

Summary of national policy for the provision of services to young people in Wales 1844-2020.

Introduction.

Policy can be described as a plan or course of action of an organisation (this could be national or local government or a political party, or a company or voluntary organisation) intended to influence and determine decisions, actions, and other matters. Consequently, policy is developed in accordance with the priorities of particular organisations. In the context of this paper it is about elected politicians at UK, national and local level determining how services to young people in Wales will be developed and delivered. This short paper does not intend to examine government policy in any depth. Rather, it intends to provide a broad overview as a means of providing a foundation for further investigation. This could require a more in-depth examination of political party priorities as a means of interpreting how these have affected young people and the importance given by government to the provision of services to young people. The critical link between policy development and policy implementation is of course the issue of government-allocated finance. The recent years of austerity have significantly reduced the funding for local services to young people in Wales.

In the Beginning 1844-1944

Youth Service in Wales was founded on the work of the voluntary sector, which was made up from a range of individual organisations that can be identified by a number of common characteristics. They were, at the time of their origin, overwhelmingly controlled and managed by those with their headquarters located in England and were firmly rooted in the culture of English middle-class philanthropic society (Davies 1999). Membership of these youth work organisations was generally for those under the age of 14, and the work was primarily gender specific, with few opportunities for mixed association (Evans 1965, Butters and Newall 1978, Jeffs 1979, Smith 1988). **There was little, if any research into the needs of young people, who were subjected to the decisions of their betters, adults motivated by Christian ideals of control, deference, and the maintenance of the existing social order** (Evans 1965, Davies and Gibson 1967). **This approach was purposeful and concerned to promote within young people habits of obedience, discipline, punctuality, citizenship, and religious commitment** (Springhall 1977, Smith 1988, Davies 1999 Young 1999). Driving this approach were growing concerns about how young working-class people were to be appropriately prepared for their subservient role in society, for the challenges of the growing competitiveness in industry, and for the possibility of armed conflict. The response of the State was the introduction of a range of social policy strategies to control the leisure time activities of young working-class adolescents as a means of maintaining the status quo of class division (Smith 1988). **All of these were achieved through a programme of activities to promote discipline, self-reliance, self-sacrifice, and patriotism as a means of helping the**

rising generation find the right road to good citizenship, which the middle classes were keen to see happen, as they were well aware that the safety of their lives and their property depended on having around them a peaceful, happy, and moral population (Davies and Gibson 1967).

Milestones - Voluntary Era and Increasing State Interest

- 1844 Formation of the YMCA - 'concern for the spiritual welfare of young men in drapery and other trades by the introduction of religious services among them.
- 1852 YMCA introduced into Wales
- 1869 Newport YMCA opened by JF Fawckner
- 1875 Girls' Friendly Society founded
- 1876 School attendance made compulsory
- 1883 Boys' Brigade formed - William Smith. Most substantial organisation of its day which emphasised good character through drills and discipline
- 1888 London Federation of Working Boys' Club formed W Pelham "to offer to the poor what public schools and universities have been to the rich. They develop as no other agency can, the esprit de corps in which the poor for the most part are so lamentably lacking."
- 1893 Clubs for Working Girls - Maude Stanley
- 1904 Interdepartmental Committee on Physical Deterioration was set up because of fears that there was evidence following the war in South Africa that the race was deteriorating. This was despite a letter written by H. M. Hyndman in the Morning Post in 1900 claiming that the reason for the poor physique of many young recruits was a "Lack of good food, good clothes and good air in children resulting in more than 50% of our urban working-class population being unfit to bear arms".
- 1908 Boy Scout movement and first Scout camp - Robert Baden-Powell "work for the good of your country, or for the business in which you are employed, and as you do this you will find that you will be getting all the promotion and all the success that you want it is your duty to your country to improve yourself."
'Working Lads' Clubs. Charles Russell;
Boy Scout Troops were first started in Wales at Cardiff and Carmarthen
- 1910 Girl Guides Movement introduced.
- 1913 Membership of the Scouts was 152,000, by 1938 it was 438,000
- 1914 Start of World War 1 more than 280,000 Welshmen are involved
- 1916 National and Local Juvenile Organisations' Committee established 'to concern themselves with the physical and moral welfare of the young in time of war.'
The setting up of the 'Juvenile Organising Committee' was the start of the government intervention and the development of a policy for youth work. They were not successful in combating delinquency.
- 1920 Young Farmers' Clubs formed in England and Wales

