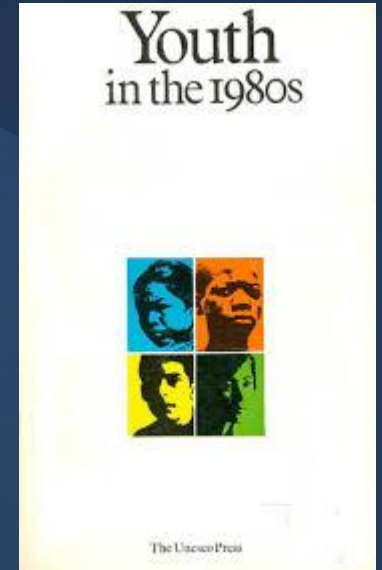




Key Historical Moments in Youth Work: England & Wales in the 1980s



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Context: Britain and Wales in the 1980s



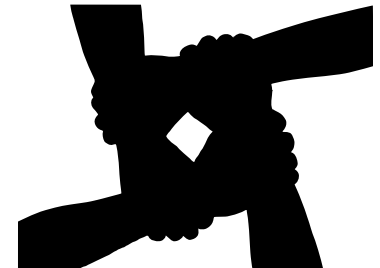
- Economic recession and industrial decline

- High youth unemployment, especially in former industrial communities in Wales



- Youth services played a key role supporting young people through social change

- Growth of community-based and informal education approaches



Youth Unemployment in Wales



01

- Closure of mines and heavy industry affected many Welsh communities



02

- Young people faced limited job opportunities



03

- Youth workers supported confidence building, skills, and community engagement



04

- Youth clubs often became safe spaces for support and guidance



1981 UK Urban Riots

- Major disturbances in Brixton, Toxteth, Moss Side and other cities

- Highlighted tensions between young people, policing, and social inequality

- Led to increased attention on youth work to support marginalised young people

Growth of Detached and Outreach Youth Work



- Youth workers increasingly worked outside youth centres

- Engagement with young people on streets, estates, and community spaces

- Important for reaching young people who did not attend formal youth clubs

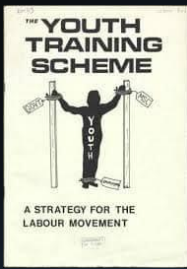
- Approach became influential across Wales and the UK

1985 International Youth Year

- United Nations initiative promoting youth participation

- Theme: Participation, Development and Peace

- Youth organisations in the UK and Wales promoted youth voice and leadership



Youth Training Scheme (YTS)



- Introduced by the UK government in 1983



- Aimed to provide work experience and training for young people



- Youth workers often supported young people navigating training and employment pathways

Anti-Racist and Equality Youth Work

- Youth organisations addressed racism and discrimination

- 
- Work focused on inclusion and multicultural education

- 
- Encouraged dialogue between young people from different communities

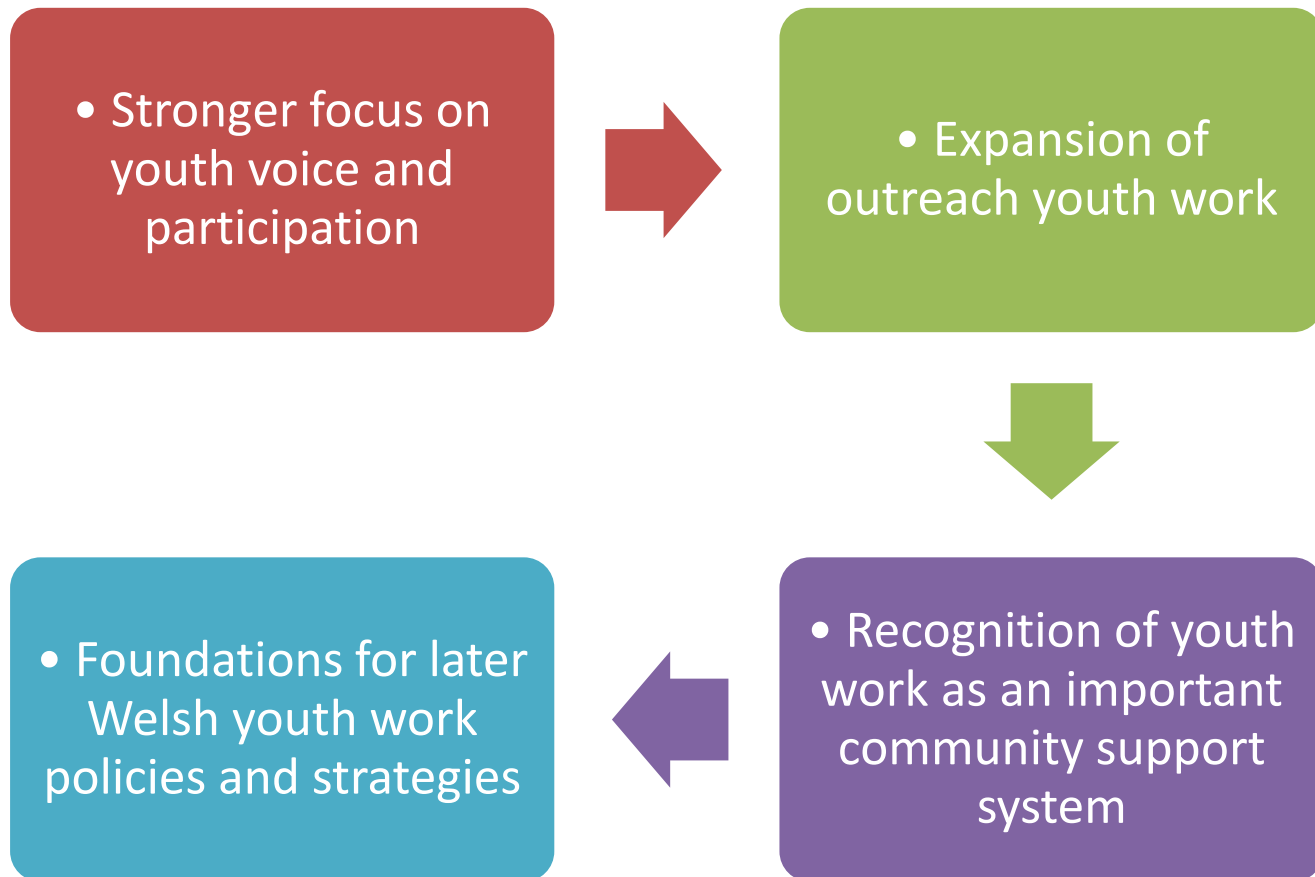
Informal Education in Youth Work

- Youth work in the UK strongly influenced by informal education principles

- Focus on relationships, participation, and personal development

- Youth clubs, voluntary groups, and community centres were key learning spaces

Legacy of the 1980s for Youth Work in Wales



Youth Work Today



DIGITAL YOUTH WORK- YOUTH WORKERS
NOW USE ONLINE PLATFORMS, GAMING
SPACES AND SOCIAL MEDIA TO ENGAGE
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE



YOUTH PARTICIPATION/VOICE IS
STRONGER AND INVOLVES YOUNG
PEOPLE IN DECISION MAKING ON A LOCAL
AND NATIONAL LEVEL.



PARTNERSHIP WORK STRONGER
BETWEEN AGENCIES E.G SCHOOLS,
HEALTH SERVICES.

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Diolch am gwranddo
Thank you for listening