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Consultation – summary of responses

Youth work in Wales: delivering for young people

Proposals for a new statutory framework for youth work

March 2025

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

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Overview

This report presents a summary of the views and perspectives presented by respondents to draft proposals for a new statutory framework for youth work.

Action required

This document is for information only.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

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Additional copies

This summary of response and copies of all the consultation documentation are published in electronic form only and can be accessed on the Welsh Government's website.

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

Introduction

Legislating for a new framework for youth services in Wales is a Programme for Government commitment, addressing a recommendation made by the Interim Youth Work Board in its final report, which called for action from the Welsh Government to address what it perceived as a weak legislative basis for youth work.

A consultation on draft proposals for a statutory framework setting out a new planning, delivery and reporting framework for youth work ran from 7 October 2024 to 10 January 2025. The Cabinet Secretary for Education is grateful to those who took the time to respond to the consultation.

A range of views were received from 110 responses with good representation from all parts of the sector and a reasonable geographical spread. A list of organisations that responded and which were happy for their details to be shared can be found at Annex A.

Alongside the formal consultation process, we developed an engagement guide for use by the youth work sector to engage with young people regarding the proposed new statutory framework. The guide set out discussion points based on the key features of these proposals. The intention was to draw on the expertise of youth workers and their pre-existing relationships with young people to start a conversation on this topic and help young people provide their own responses to these proposals. A total of 14 responses were received either from existing youth forums or as part of a wider organisational response.

We also commissioned the Co-production Lab Wales (CLW) to undertake further engagement with young people, focusing on those young people who may not currently be in contact with youth work organisations. In view of the depth of context and background information required for participants to make informed contributions, CLW's initial focus was to set up discussion groups to explore a range of issues. This was supplemented by responses to a questionnaire in order to gather a broader range of responses. In total, the views of 49 young people were captured by CLW (22 from discussion groups and 19 via the questionnaire).

Summary of responses

Q1. Do you feel that the proposed definition of youth work is clear and helps to differentiate youth work from other services supporting young people?

Yes	No	Not sure	Total responses to this question
31%	48%	20%	93

Many respondents consider that the proposed definition of youth work will require refinement.

Many highlighted the need to more accurately define the ‘distinct educational approach’ by including reference to non-formal/informal learning. These are considered by many respondents to be the hallmarks of a youth work approach which is identifiable as different to learning in formal education settings. A significant proportion of respondents called for the definition to draw more heavily on the key purpose of youth work set out in the [National Occupational Standards \(NOS\)](#) agreed by the sector in 2008. Specifically, this closer alignment to the NOS is considered necessary to ensure the definition includes reference to the holistic approach to the development of young people and the importance of youth voice, both defining elements of youth work.

A significant number of respondents consider the definition would be useful in enabling a distinction to be made between youth work and other services for young people and in confirming youth work as a distinct professional approach within broader youth support services if there was closer alignment to the NOS

However, there is no consensus on whether to include reference to qualification within the definition. Some consider such a reference to be a priority and a prerequisite for securing parity with other professions. However, even amongst those who consider it a priority, there is a concern about the impact on unqualified staff as well as volunteers.

Many respondents from the maintained sector call for the definition to be altered to refer to youth work as a service ‘led by’ qualified staff as a possible alternative position which better reflects a sector which relies on the contribution of volunteers to support delivery.

Q2. Are there any unintended consequences in taking this approach?

Yes	No	Not sure	Total responses to this question
65%	8%	27%	88

Many respondents have highlighted potential unintended consequences of including a reference to qualification within the proposed definition for youth work. Though most respondents consider the impact will be felt most keenly in the voluntary sector, many local authorities also point to the impact on their own workforce and their ability to maintain services in the context of existing recruitment and retention difficulties.

There is a widely-held view amongst respondents that a strict adherence to qualified status risks undervaluing the contribution of community-based provision, given that fewer individuals delivering provision in such settings would typically hold a recognised youth worker or youth support worker qualification. Several respondents expressed a concern that this could displace experienced community workers who

may not wish or be able to gain a recognised youth worker or youth support worker qualification, which could lead to a loss of valuable expertise in the sector.

