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Image one- Canva ND

I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research or creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated materials as my own work. I confirm that I have copied of my drafts, notes, and other resources I have used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

This is a professional journal following the level five placement of the above author. For level five of the Youth Work and Social Education course, students are required to complete 400 hours in a youth work setting. This journal outlines the author's chosen organisation, explains what the organisation does, and what the author had to do during their time there. It will also look into the LGBTQ+ community and evaluate the resources and support available to young LGBTQ+ people in Wales. It will analyse the author's learning and development during the placement and the effectiveness of their work during level five.

Umbrella Cymru- who are we?

This information sheet will provide you with Umbrella Cymru's aims, objectives, vision, and background and explore the roles and responsibilities of a level five youth work student during placement with the organisation.

Overview

What does Umbrella Cymru do?

Umbrella Cymru has several different projects and services, but who do we work with? Well, according to our website ([Umbrella Cymru – Gender and Sexual Diversity Support Specialists in Wales](#)). We offer “Specific and Non-Specific” support (Umbrella Cymru, N.D). Specific support is described as support “that SPECIFICALLY relates to gender or sexual identity, diversity, equality or inclusion.”(Umbrella Cymru, N.D), and Non-Specific support is when someone LGBTQ+ requires support for something not relating to their identity, e.g., housing. We also provide support services to young and adult victims of crime in Gwent. We even provide a deed poll service! View our website for more details.



Aims and objectives of Umbrella Cymru (ND)

Aims

- Be “supportive, Collaborative and Flexible”

Umbrella Cymru (ND)

Objectives

- Keep individuals at the centre of what we do by taking into consideration their different needs and wants
- To collaborate with individuals and partnership organisations
- To share best practice, research, and knowledge with others
- To overcome any obstacles facing the individuals we support

Aims

- Be “Ethical, Empowering and Inclusive”

Umbrella Cymru (ND)

Objectives

- To respect all individuals regardless of their identities
- To withhold personal values and create a respectful and non-judgmental environment
- To encourage young people to understand and promote their own Rights (CLD Standards Council Scotland, 2019)
- To promote equity and create a safe space with no risk of discrimination

Aims

- Be "Ambitious, Innovative and Passionate"

Umbrella Cymru (ND)

Objectives

- Strive towards continuous improvement by dedicating ourselves to demanding situations
- To use the resources available to us to improve our services
- To be earnest in our work and care about what we do
- To work collaboratively with individuals to help them towards their goals

Aims

- Be "Responsible, Accountable and Reflective"

Umbrella Cymru (ND)

Objectives

- To always be proud of our work, and take responsibility for it.
- To complete our tasks and "always see things through" (Umbrella Cymru, ND)
- To always develop personally and professionally and recognise when we need aid
- Reflect on how our actions affect others, and learn from our mistakes.

Vision and Background

Vision

At Umbrella Cymru, we aim to support, advocate for, and inform LGBTQ+ people across Wales and victims of crime in Gwent. We aim to provide a service in which every person feels accepted and supported. We aim to create a plan for support that helps you reach your individual goal. We understand how other organisations may not be as understanding and can provide you with advocacy or offer them training. We are not knowledgeable on everything, but we will research and ensure we provide you with the correct information. Have a question about how to get a referral to the Welsh Gender service? Contact us!

(Confirmed by Anon, 2024)

Background

Umbrella Cymru was originally a Facebook page set up by our director Nick Lewis, this page gained a lot of traction, so from this, Nick set up Umbrella Gwent, focusing on the gap in services that focused on gender and sexuality, especially when it involved crime. We then became a charitable organisation in 2015 and we changed our name to Umbrella Cymru, as we no longer only focus on Gwent, but rather cover the whole of Wales. We still support victims of crime in Gwent, but we now run many more projects. Scan the QR code above to find out more!

(Gwent Police, 2021, Umbrella Cymru, ND, LGBT archive, 2017)

Roles and responsibilities of a Level Five student

National Occupational Standards for Youth Work (CLD Standards Council, 2019)

"Participation & active involvement"

"Equality, diversity & inclusion"

"Partnership with young people & others"

"Personal, social and political development"

During level five studies, students must take on a responsible role. This could include running a program of work, but could also be the student contributing to the organisation while searching for the opportunity to be creative and innovative while still maintaining professional standards (Enoch, 2024).

Level five students must work in accordance with the five pillars of youth work, which are ;



"Educative"



"Expressive"



"Participative"



"Inclusive"



"Empowering"

(Youth Work In Wales Review Group, 2022, pp, 8-9), Image 2-6- Canva ND

During placement, students must reflect on their practice to make sure they are following the Five Pillars and the National Occupational Standards to ensure they are providing young people with quality youth work. To do this, students must engage in supervision sessions, write reflective recordings, conduct a risk assessment, and create a professional

development plan. Completing all these tasks allows students to reflect on their practice and identify areas where they need to improve; they will also help students understand their organisation and critically evaluate good youth work practice.

To conclude, Umbrella Cymru is not an average youth work placement, but provides a level five student with the experience they need to become professionally endorsed.

Reference list

Anon (2024) Teams message to Leo Smith, 20th of November

Gwent Police (2012) *Guest blog: Nick Lewis, director of Umbrella Cymru* Available at [Guest blog: Nick Lewis, director of Umbrella Cymru | Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner](#) (Accessed 08/11/24)

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LGBT archive (2017) *Umbrella Cymru* Available at [Umbrella Cymru - LGBT Archive](#) (Accessed 08/11/24)

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Umbrella Cymru (N.D) *Support- Umbrella Cymru* Available at [Support – Umbrella Cymru](#) (Accessed 08/11/24)

Youth Work in Wales Review Group (2022) *Youth Work in Wales: Principles and Purposes*