- 1922 Urdd Gobaith Cymru (Welsh League of Youth) introduced to protect and promote the Welsh Language;
Treharris Boys' Club opened
- 1925 National Association of Boys' Clubs set up
Woodcraft Folk founded
- 1928 South Wales Federation of Boys' Clubs founded funded by the welfare section of the Ocean Coal Company. Members are Ton Pentre, Treorchy, Nantymoel, Wattstown, Nine Mile Point, Penygraig and Ystalyfera. By 1947 the number of affiliated clubs was 47 at this time the federation changed its name to the "Welsh Association of Boys Clubs"
- 1930 Youth Hostel Association set up;
The Children and Young Person's Act was introduced
- 1934 Cardiff and District Federation of Girls' Clubs was formed, forerunner of the Welsh Association of Youth Clubs
- 1936 Standing Conference of National Voluntary Youth Organisations (SCNVYO) set up.
Physical Training and Recreation Act-National Fitness Council formed
- 1938 The Ministry of Labour calculated that the average youth had earned 26s a week and the average girl 18s 6d
The Women's Voluntary Service (WVS) is founded
- 1939 Start of World War 2;
The onset of war saw a rapid growth in the number of young people attending voluntary organisations which provided them with the *raison d'être* that had previously been lacking. Grant aid was immediately available from the LEAs and from the Board of Education for capital expenditure maintenance and help towards full-time salaries.
- 1939 Board of Education Circular 1486 'In Service of Youth' driven by the fact that 80% of young people left school at 14 and that considerably less than half belonged to a youth organisation;
Determination of Needs Act passed which explicitly abandoned the household means test and substituted for it a "test of personal need";
"The Schools in War-time" was published (HMSO)
- 1940 Circular 1516 (HMSO1940) produced to provide opportunities for young people to develop a greater awareness of the responsibilities of citizenship as a means of preparing them "*for membership of a free society*"
- 1941 Air Training Corps scheme set up
- 1942 Wartime registration of all young people 16-18,
- 1943 National Association of Training Corps for Girls formed;
The Beveridge Report produced;
"In the Service of Youth" written by J Macalister Brew;
White Paper on Educational Reconstruction;
Board of Education appoints Youth Advisory Council;

Purpose and Content of the Youth Service” (HMSO1943) written to describe and promote the service in Wales. Young people were described in the report as being faced with a “background of instability, social and economic, and of changing moral standards”

The State Takes Control

Work with Young People outside of school was recognised in the 1944 Education Act Clauses 41 and 53. It was a document with two serious flaws. First it asked local authorities to provide an “adequate” service for the leisure time activities for young people. Second it removed any positive partnership arrangements with the voluntary Youth work Sector when it said the local authorities should be:

“ignoring the voluntary organisations and regarding them as well-meaning amateurs in the field of social education.

In a negative sense, the government statement of intent was never translated into legislation leading to a situation where local education authorities were allowed to spend money on a Youth Service, but it was not compulsory and had no statutory base. **As a consequence, the Youth Service has been seen as a soft target identified by a term which could not be defined in law resulting in it becoming among the first service to be cut during periods of financial stringency.** In 1945 Circular 51 was produced by the Ministry of Education which set out the revised arrangements for grant aiding voluntary youth organisations in the post war period. The Circular recognised the provision of the Education Act (1944) and identified the differences between national and local needs. This resulted in the Ministry offering direct headquarters grants for administration and training. Grants to local clubs would however become the prime responsibility of the local education authority. This produced an obvious dilemma for the Youth Service in Wales who were overwhelmingly managed by organisations with their headquarters in England. As a result, funding was directed by central government to English organisations for capital expenditure such as the acquisition of premises, adaptation and repairs of premises and equipment. (SWSCVYS September 1945) The expectation was that local education authorities in Wales would then financially support local voluntary Youth Service provision for other areas of expenditure which would be managed in the main from London (HMSO1960). The single exception to this was the Urdd with its unique position as the only Welsh National Voluntary organisation with its headquarters in Wales.

