

# Terms of Reference of the All Wales Youth Work Research Network

## Vision and Purpose

Youth Work in Wales is under-researched, and the vision of the network is to increase the capacity of the Youth Service to better understand Youth Work, its theory, policy, practice and impact.

With the support of the Education and Training Standards Committee (ETS), the purpose of the network is to work collaboratively to develop widespread understanding of Youth Work and its role and impact in the lives of young people. This approach will provide reliable and valid research findings of use to Youth Work practitioners, Youth Work managers, other organisations working with young people, politicians at local and national levels.

The network will develop a literature concerning Youth Work, to collate and, where relevant, contribute to/steer undergraduate, postgraduate, practitioner research into the lives of young people that could have an impact on Youth Work practice. It is the intention to pursue the development of a peer reviewed journal for Youth Work in Wales.

The network will provide a safe professional space where students and practitioners can present their qualitative research in progress, as well as one where academics and practitioners can present more established pieces of research, to increase capacity in engagement with research in Youth Work in Wales, the UK and within a wider European context.

The network will seek to impact the evaluation and implementation of Youth Work policy through generating evidence-informed approaches and the development of practice focused resources.

The network will seek to improve pathways to share research findings and will produce publications for the benefit of young people, Youth Work and the Youth Service. The network will seek to provide a platform from which to discuss qualitative research at an interdisciplinary level and facilitate collaborative working and practice among different research communities.

## Membership

Membership of the network is open to all those with an interest in research into Youth Work, its study, theory, policy and practice.

## Terms of reference:

1. To support and promote greater collaboration between established research centres
2. To receive reports on progress from members relating to practice, research, commercial activity.
3. To support the publication of documents related to research in the field of Youth Work from network members, particularly through the use of the online e-library [www.Youthworkwales.org.uk](http://www.Youthworkwales.org.uk)
4. To promote the development of a sustainable research base by supporting and developing early career and established researchers through a process of mentoring and supervision
5. To support, help shape and contribute to the emergence and development of new research activity and to contribute to, and take account of, Welsh Government policy.
6. To support the development of evidence informed approaches for the Youth Work sector in all its variety.
7. To provide reports for ETS and other sector bodies on research and related activities.
8. To establish a programme of Youth Work Research Days that foster collaboration, innovation, impact and research excellence.
9. To consider, support, and inform appropriate applications for funding as appropriate.
10. Any other matters or activities from time to time as may be deemed appropriate in line with the vision and purpose of the network.