

Agenda – Children, Young People and Education Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – The Senedd

Meeting date: 10 May 2018

Meeting time: 09.15

For further information contact:

Llinos Madeley

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCYPE@assembly.wales

Private Pre-meeting

(09:15 – 09:30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09:30)

2 Youth Work – Follow up – evidence session 1

(09:30 – 10:30)

(Pages 1 – 37)

Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS)

Joff Carroll, Vice-Chair of CWVYS and CEO of Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales

Marco Gil-Cervantes, CWVYS Treasurer and CEO of ProMo Cymru

Catrin James, CWVYS Regional Co-ordinator

Paul Glaze, CEO of CWVYS

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

CYPE(5)–14–18 – Paper 1 – Letter from the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning

CYPE(5)–14–18 – Paper 2 – Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS)



Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales

Break

(10:30 – 10:45)

3 Youth Work – Follow-up – evidence session 2

(10:45 – 11:30)

(Pages 38 – 50)

Wales Principal Youth Officers' Group (PYOG)

Tim Opie, Lifelong Learning Policy Officer (Youth), Welsh Local Government Association

Joanne Simms, Chair of PYOG and Youth Services Manager, Blaenau Gwent

Steve Davis, Vice Chair of PYOG and Services Manager, Pembrokeshire Youth

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–14–18 – Paper 3 – Wales Principal Youth Officers' Group (PYOG)

4 Youth Work – Follow up – evidence session 3

(11:30 – 12:15)

(Pages 51 – 75)

Children in Wales and Youth Cymru

Catriona Williams, Chief Executive – Children in Wales

Chris Richards, Development Officer, Young Wales – Children in Wales

Emma Chivers, Chair of Board of Trustees – Youth Cymru

Julia Griffiths, Joint Acting CEO – Youth Cymru

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–14–18 – Paper 4 – Children in Wales

CYPE(5)–14–18 – Paper 5 – Youth Cymru

5 Paper(s) to note

5.1 Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Education – further information on the Bilingual Educational Resources Stakeholders Group

(Pages 76 – 77)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–14–18 – Paper to note 1

5.2 Letter from the Minister for Children and Social Care – further information following the meeting on 18 April

(Pages 78 – 80)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–14–18 – Paper to note 2

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting.

(12:15)

7 Youth Work – Follow up – Consideration of the evidence received

(12:15 – 12:30)

Document is Restricted

Eluned Morgan AC/AM
Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P-EM-0341-18

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

15 February 2018

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 18 January concerning the Children, Young People and Education Committee's follow up into its Youth Work Inquiry. I too welcomed meeting with you in November and am grateful to you for setting out the Committee's proposed approach. I further welcome the Committee's commitment to ongoing scrutiny of the findings of this inquiry, which helps ensure both the profile of youth work and the development of robust policy to support its delivery.

I am pleased to be able to provide a full update on progress made against the Committee's recommendations and, having now had the opportunity reflect on a range of evidence, set out my proposals for taking forward an ambitious programme of work. The table attached at Annex A captures in detail both progress made and next steps. However, in summary, and in response to specific updates requested in your letter, I am able to provide the following:

'Extending Entitlement' and the National Youth Work Strategy, and establishing the National Youth Support Service Board

The former Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language asked Margaret Jervis, MBE DL, to review Extending Entitlement and, in so doing, make recommendations on a way forward for youth work in Wales. Margaret has completed her work, which she did in partnership with young people and stakeholders from across the sector, and submitted a report to me. The report contains nine recommendations and my officials, with the support of the Youth Work Reference Group, have already begun exploring how the principles identified by Margaret can be embedded into practice going forward. What is clear to me from Margaret's work is that, while it was undertaken in the context and ethos of Extending Entitlement, which has implications for a wide network of diverse youth support services, it deals primarily with securing a renewed, strategic approach to youth work. It is here, therefore, that I intend to focus our initial efforts.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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.

It is not my intention to initiate an immediate refresh of the statutory guidance. We must first establish a strategic approach to securing youth work in Wales which, in my view, has a vital role to play in securing outcomes for our young people. A review of the current Youth Work Strategy has been undertaken by Wrexham Glyndwr University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, and Susanne Rauprich OBE, and the findings are clear: achievements were made but there were too many missed opportunities. I intend to publish their report in due course as it provides vital learning as we embark on our next steps: the development of a new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.

As set out in Annex A I have asked my officials, in partnership with the Youth Work Reference Group, to immediately begin scoping out the development of this new strategy. It will be co-constructed with young people and the sector and set out the steps required to deliver on a long-term vision for youth work in Wales. In delivering this long term vision it must remain sufficiently agile as to allow it to respond to changing social and economic landscapes, it will therefore be subjected to detailed annual planning and review. I will be asking my officials to provide me with regular updates of progress and will continue to keep a close interest in this work to ensure its timely delivery.

A draft timeline for securing the delivery of this new strategy is included at the end of Annex A. However, I am committed to listening to the views of both young people and the sector, including the advice of the Youth Work Reference Group. With that in mind the strategy's development will be an iterative process, responding to emerging evidence and adapting as appropriate. The draft timeline also sets out proposed timescales for appointing to an Interim Board for Youth Work. The former Minister for Lifelong Learning committed to a Youth Support Services Board and I intend to deliver on this wider remit in the longer term. However, as I have set out, it is my intention to first secure a strategic approach to youth work in Wales. The Board, therefore, will be appointed in an interim capacity in the first instance and will be asked to prioritise youth work. They will do this in the context of the wider network of youth support services and, in so doing, begin considering the need, and possible remit, of a future board or body with responsibility for this larger spectrum of services.

Youth Work Sufficiency Assessments

In response to this specific recommendation officials set up a working group with representation from the statutory and voluntary sectors. Their aim was to further explore the potential value of sufficiency assessments for youth work in more depth. The group determined that:

- a single overarching national strategic document needs to be in place that states the policy direction for youth work in Wales, and that a section of this overarching strategy should describe what a “sufficient” Youth Work Service is;
- there must be a set of Standards linked to this overarching strategic document, and that these would be the specific benchmarks for sufficiency; and
- until these are in place, sufficiency assessments for youth work should not be introduced.

I remain committed to the concept of sufficiency assessments in the context of youth work. However, reflecting on the group's determinations, it is clear they must be meaningful and not simply an additional layer of bureaucracy. They will, therefore, be planned, developed, implemented and reviewed in partnership with young people and the statutory and voluntary sectors. This must be carried out during the development of our new Youth Work Strategy for Wales to ensure alignment. The aim of the assessments should be developmental in nature i.e. where are we now, where do we need to get to, and how will we get there. They should, therefore, support honest self-evaluation and robust, partnership planning.

The development of an accountability framework for local authorities' use of funds for youth work via the revenue support grant

My predecessor confirmed that the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) is an un-hypothecated funding stream that can be spent at local authorities' discretion and according to their local needs/priorities. In practice, it would be difficult to unpick the levels of RSG specifically allocated for youth work delivery. This is because funding streams are often combined to deliver projects, and resources are allocated in a manner to support the agility of a range of services working with young people. There is also the issue of 'sufficiency of provision', of which there is currently no collectively agreed definition. As I have set out, I have asked my officials to work with young people and youth work stakeholders to develop a long term strategy for youth work. As part of this approach I will be asking them to come to a collective agreement on what constitutes sufficient youth work provision for young people. With that in place, the new strategy will identify the steps required at all levels of the system to deliver this provision, as well as defining appropriate accountability arrangements.

Securing access to Erasmus+

I am personally aware of the benefits and opportunities available to Wales through its access to Erasmus+ and will continue to advocate for an approach that places our priorities centre stage. We continue to press the UK Government for ongoing participation in Erasmus+, and other EU Programmes of particular importance to Wales, after the UK exits the European Union.

In summary, I welcome the opportunity to update you on progress made against the Committee's recommendations and the added value that this scrutiny process brings. I will shortly be making an announcement outlining the steps identified in this letter and providing more detail. Further to this, I look forward to receiving an update on your planned consultation work with youth work stakeholders at the appropriate point in time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AC/AM

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

	Committee Recommendation	Accepted/ accepted in principle	Current position.
1	The Minister should review the National Strategy and refresh the statutory guidance in consultation with stakeholders and young people. A detailed action plan for implementation, including timescales, must be developed alongside a new strategy.	Accepted	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioned Wrexham Glyndwr University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, and Susanne Rauprich OBE, to review the impact of the National Youth Work Strategy. A final report has been received and is being prepared for publication. This work was informed by stakeholders and young people. Commissioned Margaret Jervis, MBE DL, to review Extending Entitlement. A final report has been submitted and is being prepared for publication. This work was informed by stakeholders and young people. Commissioned the Youth Work Reference Group (YWRG), who represent the youth work sector, providing advice to Welsh Government, to review Margaret's recommendations and propose a way forward. <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immediately begin development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy. Ensure a long term vision is built into the strategy, with detailed annual planning, self-evaluation, and review. Co-construct the strategy with young people and stakeholders at all levels in the system. Publish Margaret's Review, the 'Review of the Impact of the Youth Work Strategy', and associated reviews of grant funding Embed lessons learned, including from the Committee's Inquiry, alongside wider evidence in Wales, the UK and beyond. Firmly ground our approaches in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Wellbeing for Future Generations Act.

	Committee Recommendation	Accepted/ accepted in principle	Current position.
Pack Page 17			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-establish a Youth Work Offer/Charter at the centre of the new strategy. • Include consideration of 'sufficiency of provision', and the role of other bodies such as service providers, regulators, local authorities, and Welsh Government in ensuring rigorous accountability. • Develop our approaches in the context and ethos of Extending Entitlement, with a view toward considering the status of existing statutory guidance, once the strategic approach for securing youth work has been developed in partnership with stakeholders. • Establish an Interim Youth Work Board to support the development of the strategy, evaluate approaches for deploying resources, represent the voice of the sector, and provide advice to Welsh Government. • Publish a timeline setting out how/when this will be delivered.
27	The Minister should hold urgent discussions with the Ministerial Youth Work Reference Group to address the concerns from within the sector about a lack of engagement from Welsh Government	Accepted	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held urgent discussions at Ministerial level with the Youth Work Reference Group. • Refreshed the remit of the group and begun extending their membership. • Recognised the key role they play in supporting both the sector and Welsh Government in delivering and implementing policy. • Tasked them with considering the draft report produced by Margaret Jervis, MBE DL. • Drawn on their expertise and knowledge to inform the development of the new curriculum for Wales. • Received positive feedback from the Youth Work Reference Group on this new approach.

	Committee Recommendation	Accepted/ accepted in principle	Current position.
Pack Page 18			<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to use the Youth Work Reference Group strategically, with regular engagement from Welsh Government to inform developing approaches. • Commission them to begin work in supporting Welsh Government to develop a new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. • Ensure alignment with the proposed Interim Youth Work Board, both in its development and when operational.
	There should be a clear and meaningful route for young people to be equal partners in developing youth services in Wales. This should be developed by the Minister, stakeholders and young people.	Accepted	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured young people were engaged with and consulted as part of the 'Review of the Impact of the Youth Work Strategy'. • Ensured young people were engaged with and consulted as part of Margaret Jervis' review of Extending Entitlement. • Commissioned Children in Wales to undertake a focused piece of work with young people to inform Margaret's work. • Undertaken discussions with the Youth Work Reference Group to explore how young people can inform the development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy for Wales. <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve young people in the co-construction of the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. • Consider and articulate the role they will play in the design, delivery and monitoring of youth services within the new Strategy. • Develop an engagement plan, in partnership with young people and stakeholders, to ensure this recommendation continues to

	Committee Recommendation	Accepted/ accepted in principle	Current position.
			be fully met going forward.
4	The Minister should introduce a national model for Youth Work, encompassing statutory and voluntary provision. The Minister should report to this Committee on progress within 6 months of the publication of this report	Accepted	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioned Margaret Jervis to undertake a review of Extending Entitlement, which included giving consideration to a 'national model' encompassing statutory and voluntary provision. • Commissioned a Review of the Impact of the National Youth Work Strategy which makes recommendations on a way forward. • Reflected on these findings, which propose potential 'models' for delivery in the future. <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately begin development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy, including consideration of an appropriate delivery model. • Appoint an Interim Youth Work Board, whose remit will include supporting the development and implementation of a new strategy, and providing advice on appropriate delivery mechanisms. • Expand the remit and membership of the Youth Work Reference Group, extending an invitation to strategic, local authority representatives, ensuring the new strategy balances aspirations and ability to deliver in the current context. • Ensure the views of both statutory and voluntary provision are heard as part of its development.
5	The Minister should report back to the Committee within 6 months of the publication of this report on how	Accepted in Principle	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported back to the Committee and acknowledged that the

	Committee Recommendation	Accepted/ accepted in principle	Current position.
	he intends to assess the extent to which his commitment to universal, open access provision, in English and Welsh, is being delivered		<p>youth work landscape is changing in the context of a challenging financial climate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted the role that 'Sufficiency Assessments' could play in assessing the extent to which universal, open access provision, in English and Welsh, is being delivered. Begun exploring the role that 'Sufficiency Assessments' will play going forward. <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate the notion of 'sufficiency of provision' and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. Restate our commitment to the role youth work can play in supporting young people to use and develop their Welsh language skills. Engage with young people in the development of the new strategy to develop a current understanding of their needs in relation to the type of youth services they wish to access, in the language of their choice.
6	Within 6 months of the publication of this report, the Minister should commission an exercise to map voluntary Youth Work provision across Wales. The exercise should be refreshed periodically.	Accepted in Principle	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflected on the mapping of voluntary youth work provision undertaken by CWVYS (2015) in relation to the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, and Cordis Bright (2016). Reported back to Committee that a national mapping exercise may not be appropriate given the rapidly changing context on the ground as services change and adapt. Stated our commitment to the concept of 'sufficiency of provision' and its assessment, in planning, delivering, and monitoring youth services.

	Committee Recommendation	Accepted/ accepted in principle	Current position.
			<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate the notion of ‘sufficiency of provision’ and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. To ensure agility in an evolving landscape, any assessment should give consideration to both statutory and voluntary provision at a local, rather than national level.
<p>7</p> <p>Pack Page 21</p>	<p>The Minister should ensure that Youth Work Sufficiency Assessments are undertaken by local authorities as part of their population needs assessments and report back to the Committee on progress within 6 months of the publication of this report.</p>	<p>Accepted in Principle</p>	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted the potential role of ‘Sufficiency Assessments’ in the planning, delivery and monitoring of youth service provision. • Set up a working group in November 2017 to ascertain how these might work in Wales, learning from approaches taken forward in the Play sector. • Determined that there is a requirement for an assessment to ensure services being provided within a local authority area are needed, of the required quality, and delivered by the most relevant organisation. • Explored what an assessment might look like and concluded that, in the absence of a new, long term Youth Work Strategy and vision, that takes us beyond 2018, it is not possible to finalise an approach for immediate implementation. <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate the notion of ‘sufficiency of provision’ and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. • Co-construct its design in partnership with young people and stakeholders. • Secure agreement across the sector to the use of Sufficiency Assessments in the planning, delivery, and monitoring of youth service provision as part of the new strategy.