Some Milestones

1944 Education Act (HMSO 1944-R.A. Butler)

- Government intention is to become a full and active partner in the provision of facilities for youth work..... no longer willing to entrust the social education of the adolescent population solely to existing voluntary organisations staffed overwhelmingly by well-meaning amateurs.

- all local education authorities to provide for the leisure and recreational needs of young people over compulsory school leaving age.
 - set the Youth Service age range as 14-21.
- 1945 Circular 51 was produced by the Ministry of Education which set out the revised arrangements for grant aiding voluntary youth organisations in the post war period
- 1947 South Wales and Monmouthshire Standing Conference of Juvenile Organisations formed (This organisation eventually evolved into CWVYS)
- 1951 Sir John Maude defines the aims of the Youth Service:
 “To offer individual young people in their leisure time, opportunities of various kinds, complementary to those at home, formal education and work, to discover and develop their personal resources of body, mind and spirit and thus better equip themselves to live the life of mature, creative and responsible members of a free society”;
 Minister for Welsh Affairs appointed
- 1952 Development of a ‘youth culture’ – start of the Teddy Boys and Coffee Bar era
- 1956 Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme launched for boys-girls
- 1960 Albemarle Committee Report (HMSO 1960) leads to:
- Expansion within the Youth Service including a significant building programme of purpose-built centres and the recruitment of more full-time workers
 - National College for the Training of Youth Leaders set up in Leicester
 - Youth Service Development Council formed
 - Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) for Youth & Community Workers to agree the qualifications, salary scales and terms and conditions of youth workers
- 1969 Labour Government commissioned two reports which were amalgamated into the single Milson and Fairburn Report ‘Youth and Community Work into the 1970s.’ (HMSO 1970)
- 1970 The voting age is reduced from 21 to 18
- 1974 Local government reorganisation in Wales – eight county councils formed
- 1976 Major cuts in local government spending;
 Jim Callaghan’s (Labour Prime Minister) ‘Ruskin speech’ on the future of state education
- 1982 Thomson Report (HMSO 1982) (England) published, not accepted by government
- 1984 HMI Survey 13 (HMSO 1984). A unique survey of the Youth Service in Wales
- 1986 National Advisory Council for Youth Service (NACYS) set up;
 Wales Youth Work Partnership (WYWP) set up;
 Youth Work Strategy document produced for Youth Work in Wales (WJEC/CETYCW)
- 1989 The Curriculum debate begins, first Ministerial Conference
- 1990 Youth Service in Wales, Management issues for the 1990’s (Coopers, Lybrand and Deloitte)
- 1991 Second Ministerial Conference;
 Wales Youth Work Partnership became the Wales Youth Agency
- 1992 Third Ministerial Conference;
 Curriculum Statement for Wales produced;

1993 Education Act (HMSO)

1994 Building the Future (WYA)

1996 Local Government Reorganisation- resulting in the replacement of county councils and district councils with 22 all-purpose unitary authorities;
'Agenda for a Generation' produced

Devolution and the Policy Context in Wales

A new policy context was constructed in Wales caused by decisions arising from the election of New Labour to UK government in 1997 and by the setting up of the **National Assembly for Wales (NAW) in 1999**. The new Assembly was created by the Welsh Government Act 1998 and assumed responsibility for a wide range of policies and public services previously controlled by the UK government through the Secretary of State for Wales.

From its very beginning, the National Assembly was keen to promote a new way of operating, described as 'Team Wales'. This was an **approach designed to maximise the relationship between the private, public, and voluntary sectors as a means of delivering its three major themes of *sustainable development, social inclusion, and equal opportunities***. These themes would be linked to new education and training initiatives with their ability to liberate talent, extend opportunity, empower communities, and help create wealth. The 'Made in Wales' theme was continued throughout the strategic plan of the Assembly with the claim that the Team Wales approach would be used to tackle the particular economic and social conditions through greater investment in knowledge-generation and exploitation. In the most recent Welsh Assembly Government elections held in May 2016 the Labour Party remained the largest party as it had been since the first elections in 1999. However, with 29 Assembly Members, it does not have a majority so needed to look for cross party support, which included making the single Liberal Democrat Assembly Member Cabinet Minister for Education. Once again, the new Assembly made broad promises to working towards: healthy people living productive lives in a more prosperous and innovative economy; safer and more cohesive communities, with lower levels of poverty and greater equality; a resilient environment with more sustainable use of our natural resources and a society with a vital sense of its own culture and heritage.