CWVYS (the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services) highlights in their response the strain that would be placed on organisations that do not have the resources to train all their staff to the required standard should the proposed definition be introduced, and that this would be considered especially challenging for smaller, grassroots organisations.

Some respondents also consider that the proposed definition is out of kilter with the 'grow your own' approach to workforce development often advocated by the youth work sector as being particularly successful. This in turn is considered a risk to the diversity of the existing workforce who bring broader skills, experiences, and approaches, often drawing on their lived experiences.

Q3. Do you feel that a requirement for a youth work strategic plan will help strengthen the design and delivery of youth work?

Yes	No	Not sure	Total responses to this question
73%	5%	22%	93

The majority of respondents support the proposed introduction of youth work strategic plans as a means of strengthening the design and delivery of youth work and highlighting its strategic value across numerous policy areas. A few respondents point to the potential for the plans to influence decisions about funding settlements within local authorities. Several respondents also consider that the introduction of the plans could be useful in identifying and reducing unequal access to services and gaps in provision.

Several respondents consider that the proposal to align plans with the seven connected well-being goals for Wales to be useful in helping to demonstrate how youth work contributes to broader national priorities. Some consider that the plans may result in better resource allocation, easier collaboration between different organisations and help to ensure services are aligned with the needs of young people.

However, the analysis shows that even amongst those who are supportive of the proposals, there are several issues that may need to be considered as follows:

There was a call to ensure plans were firmly rooted in evidence – with clear reference to the use of local data as well as qualitative testimony from young people and key partners on what was required to meet the needs of young people. The development of effective arrangements for gathering data and evidence was considered imperative by many.

Other responses noted that the plans offer a clear opportunity to analyse the extent of Welsh-medium youth work provision and to plan for this provision to be expanded in line with the needs and wants of young people in the area.

Many respondents underlined the importance of clear mechanisms for involving young people in the process of developing youth work strategic plans. One respondent also called for the plans to draw on the experience of youth workers in developing services that transcend the 'needs and wants' of young people to focus on broadening the horizons and ambitions of young people.

A common concern amongst responses was that the success of the strategic plans would depend on the resources and capacity available for their implementation. Many respondents highlighted a potential tension between the development of five-year plans and shorter funding cycles. One respondent noted that uncertainty in funding could lead to a cautious or conservative approach to planning, with local authorities potentially hesitant to commit fully to long-term objectives if future funding was not guaranteed. One respondent called for a three-year plan to align with local authority corporate plans and the current Youth Support Grant funding cycle.

Several respondents highlighted the need for the plans to address workforce-related challenges and an associated call to ensure that the plans provide useful data so that workforce development and training activity can be effectively planned.

Many respondents called for supplementary guidance and templates from the Welsh Government to drive up the quality of plans and to ensure a consistency of approach. Several respondents called for adequate resources to be allocated to support the development of high-quality plans. Drawing on experience from the Play Sufficiency Assessments, one respondent emphasised the value of a template to 'allow for comparison across years...providing a consistent tool for cross-departmental working and the planning of actions'.

Some respondents highlighted a concern that five-year plans may not allow services to be responsive to emerging needs. Conversely, some respondents considered that the framework is open to interpretation which could lead to inconsistency across Wales.

A majority of respondents drew attention to the need for robust monitoring and evaluation of the plans. Some see a clear role for Estyn in this regard, whilst others consider that this could form part of a potential national body for youth work's role, should such an organisation be established. With an appropriate level of oversight, some feel that the strategic plans would help measure the effectiveness of structures and services, helping to show the impact of work.

A particular risk identified by several voluntary organisations whose footprints span multiple local authorities is the need to demonstrate how their services meet multiple different strategic plans with different priorities and the administrative burden arising

from this. Aligned to this is a concern that the plans will place additional demands on local authorities and will divert attention from service delivery.

Several respondents, particularly from the voluntary sector, underlined the importance of ensuring the approach to developing plans is inclusive and collaborative so that voluntary sector organisations are not only involved but are given decision-making authority.

