

Youth work in Wales, 2017-18

17 October 2018
SFR 96/2018

Youth work in Wales is delivered through the 22 local authorities each year and also through the voluntary sector. This release relates to information collated by the statutory youth work sector in Wales, and is used within the Welsh Government, by local government and practitioners to monitor trends in Youth work membership, finance and staff.

Information has been obtained from all 22 local authorities for 2017-18, but this has not been the case in all previous years, and therefore comparisons need to be made with caution. Where comparisons are made with 2016-17 within this release, they are based on authorities with consistent data in both years.



16% of 11 to 25 year olds are registered members of statutory youth work sector provision (89,400), the same proportion as in the previous year

Compared with the previous year youth work membership has remained steady, whilst there has been a decrease to staffing. Expenditure increased very slightly, whilst income saw a small decrease.

- At March 2018, there were 647 full-time equivalent Youth Work management and delivery staff working in local authorities in Wales, a decrease of around 4 per cent compared with the previous year.
- The total income for Youth Work provision across Wales in 2017-18 was £31.9 million. Total income decreased by an estimated 0.7 per cent compared with 2016-17, with core budget decreasing, and an increase to additional income.
- The total spend for Youth Work provision across Wales in 2017-18 was £31.9 million. Total spend increased by an estimated 0.2 per cent compared with 2016-17.

About this release

This annual Statistical Release presents detailed information about the statutory youth work sector in Wales for 2017-18, with some comparisons with previous years.

The quality of the data continues to develop, as centrally we improve the guidance and definitions used within the survey, and locally authorities providing youth work provision refine their management systems and data. The known quality issues are highlighted in the Key Quality Information section.

In this release

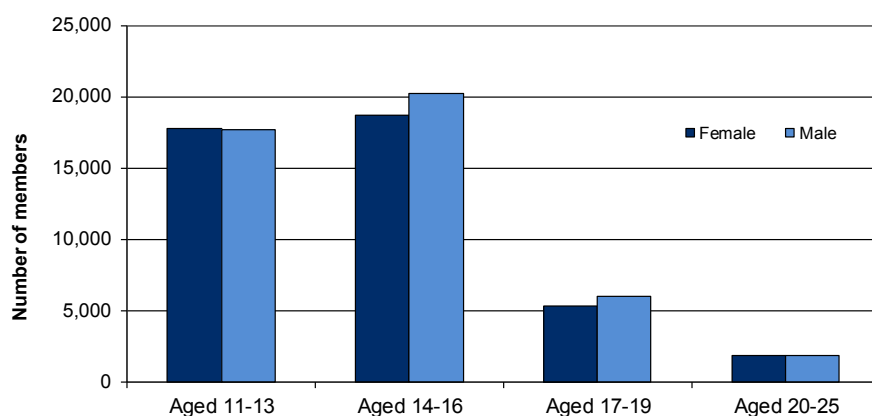
| | |
|----------|---|
| Members | 2 |
| Projects | 4 |
| Staff | 6 |
| Finance | 8 |

Registered members¹ of youth work provision in Wales

16 per cent of the population of 11 to 25 year olds were registered members of youth work provision in 2017-18 (89,397 young people). This proportion is unchanged from 2016-17.

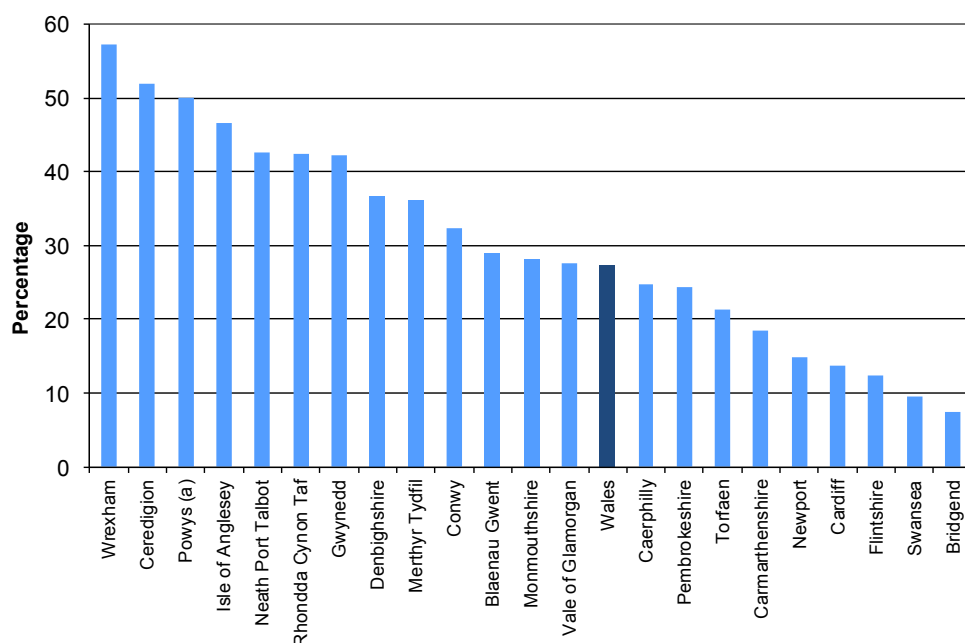
40 per cent of members were aged 11-13, 43 per cent were aged 14-16, 13 per cent were aged 17-19 and 4 per cent were aged 20-25. 51 per cent of the 89,397 were male and 49 per cent were female (similar proportions to last year)