As a consequence of this developing political approach, the Youth Service in Wales was asked a number of questions related to how it would contribute to a political agenda that required it to increase the numbers of young people staying in, or returning to education (Welsh Office 1998a, NAW 2000a) – the start of the young people NEET agenda. Within this setting, the **work of the maintained Youth Service in Wales was being coerced through financial pressures to introduce systems that reflected a growing accountability model driven by a continuing political agenda that prioritised economy, effectiveness and quality (Brown 1998)**. It was an ideology underpinned by systems which allocated financial resources based on an ability to demonstrate, through the attainment of measurable

outcomes, that specified requirements were being met. Consequently, additional bidding, monitoring and evaluation processes were being introduced to ensure that funders, often the government, were more able to control 'delivery'. This approach, continued from the previous Conservative Party era, also became the accepted way of judging young people's learning within the New Labour era.

Key Policy Drivers

The new era brought about by devolution allowed for Wales specific amendments within Section 123 of the **Learning and Skills Act 2000**. This enabled the National Assembly in Wales to direct Welsh local authorities through the Wales specific **Extending Entitlement** strategy to provide, secure or participate in the provision of 'youth support services' to encourage, enable or assist young people to:

- participate effectively in education and training;
- take advantage of opportunities for employment;
- participate effectively and responsibly in the life of their communities.

This approach directed the 22 local authorities in Wales to set up **Young People's Partnerships (YPP's)** as the primary vehicle for maximizing multi-agency activity to deliver the 10 stated entitlements to 11-25-year-old identified in the Extending Entitlement strategy. These were planned to:

- better equip young people to make an effective transition into independent adulthood;
- ensure young people can access their full entitlement and contribute to the social and economic prosperity of Wales; and
- enhance cultural life.

This approach was driven at a local authority level by a Young People's Partnership Plan underpinned by the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**, which since 1999 had become the basis of all work for children and young people in Wales (and contributed to the appointment of a Children's Commissioner in 2001).

An eventual Welsh Government response to having a Youth Service in each local authority was the writing of a **National Youth Service Strategy (WAG 2007)**. Within this the Youth Service was described as the structure within which a particular form of work with young people took place. The strategy also described the Youth Service as an organisation with a positive view of young people with the capability to provide a unique learning environment that would be built on the quality of the relationship developed with the trained and skilled adult worker and the voluntary attendance of the young people it came into contact with. The outcomes for young people from this learning environment were identified as:

- *active participation;*
- *wider skills development;* and

- *enhanced emotional competence.*

Supporting the development of the strategy were the UK wide **National Occupational Standards** (LLUK 2007, LSIS 2012) which identified the purpose, principles and values underpinning the Youth Service approach to working with young people.

The Children and Young People's Partnerships were also required to consider the Welsh Language Act 1993, Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 which makes legislative provision in respect of four key areas;

1. Child poverty
2. Integrated Family Support Services
3. Play, with particular reference to the needs of children who are disabled; and
4. Participation

In 2012, the Welsh Government challenged local authority areas across Wales to improve by April 2013 the way they worked together to benefit the local area. The challenge was to develop a single plan for partnership working, which was called a Single Integrated Plan (SIP), and to streamline the arrangements for partnership working to avoid the possibility of local authority plans working in isolation. The expectation was that all local authority areas' SIPs would replace the proliferation of other partnership plans, including the Children and Young People's Plan, to streamline the local area partnership arrangements by at least half. The Welsh Government released statutory guidance on Integrating Partnerships and Plans called *Shared Purpose: Shared Delivery*.

Another policy driver which has changed the focus of provision for services for young people in Wales is the **Youth Engagement and Progression Implementation Plan** (WG 2013), which provided non-statutory guidance towards reducing the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET).

