

## The Youth Service in Wales 2010-11: Initial Headline Results

This Statistical First Release presents information collected about the Youth Service in Wales for the year 2010-11.

### Background

The Youth Service in Wales is delivered through the 22 local authorities in partnership with national and local voluntary youth organisations and independent local projects. The National Youth Strategy for Wales, which was launched in 2007, provides a vision for development of youth work in Wales. The Welsh Government is committed to supporting the development of informal learning and has provided funding to these organisations to meet the needs of local young people between the ages of 11 and 25.

The Statistical Directorate of the Welsh Government took on responsibility for the collection of data about the Youth Service in Wales in April 2010. The data collected informs the development and continuous improvement of the Youth Service, and enables practitioners to increase participation and support young people to overcome the barriers to learning, and realise their potential. The quality of the data continues to develop, as centrally we improve the guidance and definitions used within the survey, and locally youth services refine their management systems and data. The known quality issues are highlighted in the Key Quality Information section.

### Key results for 2010-11 show:

- Over 115,000 young people were registered members of the Youth Service in Wales. This figure represented 19 per cent of the population of 11 to 25 year olds in Wales.
- Around 10,400 young people received a nationally recognised accreditation during the year, representing 9 per cent of registered Youth Service members;
- At March 2011, there were 943 full-time equivalent (FTE) Youth Service management and delivery staff working across local authorities in Wales. 10 per cent of these FTE posts were management staff and 90 per cent were youth work frontline staff. There were a further 189 FTE administrative staff, volunteer youth work delivery staff and other staff, giving a total of 1,322 FTE staff in the Youth service in Wales.