Chart 1: Registered members of youth work provision by age and gender, 2017-18



The 96 per cent of these members who were aged 11-19 years, represented 27 per cent of the 11-19 population. The proportion of the 11-19 year old population registered as members ranged from 57 per cent in Wrexham to 7 per cent in Bridgend. Of the 20 local authorities with data for both years, 10 reported an increased membership proportion, one was unchanged and 9 a decrease. Further detail can be found in table 1.

Chart 2: Registered members of youth work provision as a proportion of the population, aged 11-19, 2017-18



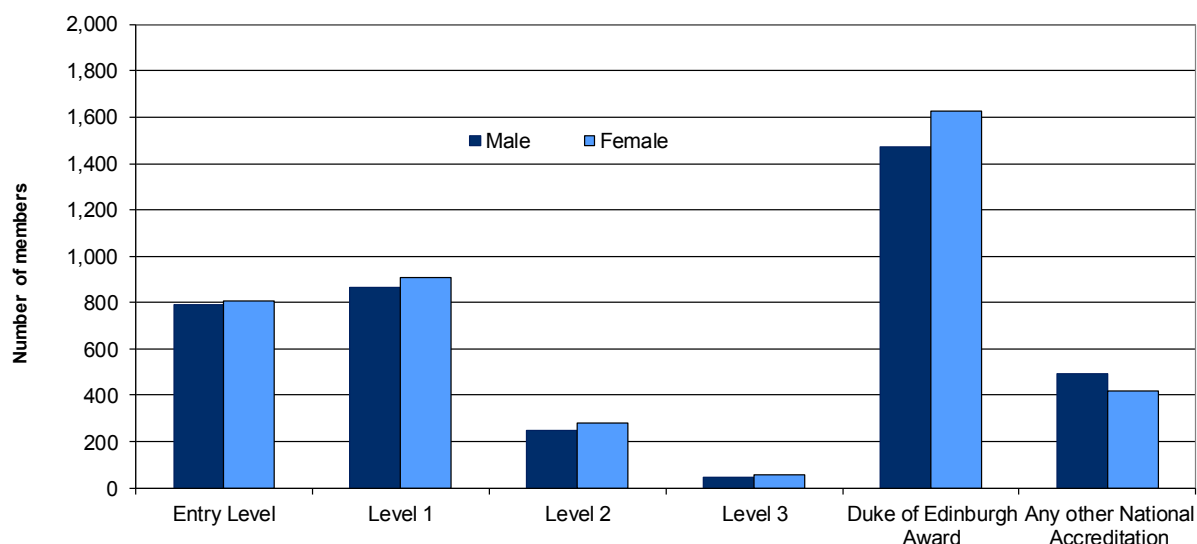
(a) Powys data based on 2016-17 figures

¹ Young people registered on local authority Reach systems as active during the year (i.e. those for whom a name, address and date of birth was known).

