

'Youth workers are key to implementing Extending Entitlement, our ambitious policy for youth support services. Our work is based on youth work principles and a world class youth service is essential to realise young people's entitlements'.

**Jane Davidson
Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning
9 March 2005.**

Learning and Youth Work

Different models of learning in 'Learning to Succeed'

From Ed. Coffield, F (2000) *Different Visions of a Learning Society*,
Bristol: Polity.

- Skills growth
- Personal development
- Social learning
- Local learning societies
- Learning markets
- Social control
- Self evaluation
- Centrality of learning
- A reformed system of education
- Structural change

Learning Pathways 14-19 – the central agenda?

- Emphasis on reducing NEETs, qualifications, reduction of truancy, and ensuring skills for employment
- Flexible pathways to achieve level 2 and 3 qualifications' involving greater choice
- Development of vocational and work experience routes with intention of parity of esteem with academic routes
- Balance between 'hard' skills applied in real life contexts, and 'soft' skills, linked to personal development and interaction with others
- Community participation required for those taking work based qualification post 16
- Entitlement to 'learning coach', personal support and careers advice and guidance
- YPPs linked to personal support, and youth workers to 'learning coach' role (with teachers, careers, social workers, counsellors, teaching assistants, classroom support workers, work based trainers)
- New accredited part time qualification for 'learning coach' role piloted in 2005
- Youth work reduced to ancillary role to school and work based learning
- Missed opportunity of informal learning in community contexts as *alternative* to school and work based learning, without employability as intended outcome

Partnership

Concern that professional workers work in 'silos' unaware of how other professionals are intervening with the same people. This is seen to lead to duplication at best and at worst to confusion with conflicting approaches adopted and nobody been taking responsibility at times of crisis. As a result people are frustrated with the lack of co-ordination and can 'fall through the net' with no accountability of public services.

Partnership Models adopted:

- New Integrated agencies and professions- redefining roles and responsibilities to ensure common approach with particular group e.g. young people
- Maintaining existing agencies and professions- but establishing structures and incentives to work closely together

In Wales latter approach adopted with large number of new partnerships set up by the Assembly government.

Young People's Partnerships (YPPs) intended to include all public and voluntary sector services for 11-25 year olds, and a YPP to exist in each of the 22 local authorities. These exist within the wider Children's and Young People's Partnerships and are expected to work closely with other partnerships e.g. Communities First, 14-19 Networks, CCETs.

Social Inclusion Models

- Social Democratic- tackling poverty and reducing inequality
- Moral underclass/Social rescue- challenging individual and cultural attitudes and behaviour that stop people from being included
- Social Integration through Community Cohesion-encouraging social networks and building 'social capital'
- Social Integration through Employability- encouraging skill development and achievement of educational/training qualifications

Ten Entitlements

Every young person in Wales has a basic entitlement to:

1. Education, training and work experience – tailored to their needs;
2. Basic skills which open doors to a full life and promote social inclusion;
3. A wide and varied range of opportunities to participate in volunteering and active citizenship;
4. High quality, responsive, and accessible services and facilities;
5. Independent, specialist careers advice and guidance and student support and counselling services;
6. Personal support and advice – where and when needed and in appropriate formats – with clear ground rules on confidentiality;
7. Advice on health, housing benefits and other issues provided in accessible and welcoming settings;
8. Recreational and social opportunities in a safe and accessible environment;
9. Sporting, artistic, musical and outdoor experiences to develop talents; broaden horizons and promote rounded perspectives including both national and international contexts;
10. The right to be consulted, to participate in decision-making, and to be heard, on all matters which concern them or have an impact on their lives

In an environment where there is:

1. A positive focus on achievement overall and what young people have to contribute;
2. A focus on building young people's capacity to become independent, make choices, and participate in the democratic process; and
3. Celebration of young people's successes.

The Golden Egg

The New Labour Government seems to have discovered that youth work is the goose that lays the golden egg in terms of reaching and building relationships with young people, especially young people disaffected from schools and other institutions of adult authority.

New Labour is not foolish enough to kill the goose that laid the golden egg (as in Aesop's fable). However, they do not seem to have realised that if you turn a goose into a duck it cannot lay a golden egg, especially if it is a small weak duck in a pond with much larger more powerful ducks, who want to control what happens in the pond.

Youth Service in Wales 2003-4

From *Local Authority in Youth Service in Wales-Audit 2003/4*, (March 2005)
Wales Youth Agency.

- Total Income of £29.6 million, almost £20 million from core budget.
- Percentage of Education budget using core budget is 1.01%, (using total income 1.56%). Base requirement seen as 2%.
- Total no. of managers 119, full time workers 363, part-time workers 2367, and volunteers 330.
- Almost half of full-time workers unqualified and over half of part-time workers (but many in qualifying training)
- If 1FTE nationally qualified worker needed for every 400 13-19 year olds, only Bridgend (1:446) and Wrexham (1:552) come close.
- Highly variable between local authorities in terms of size, income, sources of income, per head spending, levels of qualification, etc. of Youth Service.

Youth Work within YPPs

- No automatic representation of Local Authority Youth Service
- Need to explain and clarify role of youth work
- Budgets and additional funding
- Youth work as ethos or service provider?
- Representation of young people
- Local needs or Assembly priorities?
- Leadership role, secondary role or inappropriate to get involved?