	Committee Recommendation	Accepted/ accepted in principle	Current position.
8	The Minister should develop an accountability framework for local authorities' use of funds for Youth Work via the revenue support grant. The framework should include sanctions if outcomes are not delivered.	Accepted In Principle	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed that the Revenue Support Grant is an un-hypothecated funding stream and can be spent at local authorities' discretion according to their locally identified needs and priorities. Confirmed that it is not currently possible to identify how much is spent on youth work, due to the pooling of budgets across services at a local level, nor to prescribe an amount. Reviewed our existing grant funding streams to consider how they might better support the desired outcomes of youth work and youth support services. Begun implementing changes to grant funding mechanisms, ensuring a greater focus on impact, rather than output. Explored an outcomes framework for youth work in the context of the current strategy. <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish the reviews of the Youth Work Grants. Continue to learn from them by keeping them under regular review. Establish an Interim Youth Work Board to support the development of a new Youth Work Strategy, and advise on approaches for deploying resources appropriately, including any unintended consequences. Secure agreement across the sector to the use of 'Sufficiency Assessments' in the planning, delivery, and monitoring of youth service provision as part of a new strategy. This will include consideration of their role in a new accountability framework for youth services across local authority and voluntary provision.

	Committee Recommendation	Accepted/ accepted in principle	Current position.
9	The Minister should explore the potential continuation of Erasmus+ funding, should the UK Government decide not to do so.	Accepted in principle	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed our commitment towards a credible, evidenced based approach towards withdrawal from the EU. <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to advocate for an approach that places Wales' priorities centre stage, while responding to the UK's priorities as a whole. Continue dialogue with UK Government counterparts, addressing the role of Erasmus+ funding in the UK context
Back Page 23	The Minister should ensure that the statutory and voluntary Youth Work sector play a central role in the process of curriculum reform.	Accepted	<p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed statutory and voluntary representation on the Education Reform Strategic Stakeholder Group. Engaged the Youth Work Reference Group (with representatives from both statutory and voluntary sectors) with the process of Curriculum Reform. <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to ensure appropriate mechanisms for ensuring the statutory and voluntary youth work sector play a central role in the process of curriculum reform. Consider and articulate the links and alignment between formal education and youth work in the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.

Annex A

Draft Timeline

	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Events		Youth Work Conference			Youth Work Week Youth Work Awards						New Youth Work Strategy Launch
Publications		Publish review work undertaken, including the grants and the current Youth Work Strategy 2014-2018									Publish New Youth Work Strategy
Interim Board		Publish recruitment for Chair of the Interim Youth Work Board			Appoint Chair of Interim Youth Work Board	Identify Membership of Interim Board	Appoint Members of Interim Board				
New Youth Work Strategy	Scoping [Youth Work Reference Group]	Reflecting on evidence [Youth Work Reference Group] Initial engagement with young people and the sector	Stakeholder and policy mapping	Co-construction of new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. To be developed in partnership with young people and stakeholders.					Draft strategy completed	Strategy finalised	Launch

Committee Recommendation 1:

The Minister should review the National Strategy and refresh the statutory guidance in consultation with stakeholders and young people. A detailed action plan for implementation, including timescales, must be developed alongside a new strategy.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Commissioned Wrexham Glyndwr University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, and Susanne Rauprich OBE, to review the impact of the National Youth Work Strategy. A final report has been received and is being prepared for publication. This work was informed by stakeholders and young people.
- Commissioned Margaret Jervis, MBE DL, to review Extending Entitlement. A final report has been submitted and is being prepared for publication. This work was informed by stakeholders and young people.
- Commissioned the Youth Work Reference Group (YWRG), who represent the youth work sector, providing advice to Welsh Government, to review Margaret's recommendations and propose a way forward.

We will:

- Immediately begin development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy.
- Ensure a long term vision is built into the strategy, with detailed annual planning, self-evaluation, and review.
- Co-construct the strategy with young people and stakeholders at all levels in the system.
- Publish Margaret's Review, the 'Review of the Impact of the Youth Work Strategy', and associated reviews of grant funding Embed lessons learned, including from the Committee's Inquiry, alongside wider evidence in Wales, the UK and beyond.
- Firmly ground our approaches in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Wellbeing for Future Generations Act.
- Re-establish a Youth Work Offer/Charter at the centre of the new strategy.
- Include consideration of 'sufficiency of provision', and the role of other bodies such as service providers, regulators, local authorities, and Welsh Government in ensuring rigorous accountability.
- Develop our approaches in the context and ethos of Extending Entitlement, with a view toward considering the status of existing statutory guidance, once the strategic approach for securing youth work has been developed in partnership with stakeholders.
- Establish an Interim Youth Work Board to support the development of the strategy,

evaluate approaches for deploying resources, represent the voice of the sector, and provide advice to Welsh Government.

- Publish a timeline setting out how/when this will be delivered.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 1:

This response, and all others that follow, are presented on behalf of CWVYS.

We note that the WG officials have set out a fairly detailed work plan, which includes timescales, towards the development of a new National Youth Work Strategy for Wales. We welcome that attempt at clarifying the steps which need to be taken as well as the inclusion of the youth work sector in those developments and delivery points.

The review of the National Strategy was well-received and its acknowledgement of the roles played by the voluntary youth work sector is welcomed.

We would take issue with the notion of a Strategy being ‘aspirational’ and might argue that previous versions of policy and strategic documents have too frequently fallen victim to such language and subsequent activity. If a new Strategy is to achieve better outcomes for young people and support of those who seek to provide those better outcomes, then it needs to be meaningful, based upon implementation and therefore accountable.

Discussions at the Youth Work Reference Group (which is co-Chaired by Keith Towler (Chair of CWVYS) and also attended by Paul Glaze) have resulted in a view that a 10-year Strategy is not only a positive ambition but a necessity if it is to meet the needs of young people and the sector. We should like this 10-year term to be clarified as the ‘long-term vision’.

We strongly believe that any ‘Youth Work Charter’ written into the new Strategy should not merely be an assumption of the ‘Wales Charter for Youth Work’: a document that is now out of date but one which was also never presented to young people as an ‘offer’. We would suggest that the Minister might like to present an opportunity for young people to directly help shape a ‘Charter’.

The WG says it will ‘include consideration of ‘sufficiency of provision’...’ but omits the voluntary youth work sector from the list of ‘other bodies’. CWVYS requests that this omission be rectified as a matter of course.

We also welcome Margaret Jervis’s review of ‘Extending Entitlement’ and support its findings and recommendations.

CWVYS supports the forming of an Interim Youth Work Board and recognises that the impending appointment of a Chair and its members will be of critical importance in support of the development of a new Strategy but also in support of youth work more generally.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Quality Mark for Youth Work in Wales

- Has been re-commissioned by the Welsh Government for 2018/19 via Atkins

Associates.

- Given that undertaking the QM is not a compulsory activity and that other QMs with wider reach and more widely known beyond Wales i.e. Investors in People; PQASSO are available, some CWVYS member organisations have questioned the need to spend another significant sum on the delivery of the QM.
- CWVYS supports the overall development of this Quality Mark (QM) but is keen to learn more about the plans for sustainability of this programme, its relevance to the youth work sector in general and whether those plans are likely to include a procurement process in order to establish the QM as part of the National Strategy for Youth Work considerations.

Youth Information services

- The Youth Work Reference Group has recently discussed youth information services within the context of a future National Youth Work Strategy. This is a positive move and serves to show just how critically important that information services for young people are in the development of the Strategy but also how integral they are to the delivery of good, positive youth work and to the engagement of young people.

Workforce Development

- It is acknowledged that this topic covers a wide area but there is little being discussed about the need to invest in an appropriate, timely and future-proofed workforce development plan for the youth work sector. Without that investment, planning and long-term support on behalf of the workforce (paid and unpaid), any future Strategy will not achieve its ambitions.
- An example from Scotland: The Scottish Government entrusts YouthLink Scotland (representative body for both the voluntary and maintained sectors) with £500k per annum with which to directly address sector-led workforce development needs.
-

Committee Recommendation 2:

The Minister should hold urgent discussions with the Ministerial Youth Work Reference Group to address the concerns from within the sector about a lack of engagement from Welsh Government.

Accepted by the Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Held urgent discussions at Ministerial level with the Youth Work Reference Group.
- Refreshed the remit of the group and begun extending their membership.
- Recognised the key role they play in supporting both the sector and Welsh Government in delivering and implementing policy.
- Tasked them with considering the draft report produced by Margaret Jervis, MBE DL.

- Drawn on their expertise and knowledge to inform the development of the new curriculum for Wales.
- Received positive feedback from the Youth Work Reference Group on this new approach.

We will:

- Continue to use the Youth Work Reference Group strategically, with regular engagement from Welsh Government to inform developing approaches.
- Commission them to begin work in supporting Welsh Government to develop a new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Ensure alignment with the proposed Interim Youth Work Board, both in its development and when operational.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 2:

Other than a brief appearance by the former Minister, the YWRG has not had 'urgent discussions' at that level. As members of the YWRG, CWVYS would welcome the opportunity to take part in dialogue with the Minister within that forum and as part of the agenda that she set at the 2018 National Youth Work Conference.

We would ask for clarity as to whether the Minister's vision includes a role for the YWRG beyond the date of the establishment of the Interim Youth Work Board. Should those plans include the work of the YWRG being absorbed by the Interim Youth Work Board (as a sub-group with a specific remit perhaps?), it would be helpful to be made aware of any relevant, proposed timescales.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Committee Recommendation 3:

There should be a clear and meaningful route for young people to be equal partners in developing youth services in Wales. This should be developed by the Minister, stakeholders and young people.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Ensured young people were engaged with and consulted as part of the 'Review of the Impact of the Youth Work Strategy'.
- Ensured young people were engaged with and consulted as part of Margaret Jarvis' review of Extending Entitlement.
- Commissioned Children in Wales to undertake a focused piece of work with young people to inform Margaret's work.
- Undertaken discussions with the Youth Work Reference Group to explore how young people can inform the development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy for Wales.

We will:

- Involve young people in the co-construction of the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Consider and articulate the role they will play in the design, delivery and monitoring of youth services within the new Strategy.
- Develop an engagement plan, in partnership with young people and stakeholders, to ensure this recommendation continues to be fully met going forward.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 3:

In order for 'clear and meaningful' routes to be established for young people as equal partners in the development of youth services, we would suggest that a better response might be one of co-ownership as well as co-construction. A commitment to a rights-based approach for young people and engagement based on a clear set of entitlements is crucial to the success of a genuinely participative model of working.

Attempts at engaging young people via the Youth Work Reference Group in previous years were not successful. However, we sense that officials are willing to consider how best to implement improved ways of working; the sector is well-placed to offer suggestions and solutions.

Such a commitment should be aligned to the UNCRC in relation to the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011.

We would also make a plea to recognise the needs of 18-25 year olds in the agreed participative approach; an age group that can sometimes be under-represented in terms of invitations to engage.

As highlighted in our reply to recommendation no.1, once agreed, we see great value in the Minister taking an opportunity (or opportunities) to present the 'Youth Work Offer' jointly with, and directly to, young people whilst also announcing how and when the youth work sector will play its part in supporting and delivering the 'Offer'.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

As we are seeing with the development of the Welsh Youth Parliament and other long-established youth work-based models of participation, there is significant interest being shown by young people in democratic engagement projects. It would be another positive step, therefore, to complement the general tone of participation by ensuring a genuine, 'meaningful' approach to the development of youth services.

Committee Recommendation 4:

The Minister should introduce a national model for Youth Work, encompassing statutory and voluntary provision. The Minister should report to this Committee on progress within 6 months of the publication of this report.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Commissioned Margaret Jervis to undertake a review of Extending Entitlement, which included giving consideration to a 'national model' encompassing statutory and voluntary provision.
- Commissioned a Review of the Impact of the National Youth Work Strategy which makes recommendations on a way forward.
- Reflected on these findings, which propose potential 'models' for delivery in the future.

We will:

- Immediately begin development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy, including consideration of an appropriate delivery model.
- Appoint an Interim Youth Work Board, whose remit will include supporting the development and implementation of a new strategy, and providing advice on appropriate delivery mechanisms.
- Expand the remit and membership of the Youth Work Reference Group, extending an invitation to strategic, local authority representatives, ensuring the new strategy balances aspirations and ability to deliver in the current context.
- Ensure the views of both statutory and voluntary provision are heard as part of its development.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 4:

The WG response is more focused on the Interim Youth Work Board rather than the recommendation itself, which proposes a national model for youth work. This is disappointing, as the need for a national approach to the delivery of youth services is as relevant, if not more so, than when the Inquiry first considered the merits of such an approach. There has not been a great deal of discussion around this issue.

For those reasons, CWVYS makes no apology for re-iterating its commitment to and belief in the opportunity to create a National Youth Service which provides for a more efficient and cost-effective range of modern services - developed for and with young people. Such a National model could 'commission nationally, manage regionally and deliver locally', overseen by a National Youth Service Council for Wales.

This has been our consistent view since the publication of the CWVYS paper '*The Future of Youth Services in Wales*' in 2012 and the subsequent joint position paper authored by CWVYS and the Wales Principal Youth Officers' Group, as presented to the Youth Work Reference Group in December 2014. These papers resulted in the WG-commissioned '*Feasibility Study*' on a national model by RezolvPS Ltd, most recently considered by the Youth Work Reference Group in September 2015.