Accreditation of members

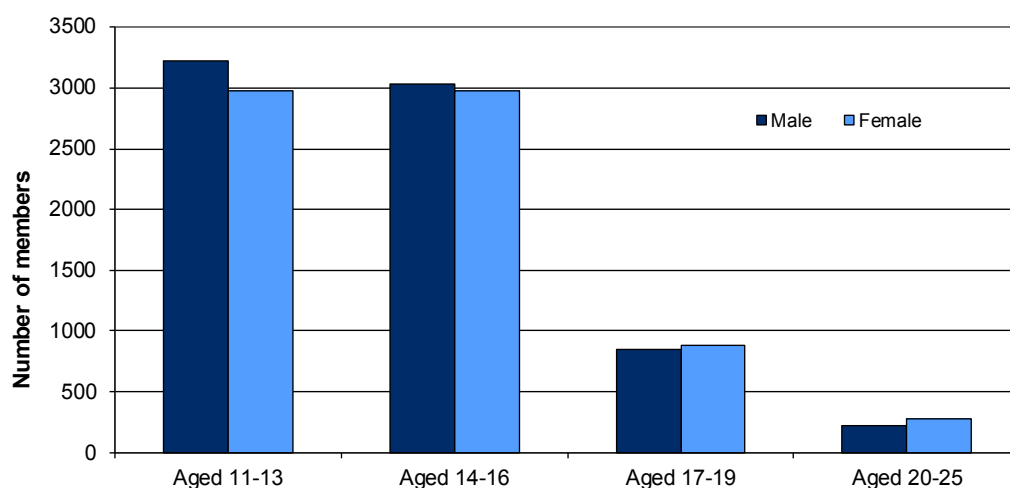
The survey collects information on individuals gaining accreditations through youth work provision differentiated between national and locally recognised accreditations. There were 8,018 young people who were reported as having gained a national accreditation in 2017-18 (9 per cent of all registered members, compared with 10 per cent in the previous year). 14,426 young people were reported as having gained a local accreditation. This is 16 per cent of all registered members, compared with 14 per cent in the previous year. (Note that a young person can gain both national and local accreditations.)

Chart 3: Members gaining national accreditations within youth work provision by Level and Award



Duke of Edinburgh Awards accounted for the highest proportion of national accreditations (39 per cent). This was a decrease from 47 per cent in the previous year, as the number of Duke of Edinburgh Awards accredited through the statutory youth work sector decreased to 3,100 compared to over 4,200 (figure for 21 authorities) in the previous year. (The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme is also offered through the voluntary sector, and some schools and colleges).

Chart 4: Members gaining local accreditations within the youth work provision, by age group and gender, 2017-18



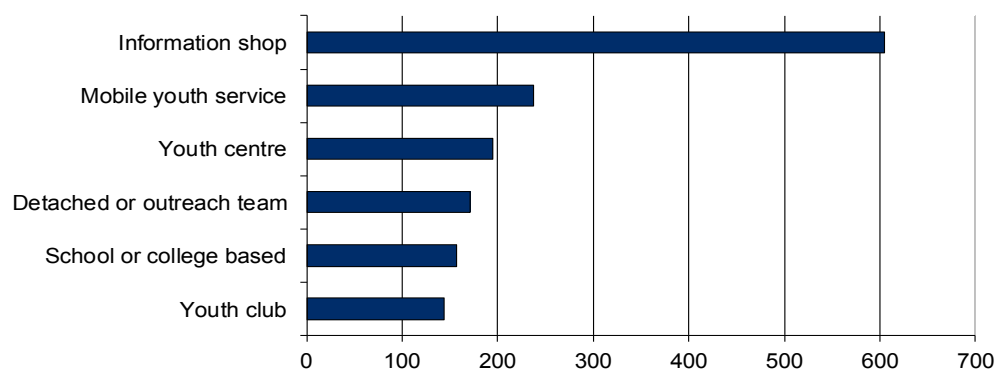
Most young people gaining local accreditations were aged 11-13 (43 per cent) and 14-16 (42 per cent). 12 per cent were aged 17-19 and 3 per cent aged 20-25.

Youth work settings and projects

The survey collects information about the settings and projects for youth work provision that were running across Wales. The projects may be delivered by the local authority alone, or in partnership with other statutory or voluntary bodies.

Most numerous in terms of settings, and with the highest membership were youth clubs (298) and school and college projects (291), followed by youth centres (107), with respective total membership across Wales of 42,800, 45,800 and 20,800. There are 72 detached/outreach teams with 12,300 registered members. Compared with the previous year (based on 21 authorities with data in both years) there were increases to the number of detached or outreach team projects, and information shops, with other settings showing small decreases. 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. Information shops had the highest number of members per setting, with an average of 605 registered members. Youth clubs had the lowest, with an average of 143 registered members.

