

YMCHWIL GYMDEITHASOL
Y LLYWODRAETH
GSR
GOVERNMENT SOCIAL RESEARCH

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

What we know about youth work in Wales

And how to work together to improve it

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

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Introduction

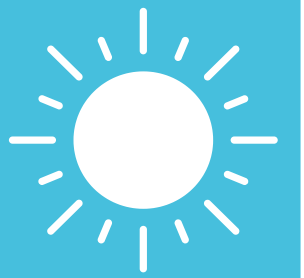
We carried out research for the Interim Youth Work Board to find out about youth work in Wales and what people think about it. The Interim Youth Work Board and Welsh Government will use this research to help make youth work in Wales better.





We found that we know a lot about what councils (local authorities) are providing, but there isn't very much information about what else is out there. We're not sure who else is delivering youth work and whether every young person aged 11-25 can access youth work opportunities if they want to.

The Interim Youth Work Board was set up in 2018 to represent young people and the youth work sector. They work with Welsh Government and young people to improve the youth work opportunities that are available to young people in Wales. As part of their work, they set out the Youth Work Strategy which is a vision for how everyone can work together to improve youth work in Wales.





As part of our research we interviewed youth work organisations and some young people. We also looked at other research about youth work in Wales, including surveys that have been carried out with young people.



What do we mean by youth work?

Youth work gives young people aged 11-25 opportunities to learn, express themselves, be involved in the decisions that affect them, and be the best that they can be.

It provides a safe space to support all young people to grow, have a voice, understand their rights, learn, have fun, be with other young people and be part of the community.

It starts wherever young people are at in their lives and recognises the potential of everyone. Young people can choose whether or not to be involved with youth work and are equal partners with adults in deciding what happens in the youth work setting.

Youth work takes place in lots of different places, for example:

- Youth clubs and youth centres
- Uniformed and voluntary youth organisations
- On the streets
- Drug and alcohol projects
- Online and over the phone

What's the Youth Work Strategy?

This is a



click here for more information

of what youth work in Wales should like in the future and to tell people about youth work

It's about working together to make sure young people get what they are entitled to.

How do young people feel about youth work?

Lets talk! survey

633 young people took part in the Interim Youth Work Board survey

What does youth work mean to young people and what does it offer? This is what the young people said...

What does youth work mean to you?

A SENSE OF BELONGING

ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

being listened to

fun games

making friends

taking part in activities

BEING SUPPORTED

EDUCATING US

having fun

TRUSTED ADULTS

meeting friends

COOKING

a safe space

VOLUNTEERING

LEAVING THE HOUSE

GETTING ADVICE

life skills

MUTUAL RESPECT

helping friends

help with school work





Young people want to see...

MORE

Opening on weekends
Opening for the Summer Holidays
Longer hours

More trips
Life skills training (like cooking)
Support with health and wellbeing

{less}

Less focus on activities they can already do in school

What young people want to see from youth work- Using social media

- Online Questionnaires
- Twitter
- Snapchat
- WhatsApp
- YouTube
- Facebook
- Instragram





What young people want to see from youth work - Workshop/event ideas

Provide help with education and employment

More hours to do youth work

Ask us what we want and explain things to us in a way we understand (open discussions)



Support young people

Let us be more involved in planning

Share our ideas and feedback with Youth Workers

Sort out bigger problems

Help to gain skills and knowledge

Youth Workers can advocate on our behalf

Be more available/in more places/at more times

Have more youth workers in schools

Lower volunteer age

How can youth workers help?

What do we know about Youth work in Wales?

We know a lot about what councils (local authorities) are providing, but there isn't very much data about what else is out there, including youth work delivered by charities and voluntary organisations.

Because we don't have this information, we don't know whether every young person in Wales can access youth work opportunities or if they can access them in their preferred language.



From what we do know about council provision in wales, we can say that...