A small proportion of respondents do not consider the strategic plans will have the desired impact. There is a concern from some voluntary organisations that the draft framework's emphasis on the role of local authorities risks 'reinforcing the current, patchwork and seemingly haphazard approach of permitting all 22 local authorities to act differently...'. One respondent shared a concern that voluntary organisations are involved in the design of a strategic plan by way of invitation by the local authority alone and that this could lead to a power imbalance.

Further detail is requested by several respondents on how Welsh Government intend to review progress against the strategic plans and how it will deal with underperformance/non-compliance. Several respondents consider that without adequate scrutiny and a demand for high standards, the proposed plans may have little impact on strengthening the design and development of youth work.

Q4. Do you feel the youth work strategic plan will provide an effective accountability structure for youth work?

Yes	No	Not sure	Total responses to this question
44%	18%	38%	90

A significant proportion of respondents consider that the youth work strategic plans may help elevate the status of youth work as a strategic service and provide a mechanism for holding each local authority accountable for the delivery of youth work. However, some consider that the effectiveness of the plans will rely on effective scrutiny by the Welsh Government and any sanctions employed for under-performance or non-compliance on the plan's objectives.

Several respondents consider the involvement of the local authority's overview and scrutiny committee in reviewing the strategic plans as a positive step, embedding accountability within existing local governance structures. Annual progress reporting was also valued by many, providing a mechanism to track the implementation of strategic plans' objectives. Several respondents highlighted the proposal to publish plans as a useful tool for promoting transparency in decision making.

A considerable proportion of respondents called for further consideration of how best to ensure all partners are held accountable for their role in delivering the strategic plan. Aligned to this was a call from several respondents to clarify specific roles and expectations of different stakeholders. One suggestion was to include local voluntary

sector organisations in the development of local accountability and governance arrangements.

The majority of responses call for the provision of additional guidance, templates and technical advice to drive up the quality of strategic plans and the consistency of practice. Several stakeholders, including the Youth Work Strategy Implementation Board, called for strategic plans and annual reports to include an Equalities Impact Assessment.

A significant proportion of respondents see a role for a national body for youth work, should an organisation of this nature be established, to support the development of strategic plans, promote collaboration and align local plans with national priorities. A few respondents point to the value of Play Wales in supporting local authorities to meet their play sufficiency duty and consider this may be a useful model for youth work.

Q5. The proposals are intended to ensure local authorities design and deliver youth work provision in a collaborative way according to local need. Is this a helpful approach or is there a need to be more prescriptive?

Yes	No	Not sure	Total responses to this question
61%	19%	20%	91

Over half of the responses to this question consider there is a need for more prescription from the Welsh Government on partnership structures. A significant proportion of respondents from the voluntary sector felt this was needed to ensure they and their counterparts across the voluntary sector are included in strategic decision making. More broadly, there was a call for more prescription to drive up consistency and the quality of collaboration across all local authority areas.

Several respondents consider that more prescription is also required to support and improve regional working, highlighting current difficulties in securing consistent 'buy-in' across existing regional structures. Some respondents highlighted a potential role for a national body for youth work, should an organisation of this nature be established, to facilitate networking and partnership building both across local authority areas and on a regional level.

Several respondents called for more prescription on the lead officer role within the new framework, calling for additional detail on the level of seniority expected of the postholder. A few respondents have highlighted the value of the current Youth Work Leadership and Management Programme delivered by Education Training Standards Cymru Wales to facilitate effective, skilled leadership within the youth work sector as a means of developing suitable candidates for this critical role.

However, a few respondents cautioned against an overly prescriptive approach as this could undermine the flexibility required to respond to the needs of the community, calling instead for minimum standards or guidelines. A few respondents

highlighted the existing obligations within Section 125 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000, which remain in force and are already relatively prescriptive. One respondent points to the role of quality assurance processes as an alternative to greater prescription on partnership structures, suggesting that there are opportunities for both the Quality Mark for Youth Work in Wales and Estyn to consider the quality of partnership working and to signpost best practice.

Several voluntary organisations with a national footprint have highlighted potential difficulties in terms of their capacity to feed into partnership structures across all 22 local authorities.

The Youth Justice Board highlighted the importance of integrated strategic planning for youth work and other relevant support to ensure a holistic approach to meeting the needs of young people, to avoid duplication and to strengthen integration with existing services. This was echoed by several others who called for greater clarity on the purpose of the proposed partnership structures and their relationship with existing local and regional structures.

Q6. Are the accountability arrangements proposed in the statutory framework sufficiently robust and clear?

Yes	No	Not sure	Total responses to this question
27%	33%	40%	92

Several respondents considered that the direction to local authorities to provide a distinct youth work service within broader youth support services is itself a positive step in improving accountability. However, some respondents consider that the success of this relies on an appropriate definition of youth work to ensure that funding allocated to youth work is spent specifically on youth work provision.

Many respondents considered the involvement of young people to be a key strength of the proposed accountability arrangements, empowering young people to hold partners to account and ensuring that youth work provision remains relevant to their needs in line with the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). However, several respondents called for a recognition of the need to invest in resources and training to enable effective youth participation.

Several respondents suggested that the Estyn inspection framework for youth work could play a role in considering local authorities' compliance with the proposed statutory framework. A significant number of respondents see a role for a national body for youth work in any accountability framework, should this be established. One respondent proposed regular scrutiny and public release of financial data on local authorities' expenditure on youth work as an effective additional component of the accountability arrangements.

A few respondents have cautioned against adding additional levels of scrutiny beyond what is already in place as this could diminish resource for effective delivery of service.

Q7. Does the proposed youth work entitlement clearly encapsulate how we collectively wish to see youth work designed and delivered?

Yes	No	Not sure	Total responses to this question
48%	26%	26%	92

Many respondents considered the introduction of a youth work entitlement to be beneficial, highlighting the value of establishing national standards for the design and delivery of youth work provision. Many of these positive responses contain suggestions for further strengthening the entitlement through the inclusion of additional 'indicators' of quality provision. These include, for example: the need for explicit reference to provision for young people with additional learning needs, a greater emphasis on youth participation in decision-making and co-production and the recognition of youth work as a platform to empower young people, not just a service to be delivered. Several respondents also call for a stronger focus on professional development of the workforce within the proposed entitlement.

Conversely many respondents considered the current wording of the youth work entitlement to be problematic as it overlooks the complexities of how youth work is delivered on the ground. There is a call for the youth work entitlement to include reference to the need for collaboration and a partnership-based approach. Without this, it was felt by many that the role of the voluntary sector in delivering a rich and varied youth work offer might not be sufficiently acknowledged.

A considerable number of respondents considered that the draft guidance would benefit from further detail as to what constitutes a 'good' youth work offer to young people with reference to opportunities which are 'educative, expressive, participative, inclusive and empowering', i.e. the five pillars of youth work in Wales as set out in ['Youth Work in Wales: principles and purposes'](#).

A significant proportion of respondents also raised a concern that the youth work entitlement is open to interpretation, which could lead to geographical inconsistencies which go beyond local flexibility and may result in a potential 'postcode lottery' in access to support for young people. A significant proportion of respondents call for minimum standards to mitigate against these concerns.

It is clear from some of the responses that there may also be a need to clarify what is meant by the term 'entitlement' in this context. Some have interpreted this to mean an entitlement to youth work per se rather than an agreed approach to the design and delivery of youth work.

Many respondents from all parts of the sector have highlighted a potential difficulty in maintaining alignment with the approach set out in the proposed youth work

entitlement when organisations are reliant on a patchwork of funding drawn from a wide range of sources.

Q8. 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	No	Not sure	Total responses to this question
56%	24%	20%	90

Over half of the responses to this question noted that there was a need for the statutory framework to be more prescriptive in this area. A key concern was the need to ensure consistency in approaches across Wales, where existing practice may be varied in quality and efficacy. Several respondents considered that the framework should establish minimum expectations in terms of young people's participation. Several respondents also suggested there was more scope to share best practice across the sector to drive up the quality of participation and co-production with young people on a strategic and operational basis.

A significant proportion of respondents expressed concern that existing mechanisms of participation may not be sufficiently representative of the population of young people across Wales and called for further guidance to be provided to ensure that the diverse lived experiences of young people were captured.

Some respondents called for greater prescription to avoid tokenistic consultation with young people highlighting the importance of ensuring young people's contributions are not ignored or misrepresented. One respondent called for independent scrutiny of participation structures.

A few respondents did not consider there was a need for further prescription as existing structures for engagement with young people in the design and delivery of youth work were deemed to be robust and effective. Aligned to this was a view that more prescription might impact on the flexibility required to respond to the needs of young people, allowing local authorities and their partners to adapt their approach to specific community needs.

Some respondents emphasised the scope for a balanced approach between prescription and flexibility, by setting clear minimum standards while allowing flexibility in adapting to local needs and conditions.

Many respondents called for recognition of the need for investment to support good quality, meaningful consultation with young people.

Adult Learning Wales noted the reference to the Children and Youth People National Participation Standards as a potentially useful mechanism for ensuring a consistent

approach to participation across Wales with the caveat that the standards need to be reviewed to ensure they are still relevant.

Q9. What, in your opinion, would be the likely effects of the proposals on the Welsh language?

We are particularly interested in any likely effects on opportunities to use the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English.

Do you think that there are opportunities to promote any positive effects?

Do you think that there are opportunities to mitigate any adverse effects?

Total responses to this question

69

Many respondents considered that the proposed framework would align with and support the goals of the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy in creating more opportunities to use the Welsh language. Several respondents highlight the value of Welsh-medium youth work in providing opportunities to use the language outside the classroom, raising the confidence of learners to use their language skills in different contexts.

Several respondents, including those reporting feedback from young people themselves, highlighted the role that Welsh language youth services play in celebrating and promoting diversity, and supporting the linguistic and cultural identity of young people.

Funding and capacity issues were identified as a barrier to strengthening and expanding Welsh-medium youth work provision, with respondents highlighting a lack of Welsh-speaking youth workers. There was a call for further investment to attract and retain Welsh speakers and develop the Welsh language skills of existing youth workers to support and expand a community of practitioners.

Several respondents favoured a bilingual approach, encouraging opportunities for incidental use of Welsh within provision and experience which help to develop young people's confidence to use their Welsh language skills. Some respondents believed that the introduction of a strategic plan would lead to better consideration of the linguistic profile of the local population. Some respondents made the point that, alongside provision for Welsh speakers, there should be consideration of the wider linguistic profile of communities and the need to plan provision according to local need.

However, the Welsh Language Commissioner's response underlined the importance not just of meeting existing demand, but also the opportunity for youth work to have a role in supporting and developing new Welsh speakers' use of the language.

There was a call for more practical guidance to be provided to local authorities to ensure a consistent approach to planning and delivering Welsh-medium provision. A few local authorities felt that a regional approach could be beneficial in strengthening the Welsh-medium offer available to young people.

Q10. In your opinion, could the proposals be formulated or changed so as to: have positive effects or more positive effects on using the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English; or mitigate any negative effects on using the Welsh language and on not treating the Welsh language less favourably than English?

Total responses to this question

39

Many respondents considered that the requirement to develop evidence-based, needs-led strategic plans would ensure that the linguistic profile of a community is central to the plans' objectives. However, there was a call for further guidelines to be provided to local authorities to support in this area.

Many respondents called for integration and alignment of the youth work strategic plans with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP).

Several respondents suggested that the proposals could be strengthened by addressing workforce capacity through initiatives for professional development or dedicated funding for training and recruitment of Welsh-speaking youth workers.

A few considered that addressing gaps in the availability of Welsh language provision could best be overseen at a national level. One respondent called for the framework be accompanied by a dedicated funding stream to address inequalities in access to Welsh-medium provision.

Q11. Any related issues not specifically addressed by the specific questions above.

Total responses to this question

45

Several respondents have called for greater emphasis to be placed on safeguarding within the new statutory framework so that there is a consistent approach across the youth work sector, including robust safeguarding protocols for online interactions.

A few respondents have called for clearer guidance on data collection processes to help with standardisation. This was considered by these respondents to be necessary to allow for effective assessment of outcomes and impact which may in turn provide valuable insights to inform future youth work policy and practice. Linked to this is a call from some respondents for national measures against which youth work could be evaluated. These would clearly define the 'so what' of youth work intervention to increase understanding of the impact of a rich and varied youth work offer.

Some respondents have used this section to reiterate the importance of ongoing investment in training and development to support the youth work workforce as a whole, ensuring training is accessible and affordable so that volunteers as well as paid staff are equipped to deal with the diverse needs of young people. Sustainable, long-term funding is considered critical for tackling workforce development and maintaining good quality youth participation.

One respondent has called for consideration of alternative pathways to qualification for adjacent professions such as teachers.

Many respondents have called for greater focus within the framework on the contribution of volunteers and the need to consider how best to support their practice, highlighting a growing concern about volunteer recruitment and retention.

ETS Cymru Wales called for greater consistency in role titles and the potential need to amend the title of 'youth support worker' to reflect its youth work function.

Several respondents called for a greater emphasis within the proposed framework on the links between play work and youth work in terms of ways of working, service development and delivery and qualification synergy.

One respondent has asked for clarity on the impact of the new framework on the Welsh Government's Strategic Voluntary Youth Work Organisation Grant scheme.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales considers that the reference to the UNCRC within the draft framework should be strengthened to include the explicit rights to which youth work relates. Several respondents called for a Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) to be published.

Additional engagement with young people

Key themes arising from both methods of engagement with young people are set out below.

Youth work definition

Some young people were concerned that the proposed definition of youth work as an education service was restrictive. One young person said that "I feel like it's wider than just education, it uses a social approach, a confidence building and practical

skills approach, which focuses on wellbeing and that creates a safe space for young people”.

A few young people pointed out that the existing definition and its description of youth work as an educational service may alienate those with negative experiences of education.

A significant concern was that the relational and developmental nature of youth work was missing from the definition in its current form. The opportunity to build relationships was considered by many young people as a key function of youth work, in order that they felt that someone ‘had their back’.

Some young people also felt that the empowerment aspect of youth work could be more prominent in the definition. One participant noted that “interventions are carried out by social workers and therapists, but the role of youth workers is to empower and help young people”.

Some young people also considered that the definition overlooked the important advocacy role that youth workers often play.

The inclusion of reference to voluntary engagement within the proposed definition was welcomed as a key differentiating factor that distinguishes youth work from other services. Some respondents highlighted that the right to choose whether to take part in youth work or not was of paramount importance and that inclusion of the fact that this voluntary aspect of youth work without penalty would differentiate youth work from services they had seen in some other educational and healthcare settings.

Some young people questioned the reference to qualification within the definition and asked for clarity on whether volunteers would also need formal qualifications, which was considered problematic as that might be off-putting for those wishing to volunteer.

Many young people called for the definition to be accessible to young people through the use of clear, unambiguous language.

Youth Work Strategic Plans

Several young people consider the proposal for youth work strategic plans to be useful as a way of setting goals. Some thought that a strategic plan would help ensure provision was available across all age ranges, referencing their current struggle to access suitable activities as they got older.

Many young people were eager to ensure that the views of young people, including those who may be disengaged from other settings, were taken into account when developing strategic plans. There was some concern about the capacity of local authorities to do this effectively when budgets are known to be challenging.

One respondent called for the final version of the strategic plan to be approved by a local forum of young people.

Several young people felt that 5-year plans were beneficial, as this afforded local authorities time to fully consider the wants and needs of young people in their area and to address some of the barriers that prevent young people from accessing youth work services.

The proposal to align the strategic plan's objectives to the seven well-being goals (from the Well-being of Future Generations Act) was considered useful by some respondents. The need for youth work to contribute to a globally responsible Wales was considered of particular importance by one respondent in order to encourage young people to look beyond their own local community.

One youth forum called for reassurance that youth work would not become a replacement for other mental health and wellbeing services.

Youth participation structures

Many young people stressed the importance of communication and information-sharing in making participation effective, including proactive outreach utilising social media and digital technology. Schools were also mentioned by many young people as a way to reach a broader range of young people. Some young people also suggested a single centralised website would be useful, listing all local youth services in an area, which could include survey links, online questionnaires, and information about how they and their peers could get involved.