We would suggest that the new Interim Youth Work Board consider the model adopted in Scotland, where both the voluntary and maintained sectors are represented by YouthLink Scotland. A similar model for Wales is achievable and can be made 'Wales-distinct' by reflecting the needs of young people and the overall sector e.g. parity whilst providing as single point of communication for officials and partners in other sectors and being accountable for the delivery of youth work in

Wales.
Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:
<p>Committee Recommendation 5:</p> <p>The Minister should report back to the Committee within 6 months of the publication of this report on how he intends to assess the extent to which his commitment to universal, open access provision, in English and Welsh, is being delivered.</p> <p>Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government</p>
<p>Welsh Government Response</p> <p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reported back to the Committee and acknowledged that the youth work landscape is changing in the context of a challenging financial climate. - Accepted the role that 'Sufficiency Assessments' could play in assessing the extent to which universal, open access provision, in English and Welsh, is being delivered. - Begun exploring the role that 'Sufficiency Assessments' will play going forward. <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporate the notion of 'sufficiency of provision' and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. - Restate our commitment to the role youth work can play in supporting young people to use and develop their Welsh language skills. - Engage with young people in the development of the new strategy to develop a current understanding of their needs in relation to the type of youth services they wish to access, in the language of their choice.
<p>Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 5:</p> <p>The bedrock of youth work in Wales is its ability to provide a universal, open access offer for all young people: a voluntary relationship that provides the foundation for the delivery of targeted services, information and support.</p> <p>Of course, it is recognised that youth work and its ability to deliver according to the needs of young people are ever-evolving but was ever thus; it is not fair to use a difficult 'financial climate' to justify the moves that have been made to push youth work provision into more targeted areas, thereby creating an imbalance in (not) meeting the needs of all young people, confusion amongst youth workers and a weakening of the position and sheer importance of open access provision.</p> <p>Balance of provision is key. CWVYS represents many organisations which deliver both open access and targeted provision under one roof. We have alluded to this in previous consultations but those youth work providers do not have 'separate doors' for 'different types of young people' but rather work in environments which allow them to be nimble, adaptable and resourceful when working with young people: whether that be on specific activities relating to health-related issues, for example; or on supporting young people with access to learning or employment</p>

opportunities.

However, without the initial 'open door' policy and the essential requirement to provide services on a voluntary engagement principle, then youth work becomes something else - something that is not youth work. And if the basis of the proposed new National Strategy and the Interim Board is 'Youth Work' then the balance clearly has to be addressed and the sector has to be fully resourced and equipped to deliver accordingly.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Committee Recommendation 6:

Within 6 months of the publication of this report, the Minister should commission an exercise to map voluntary Youth Work provision across Wales. The exercise should be refreshed periodically.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Reflected on the mapping of voluntary youth work provision undertaken by CWVYS (2015) in relation to the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, and Cordis Bright (2016).
- Reported back to Committee that a national mapping exercise may not be appropriate given the rapidly changing context on the ground as services change and adapt.
- Stated our commitment to the concept of 'sufficiency of provision' and its assessment, in planning, delivering, and monitoring youth services.

We will:

- Incorporate the notion of 'sufficiency of provision' and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. To ensure agility in an evolving landscape, any assessment should give consideration to both statutory and voluntary provision at a local, rather than national level.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 6:

We would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on work which mapped the voluntary youth work sector. The reports highlighted in the WG response refer to exercises based on the needs of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework; this not being a mapping of youth work, but rather a specific programme of targeted intervention, means that the sector has yet to provide a true reflection of all youth services being delivered within the voluntary sector. This is much-needed and would enhanced collaboration between not just voluntary and maintained youth work sectors but with other sectors and public bodies.

There is a concern that there is too much of an emphasis on 'sufficiency' here: unless and until the map of delivery is established, how might the notion of

‘sufficiency’ be adequately addressed?
Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:
<p>Committee Recommendation 7:</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that Youth Work Sufficiency Assessments are undertaken by local authorities as part of their population needs assessments and report back to the Committee on progress within 6 months of the publication of this report.</p> <p>Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government</p>
<p>Welsh Government Response</p> <p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accepted the potential role of ‘Sufficiency Assessments’ in the planning, delivery and monitoring of youth service provision. - Set up a working group in November 2017 to ascertain how these might work in Wales, learning from approaches taken forward in the Play sector. - Determined that there is a requirement for an assessment to ensure services being provided within a local authority area are needed, of the required quality, and delivered by the most relevant organisation. - Explored what an assessment might look like and concluded that, in the absence of a new, long term Youth Work Strategy and vision, that takes us beyond 2018, it is not possible to finalise an approach for immediate implementation. <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporate the notion of ‘sufficiency of provision’ and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. - Co-construct its design in partnership with young people and stakeholders. - Secure agreement across the sector to the use of Sufficiency Assessments in the planning, delivery, and monitoring of youth service provision as part of the new strategy.
<p>Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 7:</p> <p>We would agree that there is a need for a new National Youth Work Strategy to be in place before any potential implementation of ‘sufficient’ provision and also that more needs to be done in relation to what constitutes ‘sufficiency’, how it might be assessed and ‘co-constructed’ (and beyond that, how it is ‘co-managed, co-delivered and co-evaluated).</p> <p>The YWRG has started to consider’ sufficiency’ post-publication of a report by an external consultant. We understand that the deployment of resources is an important consideration during a period when services for young people are changing but also when youth work can play to its considerable strengths. We hope that the new Interim Youth Work Board will consider the ramifications of what is ‘sufficient’ but also how accountable (and to whom) any proposed ‘framework’ might be or look like, within a business-case approach.</p> <p>Are there lessons to be learned from the implementation of ‘sufficiency’ in the play</p>

work sector?

In addition, is there an argument that raises the possibility of looking at the interface between play work and youth work and an alignment of what ‘sufficiency’ means across both sectors?

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Committee Recommendation 8:

The Minister should develop an accountability framework for local authorities’ use of funds for Youth Work via the revenue support grant. The framework should include sanctions if outcomes are not delivered.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Confirmed that the Revenue Support Grant is an un-hypothecated funding stream and can be spent at local authorities’ discretion according to their locally identified needs and priorities.
- Confirmed that it is not currently possible to identify how much is spent on youth work, due to the pooling of budgets across services at a local level, nor to prescribe an amount.
- Reviewed our existing grant funding streams to consider how they might better support the desired outcomes of youth work and youth support services.
- Begun implementing changes to grant funding mechanisms, ensuring a greater focus on impact, rather than output.
- Explored an outcomes framework for youth work in the context of the current strategy.

We will:

- Publish the reviews of the Youth Work Grants.
- Continue to learn from them by keeping them under regular review.
- Establish an Interim Youth Work Board to support the development of a new Youth Work Strategy, and advise on approaches for deploying resources appropriately, including any unintended consequences.
- Secure agreement across the sector to the use of ‘Sufficiency Assessments’ in the planning, delivery, and monitoring of youth service provision as part of a new strategy. This will include consideration of their role in a new accountability framework for youth services across local authority and voluntary provision.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 8:

Why is it not possible to ‘identify how much is spent on youth work, due to the pooling of budgets across services at a local level’? We might seek to ask questions here about accountability and the auditing of such resources.

In addition, if there is no clarity on the 'starting position' i.e. just how much resource is being made available and how much is being spent on youth services, then how can a position be taken as to what constitutes a 'sufficient' response to that situation?

The non-hypothecation of allocated funding under the Revenue Support Grant continues to only support variations in spend across local authority areas. Again, we would ask, as we did during the Inquiry: how feasible is an equitable 'Youth Work Offer' for young people living in all areas of Wales if and when available resource is utilised in such a non-uniform manner.

The YWRG has started to consider 'sufficiency' post-publication of a report by an external consultant. We understand that the deployment of resources is an important consideration during a period when services for young people are changing but also when youth work can play to its considerable strengths. We hope that the new Interim Youth Work Board will consider the ramifications of what is 'sufficient' but also how accountable (and to whom) any proposed 'framework' might be or look like, within a business-case approach.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Committee Recommendation 9:

The Minister should explore the potential continuation of Erasmus+ funding, should the UK Government decide not to do so.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Confirmed our commitment towards a credible, evidenced based approach towards withdrawal from the EU.

We will:

- Continue to advocate for an approach that places Wales' priorities centre stage, while responding to the UK's priorities as a whole.
- Continue dialogue with UK Government counterparts, addressing the role of Erasmus+ funding in the UK context.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 9:

European funding and access to European programmes for training and co-operation has enhanced Wales' reputation as an outward-looking welcoming and positive nation, with young people very much at the heart of that approach. Those programmes assist in the delivery of hugely significant youth work projects, international volunteering exchanges and learning opportunities for young people and youth workers from within Wales and across other European nations.

Until 2020, the Erasmus+ budget of 14.7 billion Euro will be utilised for the development of knowledge and skills. Two-thirds of that amount is to be used to

provide support for more than 4 million people to study, train, gain work experience or volunteer. 1 billion Euro has been allocated to the UK between 2014-2020. Wales-based projects are expected to be in receipt of 6-7 million Euro during that time.

The limited response from the WG is indicative of an approach that has not maximised the opportunities afforded by Erasmus+ and other European opportunities. CWVYS has established very good links with the National (UK) Agencies – British Council and Ecorys UK – on behalf of the voluntary youth work sector and we are still the sole partner in Wales of Eurodesk UK – an important resource-and-information-rich source for the development of Europe-wide support, funding, engagement and learning opportunities. A number of our member organisations and young people (and CWVYS) have benefited directly and indirectly from that introduction to European programmes via CWVYS. An example here would be the European Voluntary Service (EVS) model and its soon-to-come successor scheme the European Solidarity Corps.

CWVYS (and before us, ProMo Cymru) held the Wales membership for the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA), which has now reverted back to the WG. It was a very positive step by officials to invite ERYICA to deliver a workshop session at the recent National Youth Work Conference and to also discuss future links as a result of that appearance. We sincerely hope that this membership link can be exploited to its fullest potential on behalf of and with the youth work sector in Wales.

It was also good to see that Ecorys UK were invited to, and did, deliver a workshop session on Erasmus+ funding opportunities at the National Conference. Such links are vitally important if Wales is to obtain its share of resource in, and enjoy positive participation of, Erasmus+.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

CWVYS has been active in supporting work on Brexit and the impact on young people in Wales and the UK: this has manifested itself in work completed via Demos, MyLifeMySay, the #KeepErasmusPlus campaign and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brexit, amongst several other forums.

Committee Recommendation 10:

The Minister should ensure that the statutory and voluntary Youth Work sector play a central role in the process of curriculum reform.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Confirmed statutory and voluntary representation on the Education Reform Strategic Stakeholder Group.
- Engaged the Youth Work Reference Group (with representatives from both statutory and voluntary sectors) with the process of Curriculum Reform.

We will:

- Continue to ensure appropriate mechanisms for ensuring the statutory and voluntary youth work sector play a central role in the process of curriculum reform.
- Consider and articulate the links and alignment between formal education and youth work in the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 10:

CWVYS is a member of the Strategic Stakeholder Group. Whilst this provides an opportunity to highlight the benefits of informal and non-formal education within curriculum reform developments, the main focus remains the development of the formal education sector's approach and responses to the curriculum within schools. The challenge, therefore, continues to be that of supporting a co-ordinated, consistent and collaborative effort to ensure that youth work is represented at that strategic level.

It is to be hoped that there will be opportunities to strengthen the case for youth work and its benefits within the new curriculum as a result of the forming of the Interim Youth Work Board and also the presumed, outward-facing consultation exercises ahead of the development of the new National Youth Work Strategy. The opportunity to invite formal educators to those discussions needs to be seized upon in order to again 'present the case' for youth work in both strategic and operational fora.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

In its capacity as a member of the Third Sector Partnership Council (chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Bodies) and the Third Sector/Education Group (chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and attended by the Minister for the Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning), CWVYS also has the opportunity to highlight the benefits of, and alignments with, youth work and formal education.

A sub-group of the Third Sector/Education Group carries out liaison work between the Education Workforce Council and the wider third sector; CWVYS attends the sub-group for the voluntary youth work sector.

Agenda Item 3

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg | Children, Young People and Education Committee

Gwaith Ieuenctid – gwaith dilynol | Youth Work – Follow up

YW(2) 04

Ymateb gan: Grwp Prif Swyddogion Ieuenctid (Cymru)

Response from: Principal Youth Officers' Group (Wales)

Committee Recommendation 1:

The Minister should review the National Strategy and refresh the statutory guidance in consultation with stakeholders and young people. A detailed action plan for implementation, including timescales, must be developed alongside a new strategy.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Commissioned Wrexham Glyndwr University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, and Susanne Rauprich OBE, to review the impact of the National Youth Work Strategy. A final report has been received and is being prepared for publication. This work was informed by stakeholders and young people.
- Commissioned Margaret Jervis, MBE DL, to review Extending Entitlement. A final report has been submitted and is being prepared for publication. This work was informed by stakeholders and young people.
- Commissioned the Youth Work Reference Group (YWRG), who represent the youth work sector, providing advice to Welsh Government, to review Margaret's recommendations and propose a way forward.

We will:

- Immediately begin development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy.
- Ensure a long term vision is built into the strategy, with detailed annual planning, self-evaluation, and review.
- Co-construct the strategy with young people and stakeholders at all levels in the system.
- Publish Margaret's Review, the 'Review of the Impact of the Youth Work Strategy', and associated reviews of grant funding Embed lessons learned, including from the Committee's Inquiry, alongside wider evidence in Wales, the UK and beyond.
- Firmly ground our approaches in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Wellbeing for Future Generations Act.
- Re-establish a Youth Work Offer/Charter at the centre of the new strategy.
- Include consideration of 'sufficiency of provision', and the role of other bodies such as service providers, regulators, local authorities, and Welsh Government in ensuring rigorous accountability.
- Develop our approaches in the context and ethos of Extending Entitlement, with a view toward considering the status of existing statutory guidance, once the strategic approach for securing youth work has been developed in partnership with stakeholders.

- Establish an Interim Youth Work Board to support the development of the strategy, evaluate approaches for deploying resources, represent the voice of the sector, and provide advice to Welsh Government.
- Publish a timeline setting out how/when this will be delivered.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 1:

The review of the National Strategy was published at the annual WG Youth Work Conference on 21st March, so the PYOG has not yet had chance to fully digest or discuss this but it appears to be quite thorough in its process and content and direct in its findings, insomuch as it has presented an honest summary.

The current strategy was launched at a conference in 2014 in North Wales – there was little involvement of the sector in its development, delegates attending the conference were not provided with sight of it beforehand (a web-link was presented briefly as part of the Ministerial address), nor hard copies during, yet work-shops were held during the day to discuss its merits (or otherwise). Unfortunately, this set a tone which reflected the strategy itself (to quote the evaluation report, it was “not as forward thinking as it could have been”). Whilst having a welcome focus on open access Youth Work (as well as targeted provision), the strategy also lacked any discernible targets and accountability – whereas the previous (and first National Strategy for Wales) included actions and clear lines of accountability for each part of the sector.

The announcement of a review of Extending Entitlement during the Youth Work Inquiry was quite a surprise to the sector – whilst Youth Work is a crucial component of the Youth Support Services offer and was in scope for the Inquiry, Extending Entitlement is the Directions and Guidance for Youth Support Services (a much wider ‘offer’ for young people delivered by a much broader range of contributing organisations reflecting requirements in the Learning & Skills Act, 2000). The recently published work by Margaret Jervis, rather than reviewing Youth Support Services, has presented a much clearer focus on Youth Work, which is more in line with the scope of the Inquiry and is acting as a useful platform for taking the Youth Service (the framework by which Youth Work is delivered) forward.