There is less money being spent on youth work by local authorities (Councils) than 5 years ago

See the **2013-2014** Statistical Release Here

£40.2 million

2013-2014*

£31.4 million

2018-2019*

See the **2018-2019** Statistical Release Here





*Based on all 11 to 25 year olds in Wales. 2013-14 figures exclude the Isle of Anglesey and 2018-2019 figures exclude the Isle of Anglesey and Powys. Source: Statistics for Wales

How much money gets spent varies depending on where you live*



Per young person
Blaenau Gwent
- The highest spend



Per young person
Cardiff
- The lowest spend

*Based on all 11 to 25 year olds in these Local Authorities Source: Statistics for Wales

Fewer young people are attending local authority youth clubs or activities than 5 years ago

In 2013-14

117,200 people

(20% of 11-25 year olds in Wales)

were registered members of youth work provision compared to

82,400

in 2018-19

(15% of 11-25 year olds in Wales)*

*2013-14 figures exclude the Isle of Anglesey and 2018-2019 figures exclude the Isle of Anglesey and Powys. Source: Statistics for Wales



There has also been an increase in youth work that is aimed at particular groups (for example young people who are not in education, employment or training) compared to youth work that is open to everyone.

But this is only part of the whole picture: we don't know whether there is now more youth work provided by charities and voluntary organisations than in 2013-14 or whether these organisations are spending more money.

Even though we don't know the whole story, the good news is that people working for youth work organisations and young people told us that they thought the youth work that is done in Wales is good quality

What could be done to make youth work in Wales better?

Youth work is important and everyone should be able to take part in these opportunities. To do this, Welsh Government and other organisations responsible for youth work in Wales should:



Strengthen the laws requiring local authorities to provide youth work for all young people

- Making sure everyone understands how much youth work is needed



Make sure everyone is on the same page

- Making sure that everybody from the Welsh Government to local councils to voluntary organisations have a shared vision for the sector
- Creating an organisation to represent youth work nationally



Get different local groups to work together

- Providing structures to ensure that local government is working with the voluntary sector to plan and co-ordinate provision



Make sure that the workforce represents Wales' diversity

- Recruiting and supporting workers who can speak Welsh, who are from different ethnicities and different abilities



Support and train workers to deliver the best service possible

- Making sure all workers from volunteers to professionals have the right training to deliver a quality service



Collect data and use this data to work out where more support is needed

- Ensuring that there is good data will help the Interim Youth Work Board and Welsh Government to understand in which areas and for which groups there needs to be more youth work opportunities



Make sure there is funding set aside for providing youth work opportunities

- Helping to make sure that there is funding available to provide youth work to all young people



Ensure that young people get to be part of decisions made about Youth Work

- Ensuring that youth work reflects what young people want and need
- Making Welsh Government and other decision-makers accountable to young people for the youth work they provide

If all this is achieved, then all young people will be able to access opportunities that are...



Educative

Helping young people gain the skills, knowledge, and values needed to grow as individuals.



Expressive

Supporting young people to express themselves



Participatory

Involving young people in decisions about youth work and encouraging them to get more involved in decisions about their community



Inclusive

Enabling young people to learn about diversity, languages, heritage and encouraging them to be respectful of others' choices



Empowering

Making sure young people have the knowledge and skills to exercise their rights, be responsible members of their communities, and take leadership

Providing safe spaces and places to build relationships

Then young people...



Enjoy themselves



Feel secure



Feel supported



Feel valued



Are challenged

And in the long term...