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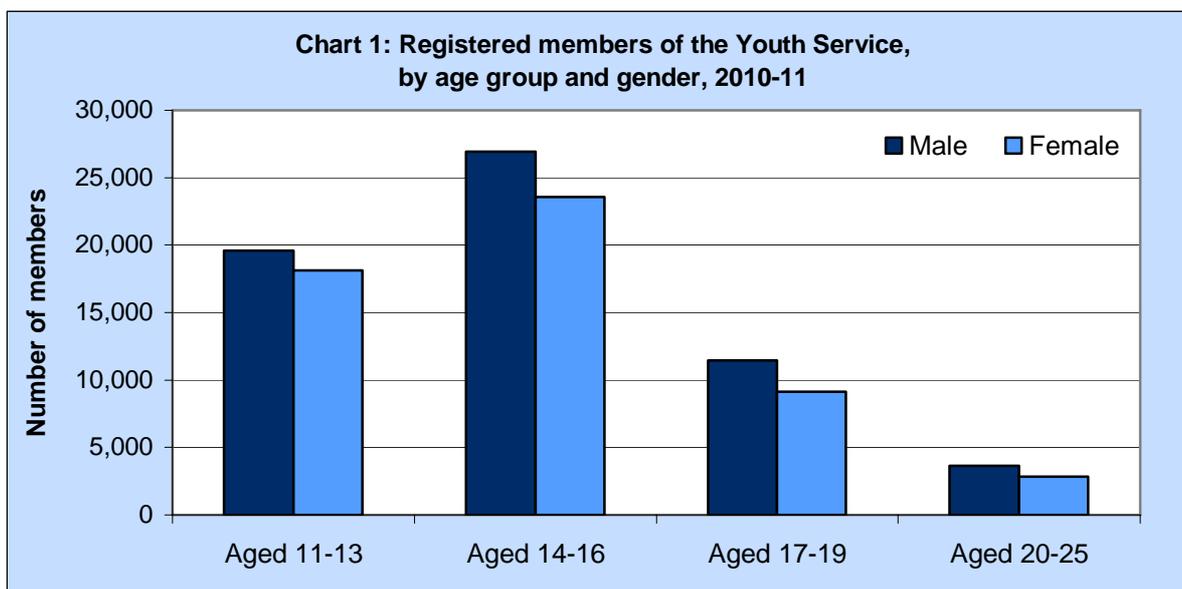
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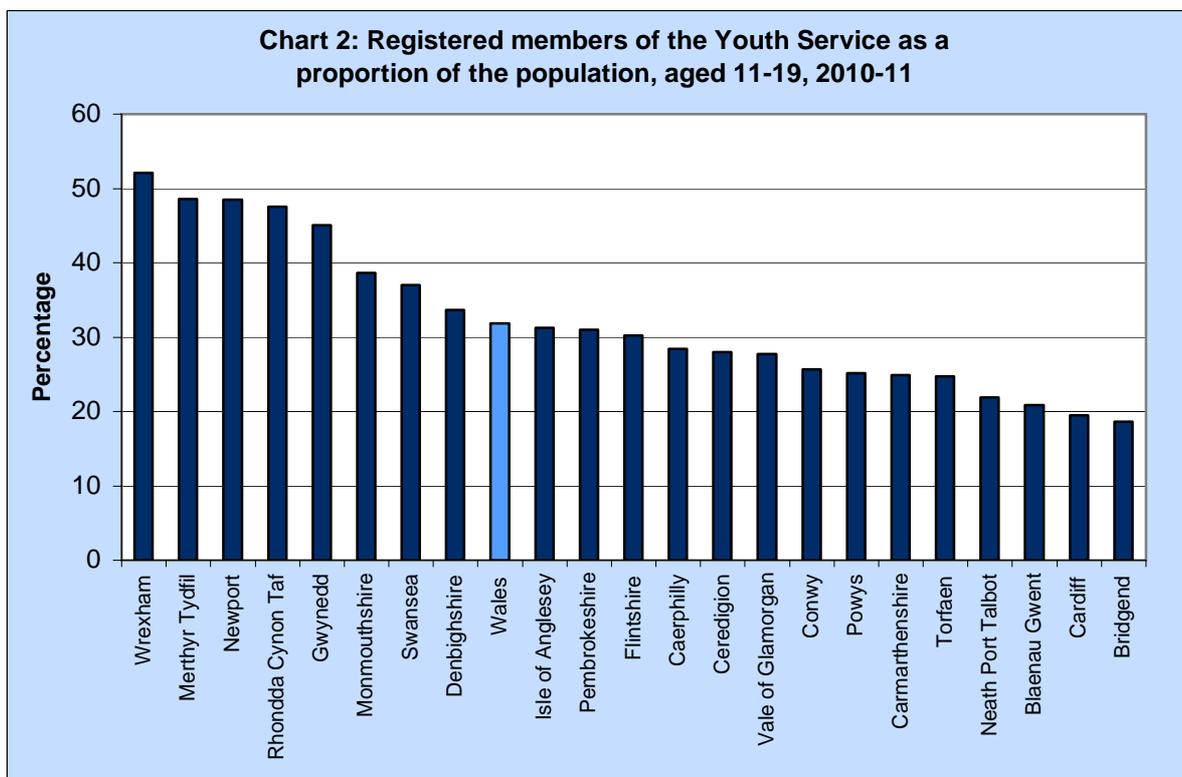


## Registered members of the Youth Service in Wales

The 22 local authorities in Wales reported that 115,309 young people were registered members of the Youth Service in 2010-11, representing 19 per cent of the population of 11 to 25 year olds. (Note a direct comparison cannot be made with previous years, as the survey this year asked for only registered members to be recorded, please see Key Quality Information for more detail.)



33 per cent of members were aged 11-13 years, 44 per cent were aged 14-16 years, 18 per cent were aged 17-19 and 6 per cent were aged 20-25. 53 per cent of the 115,309 were male and 47 per cent were female.