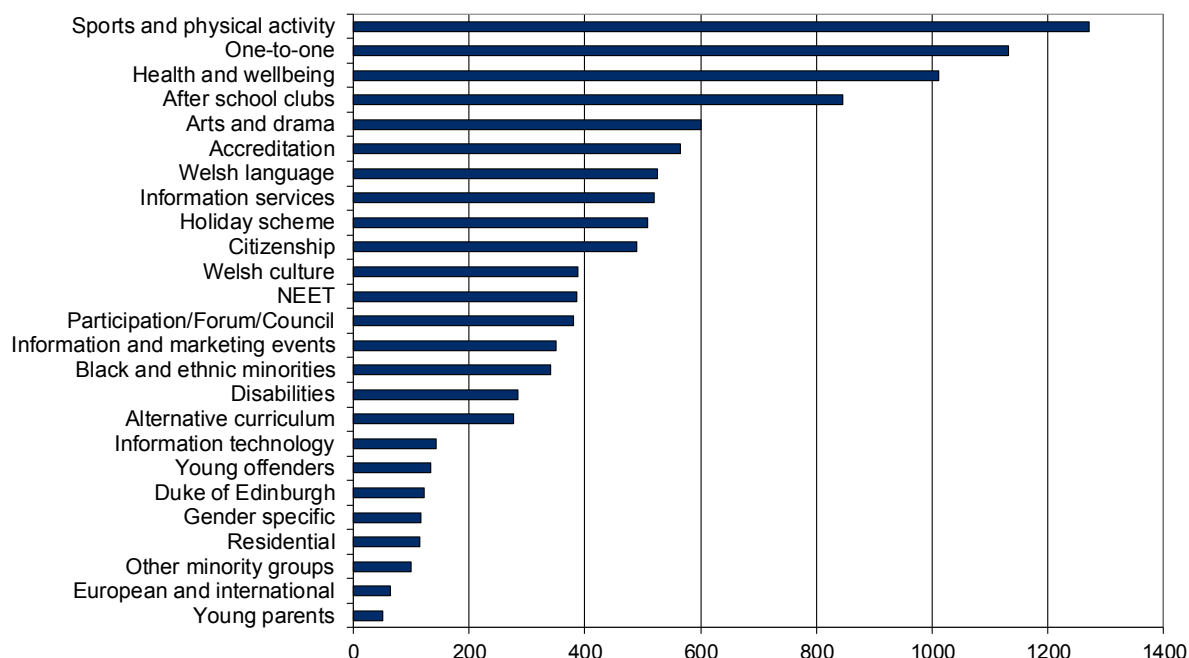
Chart 5: Average number of members per youth work setting, 2017-18



The type of individual projects was also recorded. Most numerous in terms of projects were Sports and Physical Activity projects with 1,271 in Wales followed by One-to-one (1,132).

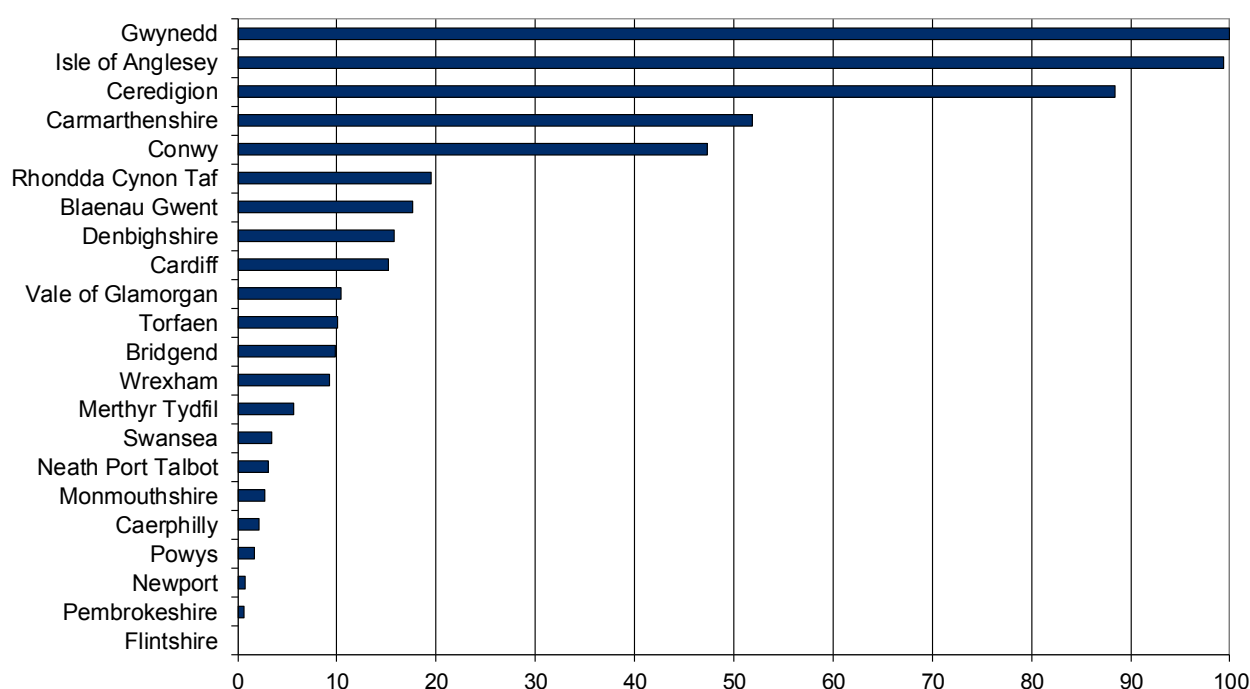
Projects are recorded multiple times if it was relevant to more than one type. For example the same project could be recorded within Arts and Drama, Welsh culture and Residential.