The National Youth Work Strategy for Wales was revised in 2014 and set out a 4-year vision (2014-2018) for Youth Work in Wales. The revised strategy was clearly linked to the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework with a requirement for the contribution of Youth Work organisations to be better connected with broader support services as a means of supporting a more consistent and integrated offer to young people. The National Youth Work Strategy also comments on the benefits of open-access provision, which it described as being available to all young people, regardless of their background or circumstances. **In addition, it identified Youth Work as being beneficial in providing safe places for young people to relax and have fun, which provides an environment where potentially vulnerable young people can identify themselves and be identified as requiring further support.** The personal and social skills gained via youth work programmes were seen as essential for future employment and functionality in communities for young people of all

abilities. The strategy also recognised Youth Work as being well placed and having the necessary skill sets to provide the ‘lead worker’ role for a number of young people as part of the Youth Engagement & Progression Framework.

Strategically, the revised National Youth Work Strategy resulted in the setting up of a Youth Work Reference Group to support Welsh Ministers and the Welsh Government to carry out a number of key tasks. The findings of the Group provided a clear focus on the way the Welsh Assembly Government intends Youth Work to develop. Informing this approach is the work of Donaldson in his publication ‘**Successful Futures**’ which is seeking to reform the school curriculum by designing a curriculum for life. This involves schools working with a wide range of external partners to develop a breadth of opportunities and activities beyond the traditional learning environment of the classroom. This growing re-awakening of Youth Work resulted in the establishment of the Education Workforce Council and its proposal to register qualified Youth Workers from April 2017.

The **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** was passed whose purpose is to make public bodies think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. The Act also established a Commissioner for Future Generations to advise and assist public bodies in doing things in accordance with this Act. The title of the Act clearly demonstrates a commitment by the Welsh Government to young people as the future generations of Wales.

In 2016 the Children, Young People and Education Committee produced a far reaching and influential report called ‘**What type of youth service does Wales want? Report of the inquiry into Youth Work**’. **This Report contained 10 recommendations.**

Children and Young People’s National Participation Standards (2016) were developed to ensure young people had their voice heard and participated in making decisions that affected them.

In October 2018 an **Interim Youth Work Board** was established in following a commitment from the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning in March 2018. The Boards responsibilities included representing young people and the sector and providing advice and guidance to the Welsh Government.

2019 saw a review of the **National Occupational Standards (NOS)**, specifying the standards of performance individuals must achieve in the workplace, together with the knowledge and understanding required for roles, for most employment sectors. They describe the process of Youth Work as engaging with young people to facilitate their personal, social and educational development and enable them to gain a voice, influence and a place in society. Youth Workers help young people to engage with their local communities, taking

account of cultural diversity. They support the young person to realise their potential and to address life's challenges critically and creatively. Youth Work may take place in a variety of settings including community venues, uniformed groups, schools, youth cafés and on the street, whilst using numerous approaches such as outdoor pursuits, drama workshops, health initiatives, peer education and single issue and single gender work to engage with young people. Youth Work may be carried out by volunteers or via paid employment in the sector.

2019 also saw the publication of a Review of **Extending Entitlement** commissioned by the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language. Extending Entitlement is the policy document produced in 2000 which sought to establish a joined-up framework for 'Supporting Young People in Wales' (National Assembly for Wales 2000). Within the policy, Youth Work (in all its diverse forms) was regarded as having a key role. In response to the request from the Minister, this report sets out to explore:

1. The Current mosaic of Youth Support Services
2. What the term Youth Support Services means and in particular
3. What has happened to Youth Work during the past 17 years

In 2019 a further revised **National Youth Work Strategy** was published which again set out a government vision that ensures Youth Work offers young people opportunities for learning that are educative, expressive, participative, inclusive and empowering. Welsh Government claimed a better future for young people would be achieved by focusing its efforts to achieve the following five aims.

1. Young people are thriving
2. Youth work is accessible and inclusive
3. Voluntary and paid professional youth work staff are supported throughout their careers to improve their practice
4. Youth work is valued and understood
5. A sustainable model for youth work delivery

The strategy provides an example of the sort of ambiguity related to the core purpose of Youth Work, which it claims to be quite rightly non-formal education and informal learning and the outcomes arising from this approach.

