



Wales Safer Communities Network response to: Youth work in Wales: delivering for young people

Closed 10 January 2025

Response submitted via the online survey

[Youth work in Wales: delivering for young people \(consultation document\) \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

Questions

Question 1: Do you feel that the proposed definition of youth work is clear and helps differentiate youth work from other services supporting young people?

Yes, we feel the definition is helpful

Question 2: Are there any unintended consequences in taking this approach?

Not sure

There is a danger that by specifying voluntary engagement that there becomes a gap between those services and those with enforced engagement. There is a real need for Local Authorities to ensure their Youth Workers, ASB teams and numerous other teams are working closely with probation services and Youth Offending teams for example. There is a risk that the definition makes them appear separate whereas they need to be interlinked.

Question 3: Do you feel that the requirement for a youth work strategic plan will help strengthen the design and delivery of youth work?

Yes

The Network Team agree that having a youth work strategic plan will ensure priority led focus and evidence driven prevention and intervention measures to safeguard and support children.

However, we are aware of the already saturated work loads faced by local authority teams who are struggling with analytical capacity required to provide such a plan. The Network also wish to highlight the ongoing Home Office work in respect to Youth Violence Hubs and the likely statutory duties Local Authorities will have placed on them to report in this space. We urge Welsh Government to ensure the reporting structures and requirements within these strategic plans reflect current partnership governance frameworks and are aligned to support the implementation of Youth Violence Hubs rather than duplicate requirement or delineate from this work.

Question 4: Do you feel the youth work strategic plan will provide an effective accountability structure for youth work?

Yes- As long as it is cognisant of other duties and responsibilities upon Local Authorities and ensures appropriate engagement with multiple partners, then we feel the proposed strategic plan will help to deliver a more informed and focused delivery of service and support in a way that will also support youth workers.



Question 5: The proposals are intended to enable local authorities to design partnership structures according to local need. Do you consider there is a need to be more prescriptive?

Yes- The Network team recognise the need to be led by local need, however, we would suggest listing key partners in the guidance to assist and ensure the appropriate engagement. We suggest as a minimum to including Police, Probation Services, Education establishments (Primary, Highschool and Colleges) and Fire and Rescue Services.

Question 6: Are the accountability arrangements proposed in the statutory framework sufficiently robust and clear?

Yes- although we recognise individual member agencies may take a different view point.

Question 7: Does the proposed youth work entitlement clearly encapsulate how we collectively wish to see youth work designed and delivered?

Yes- although we recognise individual member agencies may take a different view point.

Question 8: The statutory framework requires a local authority to ensure young people can participate in the design and delivery of youth work. The precise approach in achieving this would be determined by local need and structures. Do you consider there is a need to be more prescriptive?

Yes- although we recognise individual member agencies may take a different view point.