It is important to also note at this point that, whilst welcoming of the Committee’s inquiry, the sector has been somewhat disappointed in regard to its scope. As the inquiry has developed, it has focussed in on some types of Youth Work provision (particularly community based, open-access provision) at the expense of Youth Work in other settings e.g. school-based. Youth Work is very much a blended offer of targeted and open access provision.

Whilst at the embryonic stages of developing a new National Youth Work Strategy, by utilising the findings of the evaluation of the current strategy, the PYOG very much welcomes a more long-term approach to a new strategy. This will provide the sector with a long-term vision with (as has been suggested) annual or bi-annual action plans, so that progress can be monitored and changes made as necessary along this journey. In order to do so, the sector somehow needs to take stock of its current capacity – given the impact of austerity on the sector, it is quite a different environment than that of four or five years ago with the level of provision having

decreased, as well as taken a different shape.

In order to make a new strategy as relevant as possible, another crucial element is involving young people in its development – from the start! Whilst consultation is carried out on an ongoing basis at local level, we need to consider what young people are telling us about what they want from Youth Work and the Youth Service e.g. are they still requiring Youth Clubs and, if yes, what do they expect them to look like? Also, the role of communities in funding/providing for young people as community constituents. Another important consideration is the quality and quantity of professionally qualified Youth Workers entering the field and their ability to enjoy career progression on a par with others e.g. teachers and Social Workers. Whilst challenging, a new Strategy needs to be deliverable and, in order for this to happen, needs to be realistic as to what the sector can deliver on.

Whilst the main strategic platform for the sector, it has been felt for some time that the Youth Work Reference Group has not always been used in this way (i.e. as a point of reference), rather it has been somewhat confused by a plethora of work-streams which were not instigated by its membership, rather being ‘presented’ at late notice and with little/no consultation. As a result, the group had become (at worst) dysfunctional and (at best) had lost its sense of direction.

Recent meetings have seen a refreshing change in approach, with a more open, inclusive and consultative dialogue which is showing promising signs of developing an environment where co-construction can take place. The group’s knowledge and expertise is being recognised and, whilst members have yet to meet with the ‘new’ Minister, WG officials are taking advice forward and feeding back to the group. Also, whilst a not insubstantial task, progress is being made around rationalising the numerous pieces of work which had been generated previously.

The recent national Youth Work Conference marked a first attempt to engage with the sector on what a new strategy could and should look like but a comprehensive engagement plan now needs to be developed so that the new strategy takes shape based on meaningful engagement with all stakeholders. The interim Youth Work Board has yet to take shape and it is not yet known what status/teeth this will have, what its membership will look like and indeed what its relationship with the YWRG will be as/when in position. However, the sector does have a timeline in relation to this and other important pieces of work.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

The status and profile of Youth Work has suffered over the last 10 years or so. Following the closure of the Wales Youth Agency whereby the staff (circa 12) were taken into Welsh Government and operated strategically as a Branch, over time this has reduced to a team of four with a continued reduction in profile, to a team within a Branch, so there is some work to be done here. However, as of April this year, Youth Workers are required to register with the Education Workforce Council (EWC) and, as such, have parity alongside other education professionals (teachers, FE staff and Work Based Learning). Whilst there is still a long way to go in relation to the understanding of Youth Work and its contribution via an educative approach (e.g. although Youth Clubs, table tennis and pool have their place, the ‘offer’ is much

more comprehensive than this and is an environment where young people can be nurtured and progress through learning in non-formal and informal learning environments), this is seen as a positive move. The sector continues to struggle to be fully understood in relation to its contribution to education in Wales and, in particular to the development of the new curriculum. Although many principles of Youth Work are prominent throughout Successful Futures, opportunities to help shape a new curriculum for Wales are few and far between. The PYOG would welcome tangible opportunities to do so.

In relation to an improving profile for the Youth Work, the sector is also currently responding to a WG consultation to include Youth Work representation on the EWC Council.

Committee Recommendation 2:

The Minister should hold urgent discussions with the Ministerial Youth Work Reference Group to address the concerns from within the sector about a lack of engagement from Welsh Government.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Held urgent discussions at Ministerial level with the Youth Work Reference Group.
- Refreshed the remit of the group and begun extending their membership.
- Recognised the key role they play in supporting both the sector and Welsh Government in delivering and implementing policy.
- Tasked them with considering the draft report produced by Margaret Jervis, MBE DL.
- Drawn on their expertise and knowledge to inform the development of the new curriculum for Wales.
- Received positive feedback from the Youth Work Reference Group on this new approach.

We will:

- Continue to use the Youth Work Reference Group strategically, with regular engagement from Welsh Government to inform developing approaches.
- Commission them to begin work in supporting Welsh Government to develop a new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Ensure alignment with the proposed Interim Youth Work Board, both in its development and when operational.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 2:

Some of the response to this Recommendation is also covered in Recommendation 1. However, to reflect on this, although against a wider backdrop of a reducing sector, there are positive signs in relation to strategic developments (as reflected in the WG response above).

The review by Margaret Jervis, although welcome, also provided additional confusion due to the original scope of the report not being clearly defined. The

expectation was that the report would comment on Extending Entitlement, whereas the reality was that it was a commentary on the status of Youth Work in Wales. This confusion though stimulated debate within the Reference Group about its future role and has contributed to the group beginning to refine its purpose and a refocus on Youth Work. The WG has the full support of the PYOG, which continues to work closely with the Youth Work Strategy Branch, as well as providing representation on the YWRG.

One area which has not seen a great improvement however is that of curriculum reform. Whilst Youth Work has a great deal to offer the new approach which Successful Futures recommends, the Youth Work sector remains largely conspicuous by its absence in shaping this.

Although the Youth Work Reference Group has received a presentation from the WG Curriculum Development Team on the Health & Wellbeing Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) and there are a few representatives from the sector on the Education Stakeholder Group, there is no meaningful dialogue or platforms for influencing developments – it is uncertain as to the sense of direction and level of influence which the Stakeholder Group is having and Youth Work is one voice amongst many on this group. The sector continues to seek opportunities to engage at both national level e.g. the PYOG ran a seminar (attended by the WG Director of Education) in September 2017 and local level e.g. via the pioneer schools work but this continues to prove a challenge. Also, the Engaging Children & Young People sub-group has not met for well over a year.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Apart from the YWRG meetings, the sector has for some time seen only sporadic formal engagement from the Youth Work Team (before it the Youth Work Branch) and would welcome more opportunities to discuss mutual opportunities and challenges, which could also include a less formal dialogue, which can contribute to better shared understanding of priorities and drivers.

The PYOG and CWVYS have on a number of occasions in recent times offered the field's support for central government's efforts to promote and develop Youth Work in Wales by engaging with the Team. Whilst recognising that this is a two-way process and that different parts of the sector will discuss matters on which there will not always be consensus (the foundation of a strong democratic process), a more frequent and open dialogue can only promote better relationships and therefore a stronger voice for the sector.

This also involves engaging with all parts of Wales – recent developments and events have seen a particular focus on Cardiff, which is not always an easy option for colleagues from other parts of Wales as it can require a considerable commitment of time and resource, particularly if involving young people. Whilst recognising that Cardiff is the capital city and that some occasions might demand greater impact by being held there, PYOG members from across Wales are keen to develop closer working relationships with members of the WG's Youth Work Team.

Committee Recommendation 3:

There should be a clear and meaningful route for young people to be equal partners in developing youth services in Wales. This should be developed by the Minister, stakeholders and young people.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Ensured young people were engaged with and consulted as part of the 'Review of the Impact of the Youth Work Strategy'.
- Ensured young people were engaged with and consulted as part of Margaret Jarvis' review of Extending Entitlement.
- Commissioned Children in Wales to undertake a focused piece of work with young people to inform Margaret's work.
- Undertaken discussions with the Youth Work Reference Group to explore how young people can inform the development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy for Wales.

We will:

- Involve young people in the co-construction of the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Consider and articulate the role they will play in the design, delivery and monitoring of youth services within the new Strategy.
- Develop an engagement plan, in partnership with young people and stakeholders, to ensure this recommendation continues to be fully met going forward.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 3:

The Youth Service has a long tradition of positive engagement with young people in a relationship which is quite unique, insomuch as the young person does so voluntarily and the power in that relationship lies with the young person, therefore the young person drives both the quality of provision (s/he can walk away should they choose) and shapes it through their participation and influence. There is a constant cycle of monitoring and evaluation and feedback. In contrast, when young people attend school, they do so knowing that (in the main) they must conform to a curriculum (a prescribed course of study) and that opportunities to shape this are more limited. Whilst both approaches are important, they are different.

As such, whilst far from being complacent about its ability to do so, this is a sector which requires no encouragement, training or preparation in working alongside young people to elicit and articulate their needs, desires and wants. It is a sector primed and ready to work with WG and young people in shaping strategies and services to ensure they meet their needs. There are many opportunities and platforms/fora for doing so. Whilst more formal processes of engagement are often useful, the sector (voluntary and statutory Youth Work organisations and young people) should be the main vehicle for this process.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Committee Recommendation 4:

The Minister should introduce a national model for Youth Work, encompassing statutory and voluntary provision. The Minister should report to this Committee on progress within 6 months of the publication of this report.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Commissioned Margaret Jervis to undertake a review of Extending Entitlement, which included giving consideration to a 'national model' encompassing statutory and voluntary provision.
- Commissioned a Review of the Impact of the National Youth Work Strategy which makes recommendations on a way forward.
- Reflected on these findings, which propose potential 'models' for delivery in the future.

We will:

- Immediately begin development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy, including consideration of an appropriate delivery model.
- Appoint an Interim Youth Work Board, whose remit will include supporting the development and implementation of a new strategy, and providing advice on appropriate delivery mechanisms.
- Expand the remit and membership of the Youth Work Reference Group, extending an invitation to strategic, local authority representatives, ensuring the new strategy balances aspirations and ability to deliver in the current context.
- Ensure the views of both statutory and voluntary provision are heard as part of its development.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 4:

Whilst the PYOG is not opposed to a 'national model' in principle, it must be borne in mind (in line with previous comments) that Youth Work is also based on subsidiarity (ownership and decision making by those closest to Youth Work delivery in their local area). This is not in contradiction to young people being Welsh, European and World citizens but that needs will differ (sometimes quite dramatically so) from one area to the next, so therefore provision (to meet these needs) e.g. where there is an older demographic, the types of provision and opening hours will differ from a younger demand. Also, in order to meet demand an inner city provision may need to be different from a rural provision.

A national 'vision' for Youth Work in Wales, with some kind of framework to offer a level of consistency of 'offer' is important but this needs the necessary level of in-built flexibility so that the principle of subsidiarity can be maintained.

As previously mentioned in this response, whilst both the voluntary and statutory sectors are committed to working together, it is important that some kind of mapping exercise (locally and nationally) is carried out, so that any national approach is challenging, yes but also achievable. Equally, a definition of what is

meant by ‘voluntary’ must be clear, especially in light of the confusion that has been caused by the EWC developments about who should and should not register across sectors.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Committee Recommendation 5:

The Minister should report back to the Committee within 6 months of the publication of this report on how he intends to assess the extent to which his commitment to universal, open access provision, in English and Welsh, is being delivered.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Reported back to the Committee and acknowledged that the youth work landscape is changing in the context of a challenging financial climate.
- Accepted the role that ‘Sufficiency Assessments’ could play in assessing the extent to which universal, open access provision, in English and Welsh, is being delivered.
- Begun exploring the role that ‘Sufficiency Assessments’ will play going forward.

We will:

- Incorporate the notion of ‘sufficiency of provision’ and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Restate our commitment to the role youth work can play in supporting young people to use and develop their Welsh language skills.
- Engage with young people in the development of the new strategy to develop a current understanding of their needs in relation to the type of youth services they wish to access, in the language of their choice.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 5:

Whilst not opposed in principle to the development of some kind of sufficiency assessment, it is unclear as to what the ‘driver’ for these might be. The Childcare Sufficiency and Play Sufficiency processes and reports are rooted in legislation, so there is a statutory requirement on local authorities to produce these. In the absence of such a ‘lever’, apart from being in the interest of transparency, it is unclear as to what requirements can be placed on Youth Work organisations to produce sufficiency reports.

This aside, the PYOG commits to playing its part in any moves to develop sufficiency assessments. What the Childcare and Play Sufficiency Assessments have provided in some areas is greater accountability at both local and national levels, thereby raising their status. This might be seen as a positive for Youth Work and by carrying out a sufficiency assessment it can provide a platform on which to develop and design contemporary youth services provision, although it should not be so bureaucratic that it impacts on service delivery.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Committee Recommendation 6:

Within 6 months of the publication of this report, the Minister should commission an exercise to map voluntary Youth Work provision across Wales. The exercise should be refreshed periodically.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Reflected on the mapping of voluntary youth work provision undertaken by CWVYS (2015) in relation to the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, and Cordis Bright (2016).
- Reported back to Committee that a national mapping exercise may not be appropriate given the rapidly changing context on the ground as services change and adapt.
- Stated our commitment to the concept of ‘sufficiency of provision’ and its assessment, in planning, delivering, and monitoring youth services.

We will:

- Incorporate the notion of ‘sufficiency of provision’ and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. To ensure agility in an evolving landscape, any assessment should give consideration to both statutory and voluntary provision at a local, rather than national level.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 6:

In the evidence session attended by the PYOG and CWVYS during the Inquiry, one of the lines of questioning by the Committee was around mapping of provision. Although this process goes on at local level, it is perhaps not as consistent or as comprehensive as it has been in recent times (e.g. in the times of Children & Young Peoples’ Partnerships, when an audit of need and an audit of provision was required as part of the Children & Young People’s Plan).

