



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: MA-P/ARD/6377/16

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay

19 August 2016

Dear Lynne,

At the Children, Young People and Education Committee meeting on 13 July, the Cabinet Secretary agreed to provide you with an update on the Welsh Government's vision for Youth Services. The Cabinet Secretary for Education has asked me to respond as Youth Work falls under my portfolio.

I recognise the great potential youth work has to enrich the lives of young people in Wales – whether it's through the experiences it opens up for them or the support it offers. The [National Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2014-18](#) recognises that high quality youth work has a crucial role to play in supporting many young people to achieve their full potential and advance their life chances. It is concerned to maximise the role and contribution of youth work provision to young people's engagement and success in their mainstream education. The strategy integrates with and supports the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. Substantive progress has been made in delivering on the commitments within the strategy.

I am aware that public service funding cuts are having an impact on youth service provision, both in the statutory and voluntary youth work sector. The Revenue Support Grant is an un-hypothecated funding stream, therefore local authorities determine how the is funding spent in order to best meet local needs and priorities, including the provision of youth services.

Our national Quality Mark for Youth Work in Wales was launched last autumn, this will support and ensure quality youth work provision is available to young people. The [Quality Mark](#) can be used by organisations for self-assessment, to plan for improvement and to gain the nationally recognised Quality Mark. [Atkin Associates](#) were recently awarded a two year contract to begin the roll out of this quality mark.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We are developing a National Outcomes Framework for Youth Work in Wales. This aims to strengthen the sector's ability to demonstrate the outcomes and impact of youth work. A 12 week [consultation](#) closed in June; Children in Wales also facilitated a consultation with young people. My officials are currently reviewing responses.

A recent report on the contribution of Youth Work in Schools from schools perspective has provided a number of recommendations that my officials considering. I recognise that youth workers can have a positive effect on a range of indicators linked to formal education, including behaviour, attendance and transitions. This report will be published early autumn.

[The Wales Charter for Youth Work](#) sets out our minimum expectation for youth work to young people. We recognise that to ensure the implementation of the charter there will need to be changes in how the system is governed and funded. Work on options for taking this forward, including the setting up of a Wales Youth Development and Support Framework, are at an early stage. Options will build on existing arrangements bringing together, initially at the national level, the strategic direction, planning, resources and data gathering. As options begin to develop we will engage with the sector and young people.

I am looking forward to working with the Cabinet Secretary for Education to ensure the capacity to deliver youth work is sustained so that our young people can access a range of quality youth work provision irrespective of where they live in Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun Davies', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alun Davies AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language