Have better control of their lives



Develop knowledge and skills

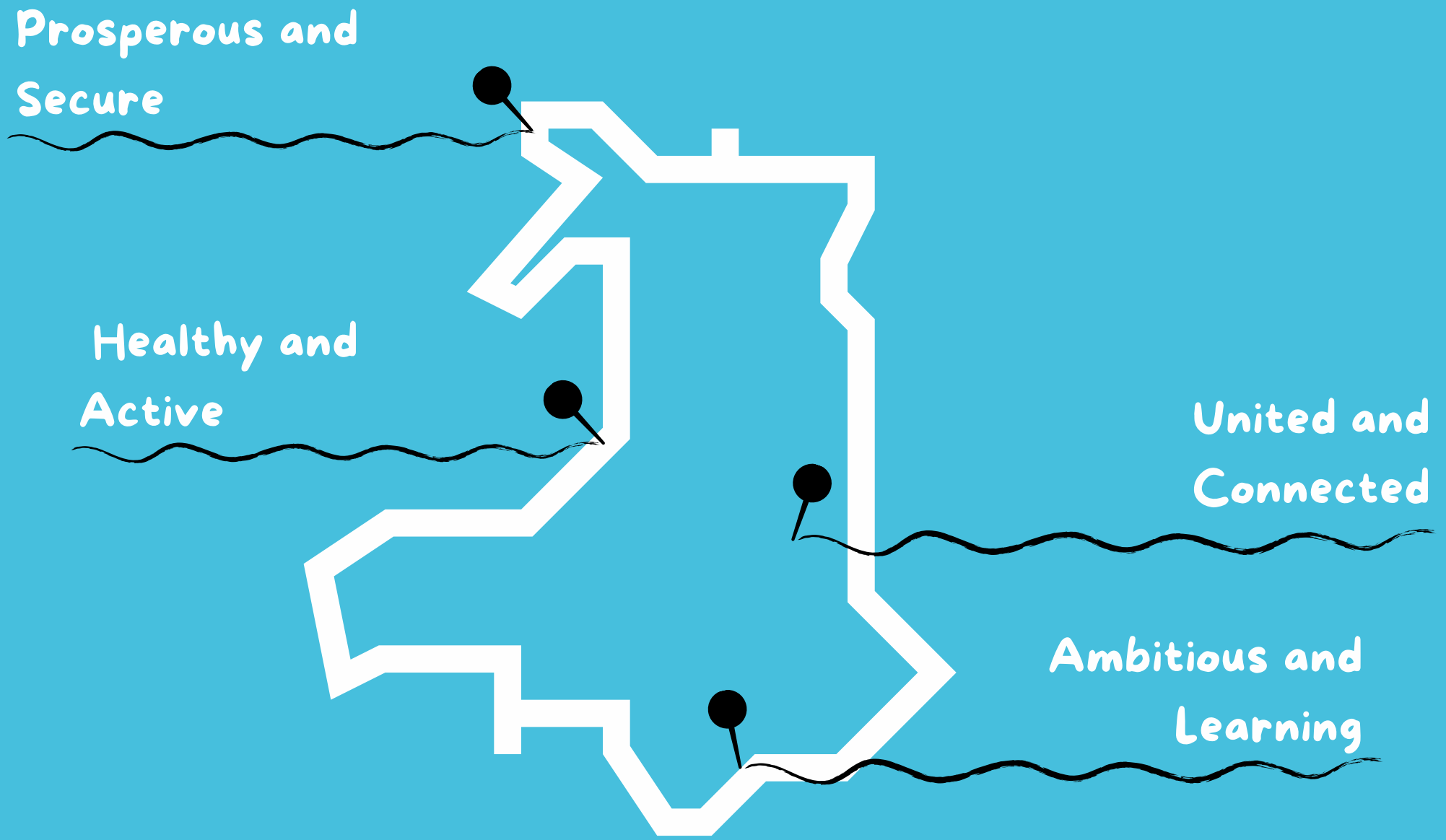


Recognise and resist any damaging influences that might affect them



Develop their voice, influence and place in society

Contributing to a Wales that is...



And...

A Prosperous Wales



A Resilient Wales



A Healthier Wales



A More Equal Wales



A Globally Responsible Wales



A Wales of Cohesive Communities



A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

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Click here to read the full report

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