Some Milestones

- 1997 New Labour under Tony Blair wins the General Election;
Occupational Mapping and Functions of youth work completed by the National Youth Agency on behalf of the Department for Education and Employment(DfEE)
Social Exclusion Unit is set up in December
- 1999 National Assembly for Wales set up;
An Education and Training action Plan for Wales is produced (Welsh Office 1999)

- “Wales a Learning Country” the 1999 Handbook for Lifelong Learning produced by the Wales Centre for Lifelong Learning (Professor Hywel Francis) University of Wales Swansea
- 2000 *“Mapping Social Exclusion in Wales”* produced by the National Assembly;
“Extending Entitlement: supporting young people in Wales” is produced by the National Assembly for Wales. It is promoted as the most important document for the Youth Service since Albemarle;
 Learning and Skills Act 2000 published;
 Extending Entitlement: Supporting young people in Wales published;
 Extending Entitlement: Report of the New Burdens Working Group;
 National Occupational Standards for Youth Work published by the National Youth Agency;
 Social Exclusion Unit publishes a “National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal;
 Report of Policy Action Team 12: Young People;
 The Youth Service in Wales published by the Wales Youth Agency;
- 2001 The Learning Country published by the National Assembly for Wales;
 The Youth Policy Unit produces guidelines for the development of Local Youth Partnerships.
 “The Learning Country - a Paving Document” published by the National Assembly.
- 2002 Revised Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales launched (May);
 Learning Country: Learning Pathways published;
 Extending Entitlement: Support for 11-25-year olds in Wales Directions and Guidance published;
 Response to the Consultation to the Draft Directions and Guidance for Extending Entitlement published;
- 2003 “Extending Entitlement – The Role of the Youth Service published (Wales Youth Agency)
- 2005 Audit of Local Authority Youth Service for 2003-04 published by the Wales youth Agency;
 Wales Youth Agency closed by the Welsh Assembly Government some of its functions are transferred into the Welsh Assembly Government
- 2006 The Learning Country: Vision into Action published by the Welsh Assembly Government
- 2007 National Youth Service Strategy produced;
 3rd edition of the Youth Work Curriculum Statement produced;
 Labour Party promises £20 million to the Youth Service in its manifesto
- 2008 National Occupational Standards for Youth Work produced (Lifelong Learning UK 2008)
- 2012 National Occupational Standards for Youth Work produced (Learning and Skills Improvement Service)
- 2013 Youth Engagement and Progression Implementation Plan_(WG 2013

- 2015 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- 2016 Children and Young People’s National Participation Standards produced (WG 2016)
Inquiry into Youth Work (What type of youth service does Wales want?) Report of the inquiry into Youth Work conducted by the Children and Young People & Education Committee. This Report included 10 recommendations
- 2017 Remit of the Education Workforce Council expanded to register qualified Youth Workers and Youth Support Workers from April
- 2018 an Interim Youth Work Board is established by Welsh Government
Revised Youth Work in Wales: Principles and Purposes document produced
- 2019 Review of Extending Entitlement
Review of the National Occupational Standards for Youth Work produced
Revised National Youth Work Strategy produced
- 2020 The United Kingdom parted from the European Union on 31 January 2020 following a referendum in 2016. The UK continues to participate in the European Union Customs Union and European Single Market during a transition period that ends on 31 December 2020. The implications for young people and a number of funding streams for the Youth Service are still not known

The National Assembly for Wales is renamed and becomes the Welsh Parliament or Senedd Cymru.

Votes at 16 & 17 come into force on as part of the Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020. The 2021 Senedd elections will be the first in which 16 and 17 year olds and legally resident foreign nationals are allowed to vote in Wales, in a major expansion of the franchise. Around 65,000 16/17s are expected to benefit.

COVID-19 becomes a pandemic. Services to young people are significantly reduced as the rate of infections and the number of deaths rise resulting in a national ‘lockdown’ .

Conclusion

National policy for the provision of services to young people in Wales is affected by the continuing era of austerity. This significantly affects the ability of both the Welsh Government and Welsh local authorities to meet their policy aspirations. Choices have to be made about prioritising services to young people with the decision being made that the most important is the reduction in the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training. To achieve this priority the Welsh Government claims it is crucial to identify those who are most at risk of disengaging, ensuring that they have the right education and training to support their transition into employment. With this focus, much of the universal provision concerned with the personal and social development of young people has been reduced significantly to be replaced in part by a more mechanistic approach based in schools rather than in communities that faces a number of challenges to

fully meet the ambitions of such key documents as the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and the National Youth Work Strategy for Wales. The implications of the decision by British voters to end their membership of the European Union have yet to be finalised but they will affect all areas of policy development related to young people in Wales.

Dr John Rose October 2020