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Youth Work Statutory framework consultation

Does this definition line up with your experience of youth work?

Mostly – however there is also great benefits that can be received by having groups led by people from a non-youth work background. Having sessions ran by industry leaders rather than by people who have been expressly trained for youth work can provide a more realistic picture, and can be useful for young people who are looking to move into a career in the field in which they are engaging with.

Is there anything else you think we need to include in the definition to help everyone understand what youth work is?

Perhaps a clearer definition of the educational aspects, as at present, it sounds closer like a definition for school-provided tutoring or mentoring, which may not be engaging to all people, especially those with bad experiences in education. My concern would be that for those young people who have negative experiences would feel that they would be signing up to getting involved with a school programme, which would appear unattractive to them. For example, expanding upon this by referring to skill development and experiences would be preferable, I believe.

“... using a distinct educational approach, supporting young people to develop new skills for life and employment, based on out-of-classroom experiences...”

I believe by adding in the above section, it may provide a more inviting description for young people, especially those who are career orientated.

Do you think it is helpful to have a plan setting out how youth work in your area will be improved and strengthened?

Yes, a plan that is created in collaboration with young people, both those who are heavily involved already, by also ones who have been disengaged by the system is essential to ensuring that there are as many opportunities as possible to engage as many people as possible. If I was drafting the framework, I would consider requiring local authorities to draft their strategies in consultation with students of multiple ages in schools/colleges/universities in the area, and for the final strategy to be approved by the local forum of young people. [Information redacted]

However, one consideration I would make is whether LAs would have the resources to engage effectively in this, especially with the requirements for the yearly reports, especially when their budgets are tighter than usual.

Do you think asking local authorities to show how the targets in their plan will contribute to the seven wellbeing goals (from the Future Generations Act) will make a difference to how youth work is designed in your area?

I believe that the added accountability will assist in creating a more equal Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities. The bilingual opportunities will also help make progress towards making a “thriving Welsh Language” as well as towards Cymraeg 2050. However, I would question whether it would be necessary to specifically discuss this, as the Act does already place a requirement on public bodies to take reasonable steps towards achieving the sustainable development.

I would also consider the nature of youth work where special consideration for a globally responsible Wales may be essential, as it can be very easy to have an insular outlook, encouraging the strategies to consider beyond the local community could go a long way towards achieving the goals.

Is there anything missing from the youth work entitlement that you think should be included?

I believe this is satisfactory.

What are your experiences of helping to shape services in your local area? And what works well for you?

I have got quite a lot of experiences in my local area.

My main experience comes from [Information redacted], where I have had the opportunity to contribute to the community greatly, from being involved in the developments of the strategic plan of the College, to actually creating opportunities for more young people to get involved in politics and decision making. In my role, I have also influenced the safeguarding policy and learner code of conduct. The best example of a visible change was through the provision of ‘tea and toast’ which provided a hot drink and a basic breakfast for all learners, despite official funding stopping, through research and campaigning by myself and other learners, it was decided to extend the scheme in part for another year.

Within the [Information redacted], I have had the opportunity to conduct and present research data collected from young people and youth workers [Information redacted]. More recently, we were presented with the opportunity to question both the Commissioner and the Chief Constable on their progress towards achieving the recommendations, allowing for open conversations on where progress has been made, and where plans have had to be adapted and changed due to the fast-paced nature of policing.

As a person, I am very confident to throw myself into new situations, which means that whether the work be online, in person, and of varying nature, therefore, I find it easy to engage when the opportunities present themselves to me.

How can we strengthen opportunities for you to share your views?

Due to my experiences personally and the schemes I am already involved with, I don't think there would be any action that would be beneficial to me in strengthening opportunities.

Do you have any suggestion on how we can increase young peoples' knowledge of their right to shape youth work services?

In my experience, conveying messages is very difficult, however, the most successful way has been to get teachers on board to relay information directly, however, outside of schools, using youth groups to advertise other youth groups I believe would be successful. For example, [Information redacted], I do believe that having the information delivered directly from someone who is already familiar to the young person is a very good step for not advertising the opportunities, but also building connections between agencies.