

Charter of Entitlement for Young People Resource Pack produced

Building the Future - the Wales Youth Agency publication for the new Unitary Authorities recommends that each of the new authorities work with young people to develop services and formulate a charter of entitlement.

The concept of entitlement is based on the premise that all young people have the right of access to advice, support, information and activities within a framework of informal education.

Young people's existing right to services was strengthened by the Children Act 1992 which places a duty on local authorities to ensure that services are available to support the development of children and young people. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1992) includes young people up to the age of 18 and provides guidelines to ensure that our laws and the way we treat young people meet minimum standards.

The Wales Youth Agency has worked with young people from a range of different organisations across Wales to create an example of a Charter of Entitlement. Young people's views and ideas were developed in workshop situations and compiled into a nine point charter which identifies the range of services young people think should be available.

The Charter and a Charter resource pack is now available from the Wales Youth Agency and can be used in a number of ways. Firstly, the charter can be used to inform elected members and senior managers of the views of young people and to develop services. West Glamorgan Community Education Service used the charter as part of their Youth Work Week

YOUNG PEOPLES' CHARTER FOR ENTITLEMENT

1. Young people should have access to a range of opportunities and activities which are consistent with those available in contemporary society.
2. Young people should be involved in making decisions about what happens in their organisations.
3. All young people, within an area, should have access to services which take into account their diverse range of needs.
4. Young people should have access to a range of provision and services which should be available at times convenient to them. Especially evenings, weekends, and holidays.
5. Young people should have access to advice and information services.
6. Young people have a right to services developed in accordance with standards defined by legislation or convention.
7. Young people should be provided with a directory of services available in their locality and services should be advertised in places and media used by young people.
8. Young people experiencing problems should be able to access support facilities through the youth service.
9. Young people are entitled to work with adults trained in youth work and who have due regard to the requirements placed upon them by legislation or convention.

Portfolio and the charter will be considered by their Education Committee as part of the services' curriculum development proposals.

Secondly, the Charter can be used as a starting point for local interpretation. For example at Cwmaman Youth Club, the worker Harold Jones, has developed a charter for the club in conjunction with young people. This sets out what young people may expect from the club and is used as a tool in planning and monitoring what goes in the club.

This process could be something which happens at all levels of the service - from club or unit to area and organisational level - and is a way of ensuring that young people have a say in services which are developed for young people. For further details of the Charter of Entitlement for Young People and accompanying resource pack, (£6.50 inc VAT & p+p), please contact Liam Kealy at the Wales Youth Agency.