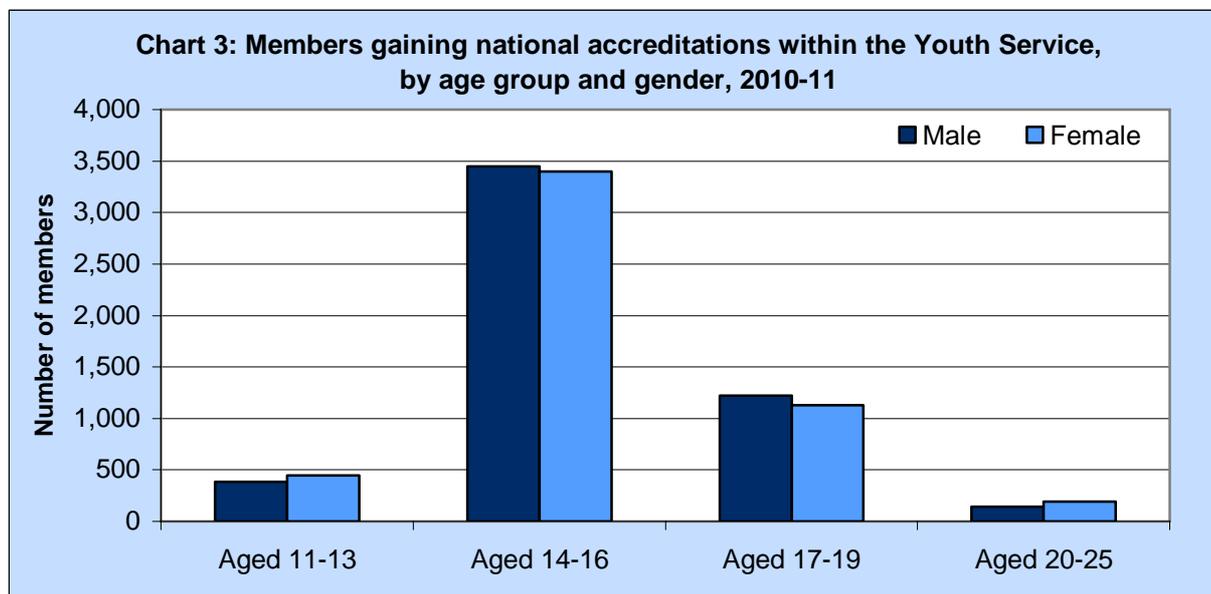
108,820 of these members were aged 11-19 years, representing 32 per cent of the 11-19 population. The proportions reported ranged from 52 per cent in Wrexham <sup>1</sup> to 19 per cent in Bridgend.

<sup>1</sup> It was necessary for Wrexham to estimate their membership figures, please refer to Key Quality Information.

## Accreditation of Youth Service members

The survey collects information on individuals gaining accreditations within the Youth Service. This year's survey, for the first time, differentiated between nationally and locally recognised accreditations. For this reason data are not directly comparable with previous years.

There were 10,357 young people who were reported as having gained a national accreditation in 2010-11 (9 per cent of all registered members).



Most young people gaining accreditations were aged 14-16 (66 per cent). 8 per cent were aged 11-13, 23 per cent aged 17-19 and 3 per cent aged 20-25. The gender split was equal; 50 per cent of those gaining accreditations were male and 50 per cent were female.

11,970 young people (10 per cent of all registered members) were reported as having gained a local accreditation. Note that a young person can gain both national and local accreditations.

## Youth Service Projects

Local authorities provided information about the Youth Service projects that were running across Wales. These projects may be delivered by the local authority youth service alone, or in partnership with other statutory or voluntary bodies.

Most numerous in terms of settings and membership were youth clubs with 473 across Wales, with over 55,000 registered members. Projects were delivered at 160 youth centres with over 48,000 registered members, at 199 schools/colleges and through 193 detached/outreach teams, each with over 28,000 registered members. Note that there will be some overlap of membership, with members able to interact with each of the different settings, and for example with more than one youth club or centre.

## Youth Service Workforce

At March 2011, there were 943 full-time equivalent (FTE) Youth Service delivery staff working across local authorities in Wales. 10 per cent (90) of these FTE posts were management staff and 90 per cent (853) were youth work front-line staff (both core and externally funded).

There were a further 189 FTE administrative staff, volunteer youth work delivery staff and other staff, giving a total 1,322 FTE staff in the Youth service in Wales.