Chart 6: Number of youth work projects, by type of provision, 2017-18



19% of all projects were delivered entirely or mainly through the medium of Welsh. The proportion of projects delivered entirely or mainly through the Welsh language was highest in Gwynedd (100%), followed by Isle of Anglesey (99%) and Ceredigion (88%).

Chart 7: Percentage of youth work projects delivered entirely or mainly through the Welsh language, 2017-18



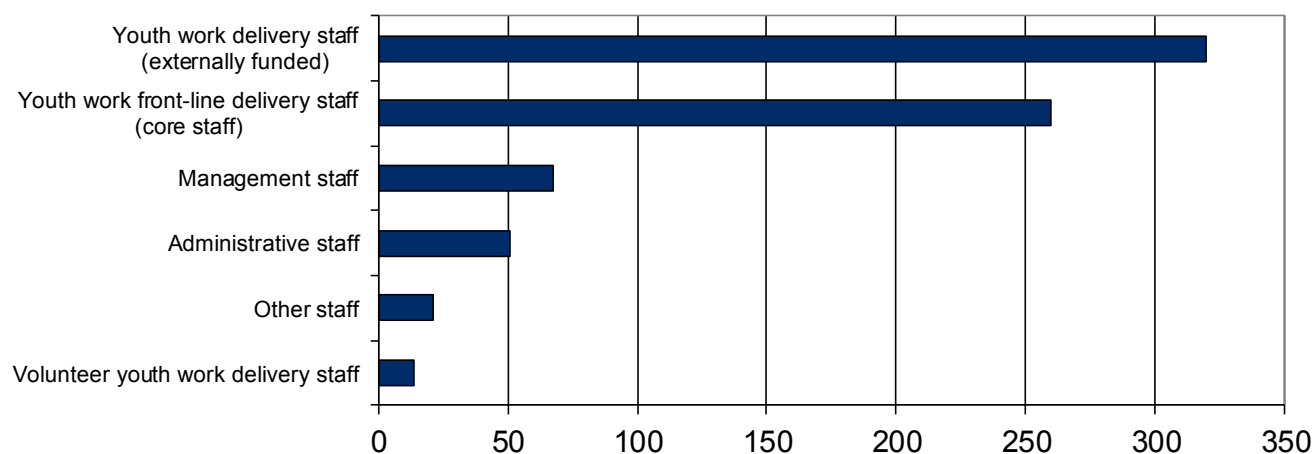
Youth work staff

At March 2018, there were 647 full-time equivalent (FTE) youth work delivery staff working across local authorities in Wales. 10 per cent (67) of these FTE posts were management staff and 90 per cent (580) were youth work front-line staff (covering both core and externally funded staff). The number of externally funded delivery staff overtook core front line delivery staff for the first time this year.

Compared with the previous year (based on 21 authorities with data in both years), there has been an overall decrease of around 4 per cent to FTE youth work delivery staff numbers in Wales. Within this decrease the number of core front line delivery staff has decreased by around 20 per cent, whilst there have been increases to externally funded delivery staff (13 per cent) and management staff (6 per cent).

There were a further 14 FTE volunteer youth work delivery staff, and 72 FTE administrative and other staff, giving a total of 733 FTE youth work staff in Wales at March 2018.