The PYOG agrees with the assertion that the sector is going through an unprecedented period of rapid change and that, as a result, any mapping may become redundant the moment it is completed/published. However, as things are changing so rapidly, there is currently not an accurate picture across Wales as to the level of provision available e.g. the recent WG Youth Work conference saw young people calling for services to be available for them “in my square mile”. Whilst this may be unrealistic, it is clear that the situation is changing so quickly that, what might be in place one week may be at threat or have disappeared the next. Although the detail of what might be included in sufficiency assessments has yet to be articulated, this may be one way of evidencing levels of provision. In line with previous comments, it can be problematic developing a strategy if the knowledge of ability to deliver on this is not comprehensive. The annual audit of Local Authority Youth Services does provide an overview of what is available to young people delivered by the statutory Youth Services.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:
<p>Committee Recommendation 7:</p> <p>The Minister should ensure that Youth Work Sufficiency Assessments are undertaken by local authorities as part of their population needs assessments and report back to the Committee on progress within 6 months of the publication of this report.</p> <p>Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government</p> <p>Welsh Government Response</p> <p>We have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accepted the potential role of 'Sufficiency Assessments' in the planning, delivery and monitoring of youth service provision. - Set up a working group in November 2017 to ascertain how these might work in Wales, learning from approaches taken forward in the Play sector. - Determined that there is a requirement for an assessment to ensure services being provided within a local authority area are needed, of the required quality, and delivered by the most relevant organisation. - Explored what an assessment might look like and concluded that, in the absence of a new, long term Youth Work Strategy and vision, that takes us beyond 2018, it is not possible to finalise an approach for immediate implementation. <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporate the notion of 'sufficiency of provision' and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. - Co-construct its design in partnership with young people and stakeholders. - Secure agreement across the sector to the use of Sufficiency Assessments in the planning, delivery, and monitoring of youth service provision as part of the new strategy. <p>Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 7:</p> <p>Although the PYOG agrees in principle to the proposal of sufficiency assessments, there are a number of questions around the status and requirements, as well as content of what these may be. Although some members of the PYOG contributed to the discussion in November, 2017, the group would welcome further involvement going forward – if local authorities are to be required to write sufficiency assessments, it would be prudent to ensure that PYOG members are not only familiar with developments but are also contributing to this process. Evidence from Play and Childcare Sufficiency Assessments is that they are time consuming; therefore, there are resource implications to consider, especially in the development of the first tranche of assessments. Welsh Government provided financial support in the development of the initial Play and Childcare Sufficiency Assessments and this would be essential for Youth Sufficiency Assessments to ensure that resources for delivery are not diverted towards mapping or development of assessments.</p> <p>Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:</p> <p>Committee Recommendation 8:</p>

The Minister should develop an accountability framework for local authorities' use of funds for Youth Work via the revenue support grant. The framework should include sanctions if outcomes are not delivered.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Confirmed that the Revenue Support Grant is an un-hypothecated funding stream and can be spent at local authorities' discretion according to their locally identified needs and priorities.
- Confirmed that it is not currently possible to identify how much is spent on youth work, due to the pooling of budgets across services at a local level, nor to prescribe an amount.
- Reviewed our existing grant funding streams to consider how they might better support the desired outcomes of youth work and youth support services.
- Begun implementing changes to grant funding mechanisms, ensuring a greater focus on impact, rather than output.
- Explored an outcomes framework for youth work in the context of the current strategy.

We will:

- Publish the reviews of the Youth Work Grants.
- Continue to learn from them by keeping them under regular review.
- Establish an Interim Youth Work Board to support the development of a new Youth Work Strategy, and advise on approaches for deploying resources appropriately, including any unintended consequences.
- Secure agreement across the sector to the use of 'Sufficiency Assessments' in the planning, delivery, and monitoring of youth service provision as part of a new strategy. This will include consideration of their role in a new accountability framework for youth services across local authority and voluntary provision.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 8:

The PYOG welcomes a clearer focus on impact in relation to grant funding and is keen to work with WG officials in relation to how this will look in practice.

As the Minister recognises, Youth Work funding in local authorities is part of the RSG and, as such, is spent at local level based on and determined by the needs of local populations.

Without yet being aware of any detail, it is apparent throughout the Welsh Government's responses that sufficiency assessments are seen as an important element of future assessment and planning. It is also becoming clearer that a Youth Work Board will have some kind of role and influence on WG grant funded work across Wales. What is unclear though is what (if any) powers this Board will have in relation to this. The funding picture for Youth Work across Wales is a complex one, in that a number of grants accessed by Youth Work organisations in Wales are not issued by WG and there is little consistency in relation to who is drawing down what, from whom and how much. The WG Youth Work audit will provide some

information in this regard but some local authority and voluntary sector (which doesn't currently report on the audit) organisations are funded from sources outside of central government (sometimes as joint beneficiaries).

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Local authority Youth Services, as with all other public sector organisations, continue to go through a very difficult period of funding readjustments linked to austerity. Restructures of services, often resulting in further loss of staff and resources, continue to be commonplace. As local authorities continue to respond as best they can in the context of reducing funding, it is inevitable that all services face very difficult decisions. Regrettably, when this impacts on young people, the impact of this may not be seen fully for some time to come. In the face of these immense challenges, the sector continues to be durable and innovative and remains positive. However, there is always a point of no return and the sector edges closer towards this, at a time when young people need the input of Youth Work more than ever.

Committee Recommendation 9:

The Minister should explore the potential continuation of Erasmus+ funding, should the UK Government decide not to do so.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Confirmed our commitment towards a credible, evidenced based approach towards withdrawal from the EU.

We will:

- Continue to advocate for an approach that places Wales' priorities centre stage, while responding to the UK's priorities as a whole.
- Continue dialogue with UK Government counterparts, addressing the role of Erasmus+ funding in the UK context.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 9:

Wales is currently identified as a priority country for Erasmus+ funding and, whilst funding finding its way to Wales is increasing, there is more to be done on promoting its benefits to the youth sector. There seems to be a pattern whereby organisations who are successful in drawing down Erasmus+ funding do so more than once but others have either not considered it or experience barriers to doing so and do not follow through.

However, where it is being accessed, young people and staff gain a huge amount from it and the PYOG fully supports the Committee's recommendation to explore the potential for continued Erasmus+ funding.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

The WLGA Lifelong Learning Policy Officer (Youth), who acts as a support for the PYOG, has recently been invited to attend the Erasmus+ National (UK) Evaluation Committee. It is hoped that this will lead to a closer relationship between local government and Erasmus+, whereby local authorities can learn more about the opportunities presented.

Committee Recommendation 10:

The Minister should ensure that the statutory and voluntary Youth Work sector play a central role in the process of curriculum reform.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Confirmed statutory and voluntary representation on the Education Reform Strategic Stakeholder Group.
- Engaged the Youth Work Reference Group (with representatives from both statutory and voluntary sectors) with the process of Curriculum Reform.

We will:

- Continue to ensure appropriate mechanisms for ensuring the statutory and voluntary youth work sector play a central role in the process of curriculum reform.
- Consider and articulate the links and alignment between formal education and youth work in the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 10:

Successful Futures has been warmly welcomed by the Youth Service as a forward-looking document proposing to implement a new way of educating children and young people in schools in Wales so that they are equipped to respond to life in a new world and digital age. Through its core is a methodology akin to good Youth Work (Health & Wellbeing, Expressive Arts, Experiential Learning, empowering, rights driven, learners directly influencing decisions on curriculum and pedagogy etc). However, whilst the Youth Service is very keen to work with the formal education sector (schools) both on this and considering the role which Youth Work can play in the delivery of the curriculum, Youth Work continues to be peripheral to discussions. Although the sector has representation on the Stakeholder Group, which meets a few times a year, it is not clear as to what level of influence this group has. Involvement at local level (Pioneer schools) is very limited and non-existent in some areas and there are real concerns that the chance for any proper involvement and influence is quickly passing.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg | Children, Young People and Education Committee

Gwaith Ieuenctid – gwaith dilynol | Youth Work - Follow up

YW(2) 07

Ymateb gan: Plant yng Nghymru

Response from: Children in Wales

Children in Wales's response primarily supports that which has been submitted by CWYVS and we therefore credit **CWYVS by colouring the areas in their response which we agree with in blue** and by adding any additional comments from Children in Wales in black.

Committee Recommendation 1:

The Minister should review the National Strategy and refresh the statutory guidance in consultation with stakeholders and young people. A detailed action plan for implementation, including timescales, must be developed alongside a new strategy.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Commissioned Wrexham Glyndwr University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, and Susanne Rauprich OBE, to review the impact of the National Youth Work Strategy. A final report has been received and is being prepared for publication. This work was informed by stakeholders and young people.
- Commissioned Margaret Jervis, MBE DL, to review Extending Entitlement. A final report has been submitted and is being prepared for publication. This work was informed by stakeholders and young people.
- Commissioned the Youth Work Reference Group (YWRG), who represent the youth work sector, providing advice to Welsh Government, to review Margaret's recommendations and propose a way forward.

We will:

- Immediately begin development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy.
- Ensure a long term vision is built into the strategy, with detailed annual planning, self-evaluation, and review.
- Co-construct the strategy with young people and stakeholders at all levels in the system.
- Publish Margaret's Review, the 'Review of the Impact of the Youth Work Strategy', and associated reviews of grant funding Embed lessons learned, including from the Committee's Inquiry, alongside wider evidence in Wales, the UK and beyond.
- Firmly ground our approaches in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Wellbeing for Future Generations Act. – Re-establish a Youth Work Offer/Charter at the centre of the new strategy.
- Include consideration of 'sufficiency of provision', and the role of other bodies such as service providers, regulators, local authorities, and Welsh Government in ensuring rigorous accountability.
- Develop our approaches in the context and ethos of Extending Entitlement, with a view toward considering the status of existing statutory guidance, once the strategic approach for securing youth work has been developed in partnership with stakeholders.

- Establish an Interim Youth Work Board to support the development of the strategy, evaluate approaches for deploying resources, represent the voice of the sector, and provide advice to Welsh Government.
- Publish a timeline setting out how/when this will be delivered.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 1:

We note that the WG officials have set out a fairly detailed work plan, which includes timescales, towards the development of a new National Youth Work Strategy for Wales. We welcome that attempt at clarifying the steps which need to be taken as well as the inclusion of the youth work sector in those developments and delivery points.

The review of the National Strategy was well-received and its acknowledgement of the roles played by the voluntary youth work sector is welcomed.

We would take issue with the notion of a Strategy being ‘aspirational’ and might argue that previous versions of policy and strategic documents have too frequently fallen victim to such language and subsequent activity. If a new Strategy is to achieve better outcomes for young people and support of those who seek to provide those better outcomes, then it needs to be meaningful, based upon implementation and therefore accountable.

Discussions at the Youth Work Reference Group (which is co-Chaired by Keith Towler (Chair of CWVYS) and also attended by Paul Glaze) have resulted in a view that a 10-year Strategy is not only a positive ambition but a necessity if it is to meet the needs of young people and the sector. We should like this 10-year term to be clarified as the ‘long-term vision’.

We strongly believe that any ‘Youth Work Charter’ written into the new Strategy should not merely be an assumption of the ‘Wales Charter for Youth Work’: a document that is now out of date but one which was also never presented to young people as an ‘offer’. We would suggest that the Minister might like to present an opportunity for young people to directly help shape a ‘Charter’.

The WG says it will ‘include consideration of ‘sufficiency of provision’...’ but omits the voluntary youth work sector from the list of ‘other bodies’. CWVYS requests that this omission be rectified as a matter of course. The importance of ensuring the sustainability of the independent youth sector is critical particularly as it supports many children and young people who are disadvantaged or marginalised.

We also welcome Margaret Jervis’s review of ‘Extending Entitlement’ and support its findings and recommendations. This review reflects the principles of the UNCRC upon which we believe all policies affecting children and young people should be based and are in line with the ‘Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2011’

CWVYS supports the forming of an Interim Youth Work Board and recognises that the impending appointment of a Chair and its members will be of critical importance in support of the development of a new Strategy but also in support of youth work more generally.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Quality Mark for Youth Work in Wales

- Has been re-commissioned by the Welsh Government for 2018/19 via Atkins Associates.

- Given that undertaking the QM is not a compulsory activity and that other QMs with wider reach and more widely known beyond Wales i.e. Investors in People; PQASSO are available, some CWVYS member organisations have questioned the need to spend another significant sum on the delivery of the QM.

Some Children in Wales member organisations may have a wide range of activities and not exclusively youth work. For this reason we would prefer that any quality mark avoids duplication as this is a wasteful resource. Third Sector organisations are encouraged to use PQASSO

Youth Information services

- The Youth Work Reference Group has recently discussed youth information services within the context of a future National Youth Work Strategy. This is a positive move and serves to show just how critically important that information services for young people are in the development of the Strategy but also how integral they are to the delivery of good, positive youth work and to the engagement of young people.

Children in Wales' Young Wales programme engages across Wales with young people through Youth Forums and other organisations as a conduit for information sharing. It would be important to take a holistic and young person centred approach.

Workforce Development

- It is acknowledged that this topic covers a wide area but there is little being discussed about the need to invest in an appropriate, timely and future-proofed workforce development plan for the youth work sector. Without that investment, planning and long-term support on behalf of the workforce (paid and unpaid), any future Strategy will not achieve its ambitions.

- An example from Scotland: The Scottish Government entrusts YouthLink Scotland (representative body for both the voluntary and maintained sectors) with £500k per annum with which to directly address sector-led workforce development needs.

Committee Recommendation 2:

The Minister should hold urgent discussions with the Ministerial Youth Work Reference Group to address the concerns from within the sector about a lack of engagement from Welsh Government.

Accepted by the Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Held urgent discussions at Ministerial level with the Youth Work Reference Group.
- Refreshed the remit of the group and begun extending their membership.
- Recognised the key role they play in supporting both the sector and Welsh Government in delivering and implementing policy.
- Tasked them with considering the draft report produced by Margaret Jervis, MBE DL.
- Drawn on their expertise and knowledge to inform the development of the new curriculum for Wales.

– Received positive feedback from the Youth Work Reference Group on this new approach.

We will:

- Continue to use the Youth Work Reference Group strategically, with regular engagement from Welsh Government to inform developing approaches.
- Commission them to begin work in supporting Welsh Government to develop a new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Ensure alignment with the proposed Interim Youth Work Board, both in its development and when operational.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 2:

Other than a brief appearance by the former Minister, the YWRG has not had ‘urgent discussions’ at that level. As members of the YWRG, CWVYS would welcome the opportunity to take part in dialogue with the Minister within that forum and as part of the agenda that she set at the 2018 National Youth Work Conference.

We would ask for clarity as to whether the Minister’s vision includes a role for the YWRG beyond the date of the establishment of the Interim Youth Work Board. Should those plans include the work of the YWRG being absorbed by the Interim Youth Work Board (as a sub-group with a specific remit perhaps?), it would be helpful to be made aware of any relevant, proposed timescales.

Children in Wales would also like to see an arrangement whereby the work of the Youth Work Board is connected to work for young people in other WG Departments to avoid Silos of policy making

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Committee Recommendation 3:

There should be a clear and meaningful route for young people to be equal partners in developing youth services in Wales. This should be developed by the Minister, stakeholders and young people.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Ensured young people were engaged with and consulted as part of the ‘Review of the Impact of the Youth Work Strategy’.
- Ensured young people were engaged with and consulted as part of Margaret Jervis’ review of Extending Entitlement.
- Commissioned Children in Wales to undertake a focused piece of work with young people to inform Margaret’s work.
- Undertaken discussions with the Youth Work Reference Group to explore how young people can inform the development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy for Wales.