## Notes

### Source of statistics

1. This headline release presents data collected as part of the Youth Service in Wales survey carried out amongst the 22 local authorities in Wales in the late summer of 2011.
2. Prior to 2009-10, the collection and publication of statistics about the Youth Service in Wales was carried out by the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales on behalf of the Welsh [Assembly] Government. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, responsibility for this work transferred to the Statistical Directorate of the Welsh Government.

### Key Quality Information

The quality of the data collected through this survey continues to develop, as centrally we improve the guidance and definitions used within the survey, and locally youth services refine their management systems, which were purchased using funding from the Welsh Government revenue grant allocation for 2009/10, to ensure that all the data gathered for the audit is robust, current and accurate. Both of these issues impact upon the comparability of data from year to year.

For the 2011 survey there has been a considerable amount of work on guidance and definitions to ensure a consistent approach between authorities, to clarify some known issues with earlier surveys, and to reflect current policy. As such, this release does not contain any direct comparisons with previous years as it would provide an inaccurate picture in terms of qualitative outcomes and impact. The further bulletin will include those time series that are possible but these are likely to be limited.

The data have not yet been assessed as National Statistics.

### Membership

For the 2010-11 survey, local authorities were asked to only include young people registered on the Reach system as active during the year (i.e. those for whom a name, address and date of birth was known.) (Reach is the term used to measure the number of young people engaged from the youth population within a designated area/local authority.) In previous years some authorities may have additionally included anonymous members. Given this, and improvements to some authorities recording systems, it is not appropriate to compare this data on a like for like basis with previous years.

Membership should be a count of individual young people and not involve any double counting (through an individual attending more than one type of provision.) Wrexham were unable to identify individual registrations for 2010-11 so that the counts of young people they hold as reached during that year are affected by multiple counting where young people attended more than one provision. To allow for this, the figures provided to the Welsh Government and subsequently reported in this release have been reduced by an estimated factor of 1.6, and from 2011-12, it is intended that the new management information system being adopted by Wrexham will be fully operational, allowing individual registrations to be recorded.

A number of authorities have estimated the age and gender breakdown of young persons registered using a pro-rating as the outputs from their information management systems produced data in different categories to those requested by the Welsh Government.

## **Accreditations**

The 2010-11 survey, for the first time, differentiated between young people who had received nationally and locally recognised accreditations:-

Nationally recognised accreditations are those successfully completed under nationally recognised programmes that are assessed and verified, for example: BELA; Agored Cymru/OCN; ASDAN; Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) and Personal Social Development (PSD).

Locally recognised awards are those successfully completed that are not part of the national programme and are assessed locally, for example: individual modules of DofE or PSD; Mayor's Awards; In-house Certification; Children/Youth University and John Muir Award.

Note that an individual may receive nationally and locally recognised accreditations and as such the data are not comparable with previous years, which was a count of all those with any accreditation.

## **Projects**

In previous years there is thought to have been inconsistent interpretations in the recording of projects by local authorities, whereby some authorities may have counted projects in which a number of different activities were taking place as several projects, while others may have counted one project only in these circumstances. The 2010-11 survey separated the location or setting of projects (youth club etc.) from the type of provision (holiday scheme, Welsh language). Again, this change in the method of collection means that a direct comparison should not be made with previous years. Note that the count of settings is not the total of projects, as there may be several projects running at each setting.

Information on the type of provision will be included in the Statistical Bulletin.

## **Workforce**

For the 2010-11 survey the definition of Management staff has been clarified to be those with less than 10 per cent face-to-face contact with young people. There has also been a change in definition from

*“Youth work delivery staff – core and Youth work delivery staff – external”* to

*“Youth work front line staff – core and Youth work staff – externally funded”*

This will affect the comparability of data with previous years, and the Statistical Bulletin will contain any time series that are thought to still be appropriate.

## **Further information**

This release presents initial headline results, with a further more detailed bulletin to be published in December 2011 - this will include financial data not complete for this release.

Further information is available from the Statistics for Wales web site: [www.wales.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics)