continue our work during 2021 as we prepare a full report to be published early in the summer. It will build on our recommendations and we want to continue working with young people to secure a sustainable future for youth work services in Wales.

I would like to wish you all a happy and safe 2021.

With best wishes and thanks for all your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Towler". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Keith Towler  
Chair – Interim Youth Work Board for Wales