

# ***A brief summary of the work of the Wales Youth Agency***

## ***People...***

Gerald Davies . Chairman  
Dr Howard Williamson . Vice-Chair  
Brian Williams . Chief Executive  
John Rose . Assistant Chief Executive

## **Managers / Development Officers:**

Barry Doughty . Curriculum & Policy  
Helen Payne . Yth Wk & Schools / Health  
Jean Reader . Youth Exchanges  
John Rose . Training  
Philip Sebury . Library Services  
Liz Sharp . Youth Worker Information  
Courtney Taylor . Training  
Wayne Warner . NVYO Grants

## **Temporary Officers / Secondments:**

Katie Antippas . Young Voice / Forums  
Jane Bartlett . Training  
Tanis Cunnick . Quality Standards  
John Holmes . NTO/Paulo  
Mary Nicholls . Training  
Craig Wood . Communications

## **Administration:**

Pam Osborn . Senior Administrator  
Leanne Morgan . Administrative Assistant  
Maria Randell . Administrative Assistant  
Joan Thomas . Administrative Assistant

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- **The Wales Youth Agency was established by the Secretary of State for Wales in 1992 to support the development of services to young people throughout Wales. It is an independent grant-aided body and is funded by the National Assembly for Wales.**

- The purpose of the Wales Youth Agency is to promote, support and assist both the voluntary and maintained sectors of the youth service to develop and improve the quality of youth work practice in Wales.

- To do this, the Wales Youth Agency

- assists the development of the youth work curriculum.
- promotes staff development and the accreditation of training.
- encourages and develops the partnership with young people and between statutory and voluntary organisations
- facilitates communication systems, marketing and information services.
- supports collaborative responses to identified priorities.

- The Wales Youth Agency is governed by a Management Board which is supported by an Advisory Council made up of individuals and representatives from organisations in Wales to provide a wide range of interest and experience. Sub-committees, planning and working groups help shape policy and practice in identified areas.

- Further information on any aspects of the work covered in this leaflet can be obtained by contacting the appropriate person as described in the 'people' section.

- Please note, this information is correct at time of publication (February 2002) but is subject to change.

### **...Training for Youth Workers**

- It is the responsibility of the Education & Training Standards Committee to develop endorsement and accreditation processes for standards of youth and community work training in Wales.
- This is achieved by the development of guidelines for accredited induction training for new workers and the professional endorsement of training for full-time, part-time and voluntary workers.
- This responsibility has seen the development of the Coherent Route of Training which provides opportunities for personal development from senior member level through to post-graduate level.
- This training is delivered through the Staff College framework which is a partnership of local authority, voluntary sector and independent organisations.
- The Wales Youth Agency is also involved in the development of guidelines for, and promotion of, staff development policies for unitary authorities and the voluntary sector.

### **... Information for Youth Workers**

- The information work of the Agency includes:
  - the collation and dissemination of relevant information
  - the production of examples of practice
  - the maintenance of a resource base
  - the issuing of publications and information packs
- Pigion, a bi-monthly information pack, gives details of courses, conferences, funding and new resources.
- The Resource Base holds relevant publications, resource packs and videos. The majority are available on short term loan to youth workers and youth work managers. Visitors to the Resource Base are also welcome. (Advance notice please!). A searchable list of resources is available on our website.
- The information work of the Agency is co-ordinated through a national information group.

### **...Curriculum and Policy Development**

- The Wales Youth Agency provides a means for local authorities and voluntary organisations to gain professional accreditation for the systems they develop, according to contemporary quality standards.
- Consultancy can be provided to youth work organisations regarding the development of quality assurance systems. Support and advice is also offered to youth organisations that wish to provide accreditation programmes for young people and schemes for recording their attainment.
- We also provide advice and information to individual organisations on strategic development and planning, and policy development, and we support and share youth work practice in Wales.
- The Wales Youth Agency also manages the Youth Work & Schools Partnership Programme, which aims to use youth work skills to increase attendance, raise achievement and improve attitudes to learning opportunities for young people.

• The 'Better Health Better Wales' strategy recognises the important role the youth service has in supporting the area of health promotion. The Wales Youth Agency offers support, advice and information to promote the role of the youth service in this work. It also develops pilot projects within the topic area.

### **...International Youth Activities**

- The Youth Exchange Committee for Wales exists to improve the quality and quantity of international youth exchange activities. The Committee awards grants both from UK government funds and the European Union to support activities between youth groups in Wales and young people in other countries (mainly Europe but also other parts of the world). Participants must be from 15-25 years of age.
- Guidelines and special application forms are available from the Agency.

### **...Voluntary Youth Sector**

- The Wales Youth Agency supports the work of the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS), which is a membership organisation that represents the interests of the Voluntary Youth Sector in Wales.
- CWVYS is a member led body that represents 20,000 Voluntary Youth Workers who in turn work with over 200,000 young people. Any Voluntary Youth Organisation that works with young people between the ages of 14-25, that complies with the membership criteria can join.
- CWVYS can help by providing: Support, Networking, A Voluntary Voice, Advocacy, Training, Advice and Information, Publicity, Access to the services of the Wales Youth Agency, U.K. and Ireland perspective through the Four Nations Network, Access to European networks, Sounding Board for isolated youth projects and youth workers, Sharing Best Practice, New Youth Initiatives, Organisational and political policy development, Facilitating, Accreditation for youth programmes, Current youth work trends.

### **... NVYO Grants Scheme**

- The Agency administers grant, on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales, to National Voluntary Youth Organisations in Wales.

### **... Citizenship**

- The Agency is heavily involved in citizenship initiatives to help young people develop a meaningful voice in Welsh Affairs. In particular, the Agency is co-operating with the National Assembly in a major project - Young Voice - to enable young people to have a say in the policy priorities of the Assembly.

### **...Information for Young People**

- A major part of this function is now carried out by a new organisation, Canllaw Online. For further details please contact Elise Stewart, Canllaw Online, Block A, Van Court, Caerphilly Business Park, Caerphilly CF83 3ED. Tel: 029 20 880479.