We will:

- Involve young people in the co-construction of the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Consider and articulate the role they will play in the design, delivery and monitoring of youth services within the new Strategy.
- Develop an engagement plan, in partnership with young people and stakeholders, to ensure this recommendation continues to be fully met going forward.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 3:

In order for 'clear and meaningful' routes to be established for young people as equal partners in the development of youth services, we would suggest that a better response might be one of co-ownership as well as co-construction. A commitment to a rights-based approach for young people and engagement based on a clear set of entitlements is crucial to the success of a genuinely participative model of working.

Attempts at engaging young people via the Youth Work Reference Group in previous years were not successful. However, we sense that officials are willing to consider how best to implement improved ways of working; the sector is well-placed to offer suggestions and solutions.

Such a commitment should be aligned to the UNCRC in relation to the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011.

We would also make a plea to recognise the needs of 18-25 year olds in the agreed participative approach; an age group that can sometimes be under-represented in terms of invitations to engage.

As highlighted in our reply to recommendation no.1, once agreed, we see great value in the Minister taking an opportunity (or opportunities) to present the 'Youth Work Offer' jointly with, and directly to, young people whilst also announcing how and when the youth work sector will play its part in supporting and delivering the 'Offer'.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

As we are seeing with the development of the Welsh Youth Parliament and other long-established youth work-based models of participation, there is significant interest being shown by young people in democratic engagement projects. It would be another positive step, therefore, to complement the general tone of participation by ensuring a genuine, 'meaningful' approach to the development of youth services.

Committee Recommendation 4:

The Minister should introduce a national model for Youth Work, encompassing statutory and voluntary provision. The Minister should report to this Committee on progress within 6 months of the publication of this report.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Commissioned Margaret Jervis to undertake a review of Extending Entitlement, which included giving consideration to a 'national model' encompassing statutory and voluntary provision.
- Commissioned a Review of the Impact of the National Youth Work Strategy which makes recommendations on a way forward.
- Reflected on these findings, which propose potential 'models' for delivery in the future.

We will:

- Immediately begin development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy, including consideration of an appropriate delivery model.

- Appoint an Interim Youth Work Board, whose remit will include supporting the development and implementation of a new strategy, and providing advice on appropriate delivery mechanisms.
- Expand the remit and membership of the Youth Work Reference Group, extending an invitation to strategic, local authority representatives, ensuring the new strategy balances aspirations and ability to deliver in the current context.
- Ensure the views of both statutory and voluntary provision are heard as part of its development.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 4:

The WG response is more focused on the Interim Youth Work Board rather than the recommendation itself, which proposes a national model for youth work. This is disappointing, as the need for a national approach to the delivery of youth services is as relevant, if not more so, than when the Inquiry first considered the merits of such an approach. There has not been a great deal of discussion around this issue.

For those reasons, CWVYS makes no apology for re-iterating its commitment to and belief in the opportunity to create a National Youth Service which provides for a more efficient and cost-effective range of modern services - developed for and with young people. Such a National model could 'commission nationally, manage regionally and deliver locally', overseen by a National Youth Service Council for Wales.

This has been our consistent view since the publication of the CWVYS paper '*The Future of Youth Services in Wales*' in 2012 and the subsequent joint position paper authored by CWVYS and the Wales Principal Youth Officers' Group, as presented to the Youth Work Reference Group in December 2014. These papers resulted in the WG-commissioned '*Feasibility Study*' on a national model by RezolvPS Ltd, most recently considered by the Youth Work Reference Group in September 2015.

We would suggest that the new Interim Youth Work Board consider the model adopted in Scotland, where both the voluntary and maintained sectors are represented by YouthLink Scotland. A similar model for Wales is achievable and can be made 'Wales-distinct' by reflecting the needs of young people and the overall sector e.g. parity whilst providing as single point of communication for officials and partners in other sectors and being accountable for the delivery of youth work in Wales.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Committee Recommendation 5:

The Minister should report back to the Committee within 6 months of the publication of this report on how he intends to assess the extent to which his commitment to universal, open access provision, in English and Welsh, is being delivered.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Reported back to the Committee and acknowledged that the youth work landscape is changing in the context of a challenging financial climate.
- Accepted the role that 'Sufficiency Assessments' could play in assessing the extent to which universal, open access provision, in English and Welsh, is being delivered.

- Begun exploring the role that ‘Sufficiency Assessments’ will play going forward.

We will:

- Incorporate the notion of ‘sufficiency of provision’ and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Restate our commitment to the role youth work can play in supporting young people to use and develop their Welsh language skills.
- Engage with young people in the development of the new strategy to develop a current understanding of their needs in relation to the type of youth services they wish to access, in the language of their choice.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 5:

The bedrock of youth work in Wales is its ability to provide a universal, open access offer for all young people: a voluntary relationship that provides the foundation for the delivery of targeted services, information and support.

Of course, it is recognised that youth work and its ability to deliver according to the needs of young people are ever-evolving but was ever thus; it is not fair to use a difficult ‘financial climate’ to justify the moves that have been made to push youth work provision into more targeted areas, thereby creating an imbalance in (not) meeting the needs of all young people, confusion amongst youth workers and a weakening of the position and sheer importance of open access provision.

Balance of provision is key. CWVYS represents many organisations which deliver both open access and targeted provision under one roof. We have alluded to this in previous consultations but those youth work providers do not have ‘separate doors’ for ‘different types of young people’ but rather work in environments which allow them to be nimble, adaptable and resourceful when working with young people: whether that be on specific activities relating to health-related issues, for example; or on supporting young people with access to learning or employment opportunities.

However, without the initial ‘open door’ policy and the essential requirement to provide services on a voluntary engagement principle, then youth work becomes something else - something that is not youth work. And if the basis of the proposed new National Strategy and the Interim Board is ‘Youth Work’ then the balance clearly has to be addressed and the sector has to be fully resourced and equipped to deliver accordingly.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Committee Recommendation 6:

Within 6 months of the publication of this report, the Minister should commission an exercise to map voluntary Youth Work provision across Wales. The exercise should be refreshed periodically.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Reflected on the mapping of voluntary youth work provision undertaken by CWVYS (2015) in relation to the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, and Cordis Bright (2016).
- Reported back to Committee that a national mapping exercise may not be appropriate given the rapidly changing context on the ground as services change and adapt.

– Stated our commitment to the concept of ‘sufficiency of provision’ and its assessment, in planning, delivering, and monitoring youth services.

We will:

– Incorporate the notion of ‘sufficiency of provision’ and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. To ensure agility in an evolving landscape, any assessment should give consideration to both statutory and voluntary provision at a local, rather than national level.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 6:

We would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on work which mapped the voluntary youth work sector. The reports highlighted in the WG response refer to exercises based on the needs of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework; this not being a mapping of youth work, but rather a specific programme of targeted intervention, means that the sector has yet to provide a true reflection of all youth services being delivered within the voluntary sector. This is much-needed and would enhanced collaboration between not just voluntary and maintained youth work sectors but with other sectors and public bodies.

There is a concern that there is too much of an emphasis on ‘sufficiency’ here: unless and until the map of delivery is established, how might the notion of ‘sufficiency’ be adequately addressed?

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Committee Recommendation 7:

The Minister should ensure that Youth Work Sufficiency Assessments are undertaken by local authorities as part of their population needs assessments and report back to the Committee on progress within 6 months of the publication of this report.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Accepted the potential role of ‘Sufficiency Assessments’ in the planning, delivery and monitoring of youth service provision.
- Set up a working group in November 2017 to ascertain how these might work in Wales, learning from approaches taken forward in the Play sector.
- Determined that there is a requirement for an assessment to ensure services being provided within a local authority area are needed, of the required quality, and delivered by the most relevant organisation.
- Explored what an assessment might look like and concluded that, in the absence of a new, long term Youth Work Strategy and vision, that takes us beyond 2018, it is not possible to finalise an approach for immediate implementation.

We will:

- Incorporate the notion of ‘sufficiency of provision’ and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Co-construct its design in partnership with young people and stakeholders.

– Secure agreement across the sector to the use of Sufficiency Assessments in the planning, delivery, and monitoring of youth service provision as part of the new strategy.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 7:

We would agree that there is a need for a new National Youth Work Strategy to be in place before any potential implementation of ‘sufficient’ provision and also that more needs to be done in relation to what constitutes ‘sufficiency’, how it might be assessed and ‘co-constructed’ (and beyond that, how it is ‘co-managed, co-delivered and co-evaluated).

The YWRG has started to consider ‘sufficiency’ post-publication of a report by an external consultant. We understand that the deployment of resources is an important consideration during a period when services for young people are changing but also when youth work can play to its considerable strengths. We hope that the new Interim Youth Work Board will consider the ramifications of what is ‘sufficient’ but also how accountable (and to whom) any proposed ‘framework’ might be or look like, within a business-case approach.

Are there lessons to be learned from the implementation of ‘sufficiency’ in the play work sector?

In addition, is there an argument that raises the possibility of looking at the interface between play work and youth work and an alignment of what ‘sufficiency’ means across both sectors?

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Committee Recommendation 8:

The Minister should develop an accountability framework for local authorities’ use of funds for Youth Work via the revenue support grant. The framework should include sanctions if outcomes are not delivered.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Confirmed that the Revenue Support Grant is an un-hypothecated funding stream and can be spent at local authorities’ discretion according to their locally identified needs and priorities.
- Confirmed that it is not currently possible to identify how much is spent on youth work, due to the pooling of budgets across services at a local level, nor to prescribe an amount.
- Reviewed our existing grant funding streams to consider how they might better support the desired outcomes of youth work and youth support services.
- Begun implementing changes to grant funding mechanisms, ensuring a greater focus on impact, rather than output.
- Explored an outcomes framework for youth work in the context of the current strategy.

We will:

- Publish the reviews of the Youth Work Grants.
- Continue to learn from them by keeping them under regular review.
- Establish an Interim Youth Work Board to support the development of a new Youth Work Strategy, and advise on approaches for deploying resources appropriately, including any unintended consequences.

– Secure agreement across the sector to the use of ‘Sufficiency Assessments’ in the planning, delivery, and monitoring of youth service provision as part of a new strategy. This will include consideration of their role in a new accountability framework for youth services across local authority and voluntary provision

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 8:

Why is it not possible to ‘identify how much is spent on youth work, due to the pooling of budgets across services at a local level’? We might seek to ask questions here about accountability and the auditing of such resources.

In addition, if there is no clarity on the ‘starting position’ i.e. just how much resource is being made available and how much is being spent on youth services, then how can a position be taken as to what constitutes a ‘sufficient’ response to that situation?

The non-hypothecation of allocated funding under the Revenue Support Grant continues to only support variations in spend across local authority areas. Again, we would ask, as we did during the Inquiry: how feasible is an equitable ‘Youth Work Offer’ for young people living in all areas of Wales if and when available resource is utilised in such a non-uniform manner.

The YWRG has started to consider ‘sufficiency’ post-publication of a report by an external consultant. We understand that the deployment of resources is an important consideration during a period when services for young people are changing but also when youth work can play to its considerable strengths. We hope that the new Interim Youth Work Board will consider the ramifications of what is ‘sufficient’ but also how accountable (and to whom) any proposed ‘framework’ might be or look like, within a business-case approach.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Committee Recommendation 9:

The Minister should explore the potential continuation of Erasmus+ funding, should the UK Government decide not to do so.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

– Confirmed our commitment towards a credible, evidenced based approach towards withdrawal from the EU.

We will:

– Continue to advocate for an approach that places Wales’ priorities centre stage, while responding to the UK’s priorities as a whole.

– Continue dialogue with UK Government counterparts, addressing the role of Erasmus+ funding in the UK context.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 9:

European funding and access to European programmes for training and co-operation has enhanced Wales’ reputation as an outward-looking welcoming and positive nation, with young people very much at the heart of that approach. Those programmes assist in the delivery of hugely significant youth work projects, international volunteering exchanges and learning opportunities for young people and youth workers from within Wales and across other European nations.

Until 2020, the Erasmus+ budget of 14.7 billion Euro will be utilised for the development of knowledge and skills. Two-thirds of that amount is to be used to provide support for more than 4 million people to study, train, gain work experience or volunteer. 1 billion Euro has been allocated to the UK between 2014-2020. Wales-based projects are expected to be in receipt of 6-7 million Euro during that time.

The limited response from the WG is indicative of an approach that has not maximised the opportunities afforded by Erasmus+ and other European opportunities. CWVYS has established very good links with the National (UK) Agencies – British Council and Ecorys UK – on behalf of the voluntary youth work sector and we are still the sole partner in Wales of Eurodesk UK – an important resource-and-information-rich source for the development of Europe-wide support, funding, engagement and learning opportunities. A number of our member organisations and young people (and CWVYS) have benefited directly and indirectly from that introduction to European programmes via CWVYS. An example here would be the European Voluntary Service (EVS) model and its soon-to-come successor scheme the European Solidarity Corps.

CWVYS (and before us, ProMo Cymru) held the Wales membership for the European Youth Information and Counselling Agency (ERYICA), which has now reverted back to the WG. It was a very positive step by officials to invite ERYICA to deliver a workshop session at the recent National Youth Work Conference and to also discuss future links as a result of that appearance. We sincerely hope that this membership link can be exploited to its fullest potential on behalf of and with the youth work sector in Wales.

It was also good to see that Ecorys UK were invited to, and did, deliver a workshop session on Erasmus+ funding opportunities at the National Conference. Such links are vitally important if Wales is to obtain its share of resource in, and enjoy positive participation of, Erasmus+.

Children in Wales is also active in the EU as a founder member of Eurochild in which it is still involved as both a member and on the Management Board. This will continue post Brexit. Children in Wales has also been commissioned by WG to consult with children and young people so they can express their views to WG about Brexit. There are many areas where Children in Wales and CWVYS can work together to ensure that children and young people in Wales do not lose out in the future, but also that new opportunities can be explored.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report: CWVYS has been active in supporting work on Brexit and the impact on young people in Wales and the UK: this has manifested itself in work completed via Demos, MyLifeMySay, the #KeepErasmusPlus campaign and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Brexit, amongst several other forums.

Committee Recommendation 10:

The Minister should ensure that the statutory and voluntary Youth Work sector play a central role in the process of curriculum reform.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

– Confirmed statutory and voluntary representation on the Education Reform Strategic Stakeholder Group.

- Engaged the Youth Work Reference Group (with representatives from both statutory and voluntary sectors) with the process of Curriculum Reform.