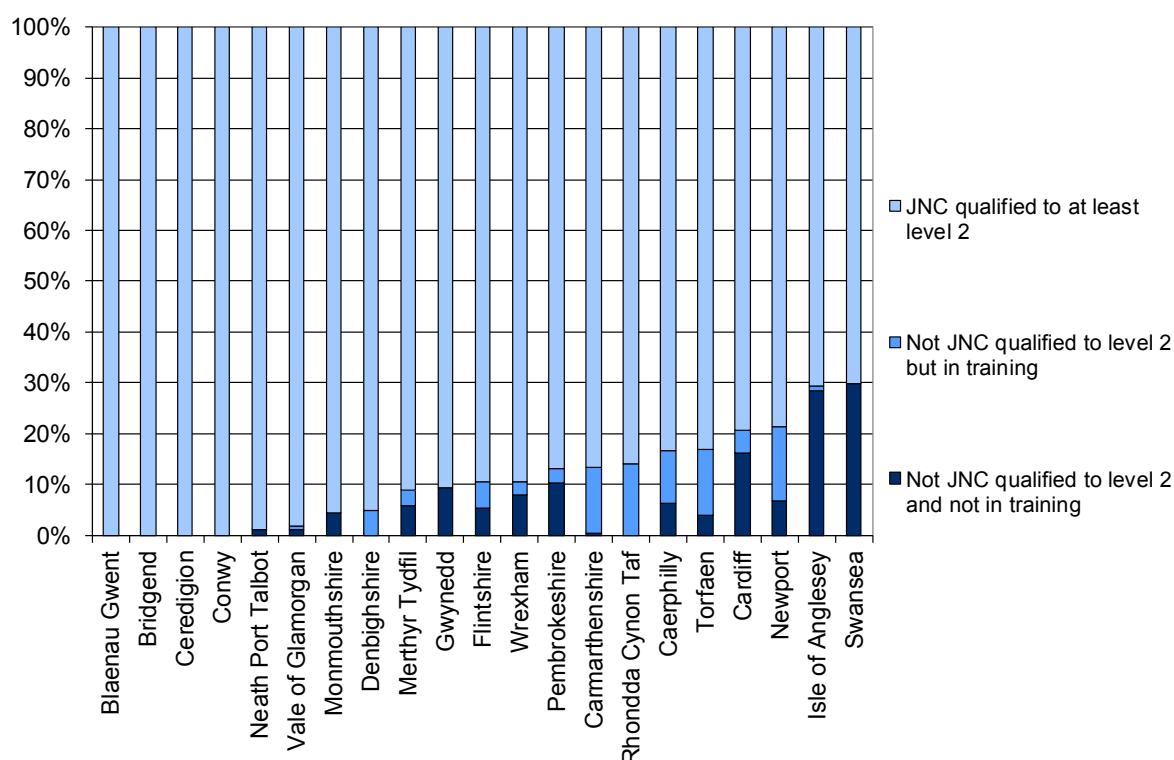
Chart 8: Number of full-time equivalent youth work staff, 2017-18



Qualifications

Youth work delivery staff were slightly more likely to be qualified than in the previous year and also more likely to be undertaking training. In 2017-18, 86 per cent of all youth work delivery staff (FTE) held at least level 2 ²Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) professional qualifications (compared with 85 per cent in 2016-17). Of those without a level 2 or above JNC qualification, 40 per cent were in training (39 per cent in 2016-17). More detailed information can be found in Table 2.

Chart 9: Percentage of youth work delivery staff (FTE) by JNC qualification, 2017-18



Staff ratios

The ratio of FTE management staff to FTE youth work delivery staff in Wales in 2017-18 was around 1:9.

The ratio of registered members aged 11-25 to FTE youth work delivery staff (excluding management staff) was 154 young people per worker in 2017-18. For the 11-19 population, the ratio was 148:1. (Note that these ratios reflect the total registered membership and not attendance at sessions).

² Degree level, diploma, NOCN3, or any other qualification from JNC level 2 upwards. The JNC endorses professional qualifications for youth and community workers.

Youth work finance

Income

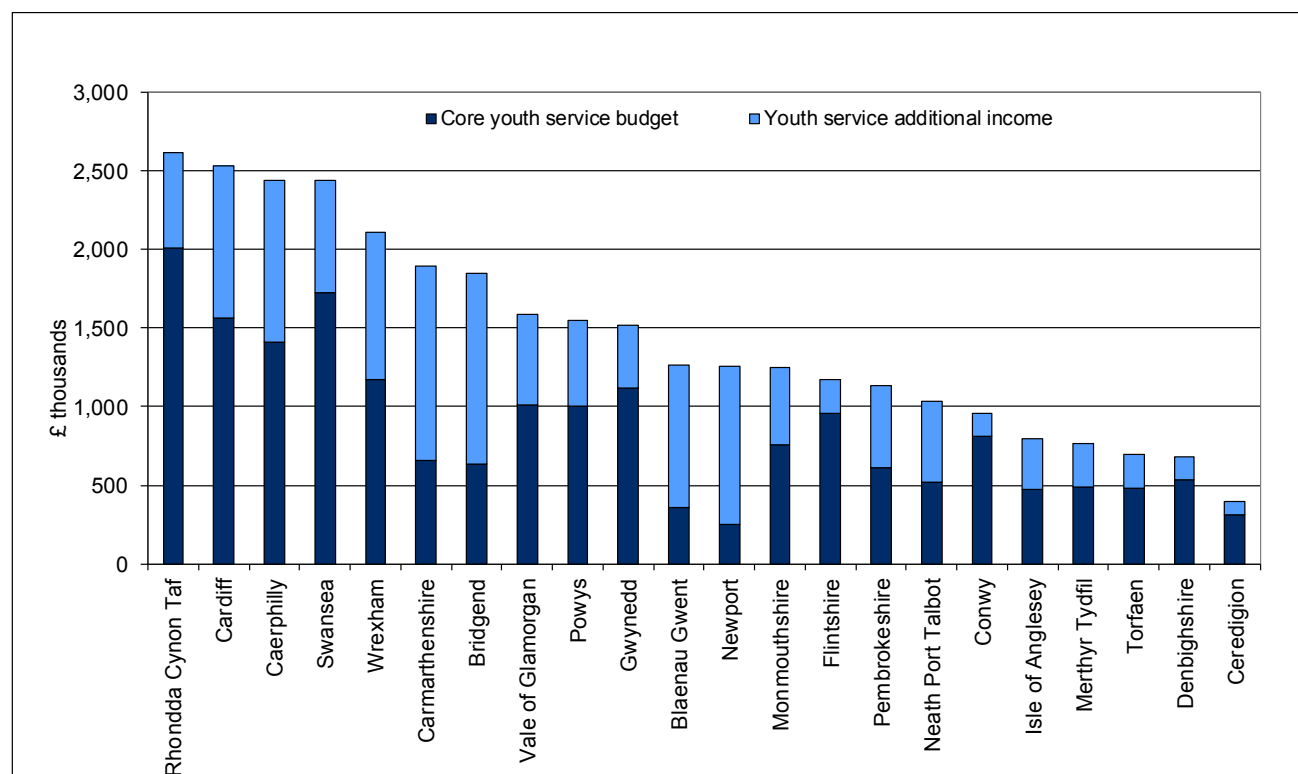
The total income for youth work in 2017-18 was £31.9 million. Compared with the previous year (based on 21 authorities with data in both years), there has been an overall decrease of around 0.7 per cent. Of 21 authorities, 12 saw an increase in total income (further detail in table 3).