Several respondents highlighted the importance of ensuring that young people receive specific and timely feedback following a consultation or co-design session so that they could see that their voices were making a difference. The 'you said, we did' reporting model emerged as a recurring theme, highlighting the importance of closing the feedback loop.

Several young people expressed a strong desire to be involved in the evaluation of strategic plans and the quality of services more generally. One suggestion was for peer review of a local authority's services, through the involvement of young people from a different area interacting with local young people to gather and report back on their views.

A recurring theme was the need for continuous involvement of young people, extending participation beyond one-off consultations, and to provide genuine decision-making opportunities and structured opportunities for input. Some young people spoke about wanting to be involved in setting budgets and designing programmes rather than being consulted only after decisions were made.

Many young people welcomed the statutory requirement for the participation of young people but felt that clearer national guidance was needed to ensure it is delivered effectively and inclusively across all local authorities. Some young people also highlighted a concern that some local authority youth councils can be tightly controlled by local authority staff and steered away from recommendations or discussions which might adversely affect the authority in question. There was a call for independent scrutiny of such forums.

Next steps

The Welsh Government would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to this consultation. As this summary demonstrates, a significant amount of feedback has been received in response to the consultation exercise on the draft statutory framework. These range from ideas on how the content of the guidance can be strengthened and improved, to suggestions about other action that can be taken to contribute to strengthening the legislative basis for youth work.

Feedback received in response to the consultation questions will be taken into account in informing the final framework, with Welsh Government continuing to work closely with representatives from across the sector and other key stakeholders on refining our proposals.

Annex A

List of respondents

Adult Learning Wales
Rt Hon Alun Michael
Beverley Martin, Girlguiding Cymru
Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Wales
Boys and Girls Wales Youth Forum
Bridgend Council (on behalf of the wider services including the third sector)
Cardiff Youth Service
Carlie Torlop, YMCA Swansea
Ceredigion County Council
Children in Wales
Children's Commissioner for Wales
Conway Hawkins, Wick and Colwinston Youth Clubs
Conwy County Borough Council
Councillors from Caernarfon Town Council
Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS)
Dave Brunton, Senghenydd Youth Drop in Centre
David Williams, Torfaen County Borough Council
Education Training Standards (ETS) Wales, also on behalf of the Workforce
Development Implementation Participation Group
Education Workforce Council
Estyn
Fforwm Ieuenctid Eryri (Urdd Gobaith Cymru)
Fforwm Ieuenctid Fflint a Wrecsam (Urdd Gobaith Cymru)
Gareth Parry
Gareth Prosser, South Wales Police
GISDA
Dr Howard Williamson, University of South Wales
John Killick
Josh Klein, Monmouthshire County Council
Josie Downing, Cardiff Youth Service
Keith Towler
Kymberly Sultana
Leanne Williams, Cardiff Youth Service
Lee Wright, Fishguard and Goodwick Young Persons Trust
Leslie Critchlow-Hughes, EYST / Caia Park Partnership
Lisa Knowles, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Llamau
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
National Academy for Educational Leadership Wales
NYAS Cymru
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales
Pembrokeshire Youth Service
Peter Williams, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Platform
Play Wales
Promo Cymru

Rachael Barry, Cardiff Youth Service
Responses from young people in EYST
Richard Williams, YMCA Swansea
Stephen Aldridge
Swansea Youth Service
The Equality and Human Rights Commission
Tracy Lowe, ScoutsCymru
Urdd Gobaith Cymru
Vale Youth Forum
Wales Safer Communities Network
Welsh Language Commissioner
Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), Association of Directors of Education
for Wales (ADEW) and Wales Principal Youth Officers' Group (PYOG)
YMCA Cardiff
YMCA England & Wales
Young Wales
Youth Ambassador, Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys
Youth Cymru
Youth Justice Board
Youth Work Strategy Implementation Board
Youth work team, University of Wales Trinity Saint David
Zoe Davies, Fishguard and Goodwick Young Person's Trust