We will:

- Continue to ensure appropriate mechanisms for ensuring the statutory and voluntary youth work sector play a central role in the process of curriculum reform.
- Consider and articulate the links and alignment between formal education and youth work in the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 10:

CWVYS is a member of the Strategic Stakeholder Group. Whilst this provides an opportunity to highlight the benefits of informal and non-formal education within curriculum reform developments, the main focus remains the development of the formal education sector's approach and responses to the curriculum within schools. The challenge, therefore, continues to be that of supporting a co-ordinated, consistent and collaborative effort to ensure that youth work is represented at that strategic level. It is to be hoped that there will be opportunities to strengthen the case for youth work and its benefits within the new curriculum as a result of the forming of the Interim Youth Work Board and also the presumed, outward-facing consultation exercises ahead of the development of the new National Youth Work Strategy. The opportunity to invite formal educators to those discussions needs to be seized upon in order to again 'present the case' for youth work in both strategic and operational fora.

Children in Wales is also a member of the Group and has been concerned that children and young people's views have not really been taken on board at a national level despite the huge opportunities this reform programme offers.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

In its capacity as a member of the Third Sector Partnership Council (chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Bodies) and the Third Sector/Education Group (chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and attended by the Minister for the Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning), CWVYS also has the opportunity to highlight the benefits of, and alignments with, youth work and formal education.

A sub-group of the Third Sector/Education Group carries out liaison work between the Education Workforce Council and the wider third sector; CWVYS attends the sub-group for the voluntary youth work sector.

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru | National Assembly for Wales

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg | Children, Young People and Education Committee

Gwaith Ieuenctid – gwaith dilynol | Youth Work – Follow up

YW(2) 08

Ymateb gan: Youth Cymru

Response from: Youth Cymru

Committee Recommendation 1:

The Minister should review the National Strategy and refresh the statutory guidance in consultation with stakeholders and young people. A detailed action plan for implementation, including timescales, must be developed alongside a new strategy.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Commissioned Wrexham Glyndwr University, Cardiff Metropolitan University, and Susanne Rauprich OBE, to review the impact of the National Youth Work Strategy. A final report has been received and is being prepared for publication. This work was informed by stakeholders and young people.
- Commissioned Margaret Jervis, MBE DL, to review Extending Entitlement. A final report has been submitted and is being prepared for publication. This work was informed by stakeholders and young people.
- Commissioned the Youth Work Reference Group (YWRG), who represent the youth work sector, providing advice to Welsh Government, to review Margaret's recommendations and propose a way forward.

We will:

- Immediately begin development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy.
- Ensure a long-term vision is built into the strategy, with detailed annual planning, self-evaluation, and review.
- Co-construct the strategy with young people and stakeholders at all levels in the system.
- Publish Margaret's Review, the 'Review of the Impact of the Youth Work Strategy', and associated reviews of grant funding Embed lessons learned, including from the Committee's Inquiry, alongside wider evidence in Wales, the UK and beyond.
- Firmly ground our approaches in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Wellbeing for Future Generations Act.
- Re-establish a Youth Work Offer/Charter at the centre of the new strategy.
- Include consideration of 'sufficiency of provision', and the role of other bodies such as service providers, regulators, local authorities, and Welsh Government in ensuring rigorous accountability.
- Develop our approaches in the context and ethos of Extending Entitlement,

with a view toward considering the status of existing statutory guidance, once the strategic approach for securing youth work has been developed in partnership with stakeholders.

- Establish an Interim Youth Work Board to support the development of the strategy, evaluate approaches for deploying resources, represent the voice of the sector, and provide advice to Welsh Government.
- Publish a timeline setting out how/when this will be delivered.
- Include consideration of 'sufficiency of provision', and the role of other bodies such as service providers, regulators, local authorities, and Welsh Government in ensuring rigorous accountability.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 1:

Youth Cymru is a member of the European Confederation of Youth Clubs. At a recent ECYC General Assembly meeting in Brussels discussion with European partners highlighted the extent to which Wales is leading the way in providing strategic guidance for youth work. Our European colleagues place many of the structures, practices and principles already existing in Wales on their "wish lists" – essentially Wales should pride itself on being an island of excellent youth work practice. We support the valuable contributions provided by the research, reports and recommendations carried out to date and recognise that much has been done to provided valuable insight into the effectiveness of these strategies and policies – we are keen to see Youth Work in Wales further strengthened and developed.

We welcome the development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy. We believe the Strategy should be aligned with the 'Youth Work in Wales: Principles and Purposes' and include a clear articulation of the role, principles and practices of youth work. Historical and ongoing confusion regarding the practice of youth work could be unpicked and made transparent by this new strategy, in this way create more insight and clarity into how services are developed and delivered. We are aware that there is the potential for a lack of clarity around the role of youth work, and for terms such as 'youth service', 'youth services' and 'youth work' to be used interchangeably and this confusion lead to ongoing challenges and confusion.

We strongly believe that the Strategy should be constructed in partnership with young people (reflecting the diversity of ages, locations, demographics and experiences) and with the youth work sector, ensuring the engagement of youth workers and volunteers working at all levels – not limited to those who have achieved 'qualified' and 'registered' status.

We welcome the recommendation in 'Our Future: A Review of Extending Entitlement' that the Strategy sets out a long-term vision for youth work in Wales. We believe that the Strategy should include strategic guidance, while recognising there cannot be a 'one size fits all' approach to youth work, and that the Strategy to be effective should recognise and support the need for innovation, creativity and a dynamic response to the needs of young people.

Our support of a new aspirational longer-term Youth Work Strategy is based on our understanding that it would provide more consistency and continuity for the sector. We would extend this proposal for a longer-term approach to strategic guidance to include the provision of longer term grant funding. We stress the importance of ensuring the strategy provides more long-term direction and that funding firmly

underpins this. Ensuring resources are available to support the sector is essential in assuring the sectors ability to make positive practice responses to strategic aims. Short term planning fundamentally undermines the ethos that underpins a youth work approach preventing the establishment of the long-term relationships needed to maintain the preventative, protective role youth work can play in supporting young people.

We agree that the Strategy should include annual planning, self-evaluation and review and that the Strategy should be clearly aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Well-being of Future Generations Act. We see the value in building a long-term vision into the strategy, however would seek assurance that this process of monitoring and evaluation does not lead to onerous required reporting mechanisms for a sector that is already stretch to breaking point – drawing important time and resources away from where they are most needed – on the ground, faced to face with young people.

In principle we support the re-establishment a Youth Work Offer/Charter at the centre of the new strategy, it would provide young people accessing those services with clarity on the quality of the provision, whilst also enabling an organisation a succinct bench mark to measure their practice against. Our concerns centre again around the extent to which this Offer/Charter could become onerous and tokenistic, which we see as a real danger unless youth workers are fully aware of the value to their services and “buy” into the benefits it could bring. Given that youth work provision across Wales is diverse and different, striking a balance between recognising the diversity of youth work practice in Wales, whilst also recognising the underlying principles of good youth work practice would need careful consideration when creating the Charter. Links and integration into to the existing Quality Mark should be a priority to avoid duplication and to create seamless quality assurance structures. With respect to the Quality Mark, it has provided vital structure and support ensuring the ongoing development of quality youth services in Wales. This mark shouldn’t remain static and stagnant and requires regular development to ensure it remains proactive in supporting quality youth service provision. For example, the development and integration of young people into the assessment process.

We would support the consideration of a sufficiency provision and a joined up integrated approach to accountability. We advocate other sectoral examples are examined and evaluated to provide insight into value of a “sufficiency provision” particularly with regards to how this will assure quality of services and provision. We wish to highlight the importance of a sufficiency provision being adequately resources and integrated to other relevant strategies, policies and procedures. It is vital that this sufficiency process is developed and implemented in a way that ensures evolving structures, needs and gaps in provision that can over time continue to meet ever changing contextual need. To assure meaningful provision it is vital that we embed ongoing consultation with young people, youth workers and practitioners working on the ground to ensure that services being provided are meeting dynamic and consistently changing needs.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Committee Recommendation 2:

The Minister should hold urgent discussions with the Ministerial Youth Work Reference Group to address the concerns from within the sector about a lack of engagement from Welsh Government.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Held urgent discussions at Ministerial level with the Youth Work Reference Group.
- Refreshed the remit of the group and begun extending their membership.
- Recognised the key role they play in supporting both the sector and Welsh Government in delivering and implementing policy.
- Tasked them with considering the draft report produced by Margaret Jervis, MBE DL.
- Drawn on their expertise and knowledge to inform the development of the new curriculum for Wales.
- Received positive feedback from the Youth Work Reference Group on this new approach.

We will:

- Continue to use the Youth Work Reference Group strategically, with regular engagement from Welsh Government to inform developing approaches.
- Commission them to begin work in supporting Welsh Government to develop a new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Ensure alignment with the proposed Interim Youth Work Board, both in its development and when operational.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 2:

We value the work of the Youth Work Reference Group and would advocate they remain central to the process of developing and informing approaches, however we would stress the importance of ensuring they are fully representing the perspective of the youth sector. Lack of clarity and communication across the sector regarding their membership, aims and purpose would seem to undermine their effectiveness and inhibit their potential to give meaningful direction and representation to youth work in Wales.

With regards to ensuring alignment with the proposed Interim Youth Work Board, both in its development and future operations primarily we would advocate that more work is undertaken to provide clarity and transparency regarding its role, membership and proposed processes and mechanisms for consultation, value and relationship with the sector. We argue that it is vital that this board as well as providing continuity of engagement is refreshed by new as yet unheard representation including placing an emphasis on hearing the voices of young people.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Committee Recommendation 3:

There should be a clear and meaningful route for young people to be equal partners in developing youth services in Wales. This should be developed by the Minister, stakeholders and young people.

Accepted by Welsh Government**Welsh Government Response****We have:**

- Ensured young people were engaged with and consulted as part of the 'Review of the Impact of the Youth Work Strategy'.
- Ensured young people were engaged with and consulted as part of Margaret Jervis' review of Extending Entitlement.
- Commissioned Children in Wales to undertake a focused piece of work with young people to inform Margaret's work.
- Undertaken discussions with the Youth Work Reference Group to explore how young people can inform the development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy for Wales.

We will:

- Involve young people in the co-construction of the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Consider and articulate the role they will play in the design, delivery and monitoring of youth services within the new Strategy.
- Develop an engagement plan, in partnership with young people and stakeholders, to ensure this recommendation continues to be fully met going forward.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 3:

It is vital that young people have a clear and meaningful route to be equal partners in developing youth services in Wales and that consultation and engagement processes are genuine and not merely tokenistic.

This is aligned with young people's rights under Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, under the Children's Rights Measure 2011.

It is important that young people with a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences are actively supported to be equal partners in the development of youth services, including those with experience of youth justice, those not currently in education, employment or training, young carers, BAME young people, LGBT+ young people and those with disabilities.

Young people regularly tell us of their frustration of feeling they are not listened to and 'youth participation' being limited to a small, already engaged group of young people. There needs to be a consistent and embedded approach to youth participation and engagement across Welsh Government youth work policy and strategy, including the development of the new Strategy, the Youth Work Reference Group and the delivery and assessment process for the Youth Work Quality Mark.

Recognising young people as equal partners who are engaged on an ongoing basis in the design, delivery and monitoring of youth services is vital. We know there are many examples where young people are only involved in initial consultation and are not part

of, or even informed, of the progression and delivery of a new initiative. This can lead to 'consultation fatigue', disillusionment, a lack of trust and potential future disengagement.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Committee Recommendation 4:

The Minister should introduce a national model for Youth Work, encompassing statutory and voluntary provision. The Minister should report to this Committee on progress within 6 months of the publication of this report.

Accepted by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Commissioned Margaret Jervis to undertake a review of Extending Entitlement, which included giving consideration to a 'national model' encompassing statutory and voluntary provision.
- Commissioned a Review of the Impact of the National Youth Work Strategy which makes recommendations on a way forward.
- Reflected on these findings, which propose potential 'models' for delivery in the future.

We will:

- Immediately begin development of a new, aspirational Youth Work Strategy, including consideration of an appropriate delivery model.
- Appoint an Interim Youth Work Board, whose remit will include supporting the development and implementation of a new strategy, and providing advice on appropriate delivery mechanisms.
- Expand the remit and membership of the Youth Work Reference Group, extending an invitation to strategic, local authority representatives, ensuring the new strategy balances aspirations and ability to deliver in the current context.
- Ensure the views of both statutory and voluntary provision are heard as part of its development.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 4:

Youth Cymru strongly welcomes the assertion that a new aspirational Youth Work Strategy is implemented and developed. We in principle support and acknowledge that there could be value in including an appropriate delivery model.

However, we have concerns that such a model runs the risk of being overly proscriptive and potentially restrictive and detrimental to creativity and innovation. The statutory and voluntary youth sector is a diverse and its strength and effectiveness relies in the ability of different sectorial organisations to adapt and respond to changing needs. An appropriate delivery model would need to balance the varying needs of sector organisations with the need to apply overarching quality assuring youth work standards, principles and processes.

An interim youth work board is welcomed and it is hoped that this will ensure efficient and effective development and implementation that is reflective of the voices and

needs of the different and diverse sectorial practitioner and organisations. More clarity regarding the role of this group and who it can be accessed would be welcomed by the sector.

We welcome the expansion of the membership of the Youth Work References Group – see our previous comments in Recommendations 2. Further inclusion of the voluntary sector and statutory sector would be welcomed, we would also advocate that young people’s perspective and voice is strengthened as well as enabling the grassroot youth facing practitioner’s engagement and involvement.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Committee Recommendation 5:

The Minister should report back to the Committee within 6 months of the publication of this report on how he intends to assess the extent to which his commitment to universal, open access provision, in English and Welsh, is being delivered.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Reported back to the Committee and acknowledged that the youth work landscape is changing in the context of a challenging financial climate.
- Accepted the role that ‘Sufficiency Assessments’ could play in assessing the extent to which universal, open access provision, in English and Welsh, is being delivered.
- Begun exploring the role that ‘Sufficiency Assessments’ will play going forward.

We will:

- Incorporate the notion of ‘sufficiency of provision’ and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Restate our commitment to the role youth work can play in supporting young people to use and develop their Welsh language skills.
- Engage with young people in the development of the new strategy to develop a current understanding of their needs in relation to the type of youth services they wish to access, in the language of their choice.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 5:

We would support the consideration of a sufficiency provision and a possible assessment process. We advocate other sectoral examples are examined and evaluated to provide insight into value of a “sufficiency provision” particularly with regards to how this will assure quality of services and provision. As stated in Recommendation 1 we would wish to highlight the importance of a sufficiency provision being adequately resources and integrated to other relevant strategies, policies and procedures. It is vital that this sufficiency process is developed and implemented in a way that ensures evolving structure, needs and gaps in provision that can meeting ever changing contextual need. To assure meaningful provision it is vital that we embed ongoing consultation with young people, youth workers and practitioners working on the ground to ensure that services being provided are

meeting dynamic and consistently meeting changing needs. Finally, we would like assurance that this provision is developed in a meaningful, integrated and structurally supportive way to avoid it running the risk of becoming a structural barrier that inhibits youth work from using their scarce resource to effectively engage with young people at a grass roots level.