The total of core youth work budgets in 2017-18 was £18.9 million (59 per cent of the total income), a decrease of 3.7 per cent compared with 2016-17 (based on 21 authorities), with a decrease taking place in all except 7 authorities. The contribution made by core youth work budgets to the total youth work income across Wales varied between authorities, ranging from 85 per cent in Conwy to 20 per cent in Newport.

In addition to the core youth work budget, the total budget for youth work in Wales for 2017-18 included income of £13.1 million from other sources. 'National Sources' contributed the majority (£10.6 million or 81 per cent) of these funds, £3.6 million of which was provided by Families First, £3.3 million from Youth Work Strategy Support Grant and £2.7 million by European Funding.

The contributions of the core youth work budget and additional income from other sources in each local authority is shown in Chart 10.

Chart 10: Core youth work budget and additional income, 2017-18



Expenditure

The total spend by youth work provision in Wales in 2017-18 was £31.9 million. Compared with the previous year, there was a small increase of 0.2 per cent in total spend. Expenditure ranged from £2.6 million in Rhondda Cynon Taf to £0.40 million in Ceredigion.

The majority of spending was on employees, at 75 per cent of all expenditure. The remaining expenditure included 8 per cent on resources and 7 per cent on accommodation.

A further 2 per cent of expenditure was grant aid from the statutory youth work sector to the voluntary sector. Including contributions from the wider local authority budget, local authorities provided £808,650 in grant aid to voluntary youth services in Wales during the year.

Spend per head of population

In 2017-18, the total spend by youth work provision per head of population aged 11-19 years was £102 (a slight increase on the previous year). The core Youth Work budget per head of population aged 11-19 years decreased slightly to £60. Full details can be seen in Table 4.

