

P-04-511 Support for children and young people participation standards – Correspondence from the Petitioner to the Committee, 10.06.14.

Response from Powys Youth Forum

In response to the new correspondence Powys Youth Forum would first like to note that all members of the Welsh Assembly Government's Children and Young People's Cabinet Sub-Committee endorsed and launched these standards in 2007, which we believe means that is their duty to support these standards.

Young People are affected by how well these standards are carried out, while we appreciate that the financial climate is challenging, we believe that these mechanism are essential for promoting children and young people's participation in organisations.

As a Youth Forum we agree with the statement which was made in the Wales Non Government Organisation Interim Report; Rights Here Rights Now: Are children rights a reality in Wales? Which in chapter 3 states 'Following the participation unit closure, There is a danger that this will cause a vacuum in terms of Central and national support for the standards, kite mark and young inspectors team.

This report then further states in it that 'It is essential that after this time the Welsh Government takes a lead and works with partners in the sector to develop a national structure or plan to ensure continuity of the progress made and future consistency.'

We feel that there has been some well intended policy's. However we believe that there is a danger that some of them are made and not adhered to.

We believe that as there is already an effective assessment process and trained young inspectors for the kitemark, that it would not be difficult to provide support for the participation standards self assessment and kitemark and with very little financial outlay.

We believe that a possible solution for the Welsh Government to to make sure that they support the kitemark is by;

1) Centrally hosting a website with the self assessment form on it and once it is completed it is then sent to the local authority units which are responsible for the young inspector team in the county of the organisation which means that they can then carry out an inspection.

2) After the report is written, a Welsh Government Official receives the report and is then tasked to reading the report and then if they are happy with the contents to sign it off. By having a Welsh Government Official signing it off it will give the kitemark a national accreditation.