We value the recognition of the role youth work can play in supporting young people to use and develop their Welsh language skills and we strongly support the need for young people to be engaged in the development of the new Strategy to develop a current understanding of their needs in relation to the type of youth services they wish to access, in the language of their choice. We would advocate that thought is given to issues experienced, often by the voluntary sector, when accessing funding from grant giving organisations unfamiliar with the Wales and its bilingual context, experience across the sector suggests that grant applicants in Wales can in some cases can experience disadvantage.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Committee Recommendation 6:

Within 6 months of the publication of this report, the Minister should commission an exercise to map voluntary Youth Work provision across Wales. The exercise should be refreshed periodically.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Reflected on the mapping of voluntary youth work provision undertaken by CWVYS (2015) in relation to the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, and Cordis Bright (2016).
- Reported back to Committee that a national mapping exercise may not be appropriate given the rapidly changing context on the ground as services change and adapt.
- Stated our commitment to the concept of 'sufficiency of provision' and its assessment, in planning, delivering, and monitoring youth services.

We will:

- Incorporate the notion of 'sufficiency of provision' and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales. To ensure agility in an evolving landscape, any assessment should give consideration to both statutory and voluntary provision at a local, rather than national level.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 6:

We would support incorporating the notion of "sufficiency provision" and its assessment into the Youth Work Strategy for Wales. See our comments on Recommendation 1 where we advocate that other sectoral examples are examined and

evaluated to provide insight into value of a “sufficiency provision” as well as to identify learning on how their application can assure benefit.

We would wish to highlight the importance of a sufficiency provision being adequately resources and integrated to other relevant strategies, policies and procedures. It is vital that this sufficiency process is developed and implemented in a way that ensures evolving structure, needs and gaps in provision that can meeting ever changing contextual need. To assure meaningful provision it is vital that we embed ongoing consultation with young people, youth workers and practitioners working on the ground to ensure that services being provided are meeting dynamic and consistently changing needs.

We would like to highlight that, for example, a voluntary sector youth organisation will be responding to the diverse needs of a variety of funders who will have their own agenda, aims and hence practice requirement. This provides this sector with vital insight in to this evolving landscape and requires them to be dynamic and resourceful in how they provide quality youth services. In developing this “sufficiency of provision” it would be vital to ensure it represents the varied contexts that exist within the third sector.

With reference to this evolving landscape we would suggest that changes have occurred in terms of voluntary sector provision and that mapping should become a regular ongoing process that reflects recent and future changes in provision in the voluntary and statutory sector.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Committee Recommendation 7:

The Minister should ensure that Youth Work Sufficiency Assessments are undertaken by local authorities as part of their population needs assessments and report back to the Committee on progress within 6 months of the publication of this report.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Accepted the potential role of ‘Sufficiency Assessments’ in the planning, delivery and monitoring of youth service provision.
- Set up a working group in November 2017 to ascertain how these might work in Wales, learning from approaches taken forward in the Play sector.
- Determined that there is a requirement for an assessment to ensure services being provided within a local authority area are needed, of the required quality, and delivered by the most relevant organisation.
- Explored what an assessment might look like and concluded that, in the absence of a new, long term Youth Work Strategy and vision, that takes us beyond 2018, it is not possible to finalise an approach for immediate implementation.

We will:

- Incorporate the notion of ‘sufficiency of provision’ and its assessment into the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.
- Co-construct its design in partnership with young people and stakeholders.
- Secure agreement across the sector to the use of Sufficiency Assessments in the planning, delivery, and monitoring of youth service provision as part of the new strategy.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 7:

We would support the consideration of a sufficiency provision and a possible assessment process. As stated in Recommendation 1 we would wish to highlight the importance of a sufficiency provision being adequately resourced and integrated to other relevant strategies, policies and procedures. It is vital that this sufficiency process is developed and implemented in a way that ensures evolving structure, needs and gaps in provision that can meeting ever changing contextual need. To assure meaningful provision it is vital that we embed ongoing consultation with young people, youth workers and practitioners working on the ground to ensure that services being provided are meeting dynamic and consistently changing needs. Finally, we would like assurance that this provision is developed in a meaningful, integrated and structurally supportive way to avoid it running the risk of becoming a structural barrier that inhibits youth work from using scarce resource to effectively engage with young people at a grass level way.

We would be interested to hear proposals regarding how Sufficiency Assessments in planning, delivery and monitoring of youth service provision will integrate the third sector and the youth work provision that is provided and resourced by a disparate group of funding providers.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee’s report:

Committee Recommendation 8:

The Minister should develop an accountability framework for local authorities’ use of funds for Youth Work via the revenue support grant. The framework should include sanctions if outcomes are not delivered.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Confirmed that the Revenue Support Grant is an un-hypothecated funding stream and can be spent at local authorities’ discretion according to their locally identified needs and priorities.
- Confirmed that it is not currently possible to identify how much is spent on youth work, due to the pooling of budgets across services at a local level, nor to prescribe an amount.
- Reviewed our existing grant funding streams to consider how they might better support the desired outcomes of youth work and youth support services.
- Begun implementing changes to grant funding mechanisms, ensuring a greater focus on impact, rather than output.

- Explored an outcomes framework for youth work in the context of the current strategy.

We will:

- Publish the reviews of the Youth Work Grants.
- Continue to learn from them by keeping them under regular review.
- Establish an Interim Youth Work Board to support the development of a new Youth Work Strategy, and advise on approaches for deploying resources appropriately, including any unintended consequences.
- Secure agreement across the sector to the use of 'Sufficiency Assessments' in the planning, delivery, and monitoring of youth service provision as part of a new strategy. This will include consideration of their role in a new accountability framework for youth services across local authority and voluntary provision.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 8:

We welcome the development of an accountability framework for local authorities' use of funds and see value in publishing reviews of Youth Work Grants. We have interest in how these reviews would serve to benefit the youth work experience of young people and would advocate an approach that ensures "reviews" are a meaningful, developmentally positive process.

Learning and sharing learning from regular reviews should we believe be fundamental to development, growth and progression across the sector. Evaluation and monitoring of provision provides an excellent framework for continued learning. Our concerns centre around how this ethos and culture of learning is promoted and supported across such a changing and varied landscape of practice. The voluntary and statutory sector are arguably only beginning to develop shared practice relationships and work is still to be done to ensure this fledgling partnership approach continues to develop. In this respect securing agreements across the sector of the use of "Sufficiency Assessments" in planning, delivery and monitoring of youth service provision, though clearly a very positive aspiration could be challenging in the current practice context. We support the sufficiency assessment specifically in relation to the issues regarding indicative funds provided for local authorities through the Revenue Support Grant. A strong argument exists asserting the potential for sufficiency statement to be an integral tool to bring about the "ring-fencing" of budgets ensuring youth services are protected consistently across Wales in all local authorities. We see this a vital move toward protecting youth service provide across Wales.

Any accountability framework would need to ensure local authorities had the ability to be dynamic and responsive to the evolving needs of young people, it must be noted that there is a need to provide guidance and accountability, while ensuring that innovation and creativity are not stifled or restricted.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Committee Recommendation 9:

The Minister should explore the potential continuation of Erasmus+ funding, should the UK Government decide not to do so.

Accepted in Principle by Welsh Government

Welsh Government Response

We have:

- Confirmed our commitment towards a credible, evidenced based approach towards withdrawal from the EU.

We will:

- Continue to advocate for an approach that places Wales' priorities centre stage, while responding to the UK's priorities as a whole.
- Continue dialogue with UK Government counterparts, addressing the role of Erasmus+ funding in the UK context.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 9:

Youth Cymru, along with many of our member organisations across Wales, have benefited from Erasmus+ funding. Our recent project brought together young people from across the UK and Ireland with members of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly to discuss the issues affecting young people from across the five nations. Erasmus+ benefits the sector through additional resources, networks, cultural exchange and the sharing of good practice across Europe.

We know from our membership of the European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC) that youth work policy in Wales is envied by youth workers and organisations across Wales. However, without the opportunities for collaboration and partnerships which Erasmus+ provides, it is possible that the unique position of youth work in Wales will be overlooked by Europe.

We are keen to see strengthened relationships between youth work in Wales and European partners, enabling cultural exchange and the dissemination and sharing of good practice, including in 'new' areas such as radicalisation and online hate speech. We support the recommendation that the potential continuation of Erasmus+ funding should be explored and that any approach should place Wales priorities, and the priorities of young people, centre stage.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:**Committee Recommendation 10:**

The Minister should ensure that the statutory and voluntary Youth Work sector play a central role in the process of curriculum reform.

Accepted by Welsh Government**Welsh Government Response****We have:**

- Confirmed statutory and voluntary representation on the Education Reform Strategic Stakeholder Group.
- Engaged the Youth Work Reference Group (with representatives from both statutory and voluntary sectors) with the process of Curriculum Reform.

We will:

- Continue to ensure appropriate mechanisms for ensuring the statutory and voluntary youth work sector play a central role in the process of curriculum reform.

- Consider and articulate the links and alignment between formal education and youth work in the new Youth Work Strategy for Wales.

Stakeholder Response to Recommendation 10:

Youth Cymru values the representation of statutory and voluntary organisations on the Education Reform and Strategic Stakeholders Group and acknowledge the importance and benefit of their engagement with the process of curriculum reform. We would advocate that this representation is further extended to include additional youth work representatives drawn from the voluntary and statutory sector.

We welcome the proposal to continue to ensure appropriate mechanisms for the statutory and voluntary youth work sector to play a central role in the process of curriculum reform. It is important, and we would advocate that these mechanisms are made more transparent providing more clarity and information to the youth sector, specifically providing opportunities to enable further and future contributions.

Strengthened lines of communication would enhance the work currently being carried out to ensure statutory and voluntary youth work play a central role in curriculum reform ensuring practitioner perspectives are fully acknowledged and integrated.

We are concerned that the perspectives of youth workers on the ground, who have essential and valuable grassroots insights and contributions to make are not aware of the work of the Education Reform Strategic Stakeholders Group nor enabled to engage with the process of curriculum reform – they are placed on the periphery rather than taking a central role.

Any other relevant issues arising since the publication of the Committee's report:

Agenda Item 5.1

Kirsty Williams AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/KW/1483/18

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair of Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

27th April 2018

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 19 April which asks for further information on the Bilingual Educational Resources Stakeholders Group.

The group was established following the summit I held last year to discuss how we can work together to find solutions to the delays with the production of some resources that we experienced during the latest round of qualifications reform. The group is looking at the future direction for the production of educational resources in Wales which will ensure that bilingual resources will be available at the same time. The group meets every two months and brings together representatives of key stakeholders including publishers, the media and creative sector, Welsh Books Council Qualifications Wales and WJEC.

Developing an infrastructure to produce resources for the new curriculum and qualifications in Wales is not a simple task and there are no quick fixes. The group will be exploring a number of potential models of how we could organise things going forward and I would be pleased to provide the Committee with quarterly updates as the work progresses. Issues that have been discussed to date include: developing capacity and expertise in Wales in educational publishing (including authoring), funding and the timeline for producing resources for the new curriculum and its related qualifications. The group is considering current processes and models and will also be learning from the experiences and models of other countries which publish in two languages. Between now and April 2019, when the new curriculum will be available for feedback, proposals will be developed for the way forward to meet needs of the new curriculum and its related qualifications.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

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.

In the meantime, I remain absolutely committed that everything is done to improve the availability of resources to support qualifications in both Welsh and English, and their publication at the same time. For forthcoming/new resources I am pleased to report that WJEC have held discussions with two of the main textbooks providers, Illuminate Publishing and Hodder, and have come to an understanding that the English version will be withheld for eight weeks to allow for the Welsh version to be produced and for both languages to be issued at the same time. Two titles have been identified to trial this process.

It must be highlighted that there are risks attached to this, in particular relating to the quality and accuracy of content and terminology of Welsh versions. However, if the Welsh medium version is not ready within the eight weeks extension period the publishers will release the English as normal. If this trial is successful then the model could be adopted for other proposed textbooks in the short term.

I have also requested that WJEC outsource a number of the forthcoming/proposed titles to Welsh-medium publishers as part of the new grant agreement. WJEC will mentor the companies so that they gain confidence in undertaking educational publishing and build up expertise. In addition seminars will be held with Welsh and English-medium publishers in Wales to develop their understanding in educational publishing and to develop their skills and confidence in undertaking and competing for such work. These seminars will start in June.

I have also asked the WJEC to commission research into the use by practitioners, learners and parents of educational resources at Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. The findings of this work will feed into the decision regarding resources requirements in future and into the Stakeholder Group's discussion on future models. This research will start in May and we will have the findings in the autumn.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Agenda Item 5.2

Huw Irranca-Davies AM
Y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol a Phlant
Minister for Children and Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA - P/HID/1565/18

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair of Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

2 May 2018

Dear Lynne,

Following my attendance at the Children, Young People and Education Committee on 18 April I agreed to write to you to provide a note on the rationale for the childcare offer starting in the term following the child's third birthday and the Welsh Government's assessment of the potential impact of this approach on summer born children.

As you know the childcare offer comprises of two elements; the existing early education entitlement for all 3-4 year olds and additional hours of childcare provided for working parents. The point at which children become eligible to access childcare through the offer aligns with the point at which they also become eligible to access their early education, which is the term after their third birthday. This alignment is necessary to ensure that the two elements of the offer begin at the same point and that the offer as a whole is easy to understand for parents, providers and local authorities.

Children are no longer eligible for the offer once they begin full-time education. At this point they begin receiving over 30 hours of early education per week.

The number of terms that a child is able to access the childcare offer will be influenced by when the child is born. However, standardising the number of terms of childcare that children can access under the offer would create unfairness in the system, where some parents were able to access one element of the offer sooner than other parents. It would also mean the two elements of the offer, early education and childcare, were no longer aligned and some parents would not be able to access both elements of the offer from the same point.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales

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.

I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify my comments made in committee on the commitment to increase the capacity of Welsh Language Childcare Provision by funding Mudiad Meithrin to create new Welsh-medium nursery groups. I would like to be clear that the commitment is to establish 40, rather than 30, new Welsh-medium nursery groups by 2021. This is part of a broader target to establish 150 new Welsh-medium nursery groups over the next decade.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Huw', with a horizontal line underneath.

Huw Irranca-Davies AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol a Phlant
Minister for Children and Social Care