Table 1: Youth Service Members 2017-18

| | 11-25 year olds | | | | | 11-19 year olds | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Mid-year population estimate 2017 | Number of individual members | Members as percentage of population | Members with national accreditations as percentage of total members | Members with local accreditations as percentage of total members | Mid-year population estimate 2017 | Number of individual members | Members as percentage of population |
| Isle of Anglesey | 10,204 | 2,992 | 29 | 8 | 6 | 6,206 | 2,896 | 47 |
| Gwynedd | 25,201 | 5,638 | 22 | 9 | 3 | 12,617 | 5,336 | 42 |
| Conwy | 17,035 | 3,564 | 21 | 9 | 9 | 10,684 | 3,451 | 32 |
| Denbighshire | 15,275 | 3,486 | 23 | 19 | 67 | 9,381 | 3,450 | 37 |
| Flintshire | 25,214 | 1,927 | 8 | 14 | 14 | 15,409 | 1,902 | 12 |
| Wrexham | 22,302 | 8,371 | 38 | 1 | 3 | 13,521 | 7,743 | 57 |
| Powys (a) | 19,892 | 6,406 | 32 | 2 | 0 | 12,673 | 6,348 | 50 |
| Ceredigion | 16,794 | 4,197 | 25 | 11 | 45 | 7,555 | 3,916 | 52 |
| Pembrokeshire | 19,615 | 3,064 | 16 | 14 | 11 | 12,132 | 2,949 | 24 |
| Carmarthenshire | 29,830 | 3,625 | 12 | 19 | 0 | 18,239 | 3,372 | 18 |
| Swansea | 51,198 | 2,490 | 5 | 14 | 14 | 25,488 | 2,449 | 10 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 23,613 | 6,284 | 27 | 10 | 32 | 14,406 | 6,132 | 43 |
| Bridgend | 23,659 | 1,221 | 5 | 27 | 4 | 14,233 | 1,067 | 7 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 21,492 | 3,816 | 18 | 22 | 38 | 13,286 | 3,662 | 28 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 43,196 | 10,330 | 24 | 2 | 2 | 24,085 | 10,230 | 42 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 10,276 | 2,190 | 21 | 26 | 2 | 5,884 | 2,123 | 36 |
| Caerphilly | 31,117 | 4,691 | 15 | 6 | 60 | 18,458 | 4,585 | 25 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 11,821 | 1,999 | 17 | 15 | 11 | 6,717 | 1,944 | 29 |
| Torfaen | 15,757 | 2,076 | 13 | 1 | 17 | 9,158 | 1,958 | 21 |
| Monmouthshire | 14,501 | 2,670 | 18 | 4 | 18 | 9,131 | 2,564 | 28 |
| Newport | 26,929 | 2,923 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 15,858 | 2,356 | 15 |
| Cardiff | 88,095 | 5,437 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 38,058 | 5,250 | 14 |
| Wales | 563,016 | 89,397 | 16 | 9 | 16 | 313,179 | 85,683 | 27 |

(a) Powys membership data based on 2016-17 figures

Table 2: Percentage of FTE youth work delivery staff with and without Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) Qualifications 2017-18

| | Qualified to at least JNC level 2 | Not qualified to at least JNC level 2, but in training | Not qualified to at least JNC level 2, not in training |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Isle of Anglesey | 71 | 1 | 28 |
| Gwynedd | 91 | 0 | 9 |
| Conwy | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Denbighshire | 95 | 5 | 0 |
| Flintshire | 89 | 5 | 5 |
| Wrexham | 89 | 3 | 8 |
| Powys | 64 | 14 | 23 |
| Ceredigion | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Pembrokeshire | 87 | 3 | 10 |
| Carmarthenshire | 87 | 13 | 0 |
| Swansea | 70 | 0 | 30 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 99 | 0 | 1 |
| Bridgend | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 98 | 1 | 1 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 86 | 14 | 0 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 91 | 3 | 6 |
| Caerphilly | 83 | 10 | 6 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Torfaen | 83 | 13 | 4 |
| Monmouthshire | 96 | 0 | 4 |
| Newport | 79 | 15 | 7 |
| Cardiff | 79 | 5 | 16 |
| Wales | 86 | 5 | 8 |

Table 3: Core youth work budget and additional income

| | Core youth work budget (£) | | | | Additional income (£) | | | | Total income (£) | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 (a) | 2017-18 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 (a) | 2017-18 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 (a) | 2017-18 |
| Isle of Anglesey | 503,499 | 376,130 | .. | 472,276 | 185,270 | 255,636 | .. | 322,046 | 688,769 | 631,766 | .. | 794,322 |
| Gwynedd | 1,168,892 | 1,099,036 | 1,122,156 | 1,117,009 | 295,989 | 308,362 | 264,387 | 400,189 | 1,464,881 | 1,407,398 | 1,386,543 | 1,517,198 |
| Conwy | 967,634 | 941,000 | 897,500 | 811,198 | 102,549 | 102,340 | 99,382 | 147,204 | 1,070,183 | 1,043,340 | 996,882 | 958,402 |
| Denbighshire | 523,183 | 470,221 | 513,064 | 531,844 | 206,380 | 226,809 | 159,192 | 146,046 | 729,563 | 697,030 | 672,256 | 677,890 |
| Flintshire | 1,011,166 | 1,009,239 | 1,014,719 | 955,920 | 251,707 | 268,737 | 293,689 | 216,051 | 1,262,873 | 1,277,976 | 1,308,408 | 1,171,971 |
| Wrexham | 1,369,669 | 1,405,237 | 1,367,782 | 1,171,286 | 1,110,288 | 934,176 | 885,967 | 934,087 | 2,479,957 | 2,339,413 | 2,253,749 | 2,105,373 |
| Powys | 1,194,879 | 1,224,087 | 1,043,800 | 1,005,283 | 783,965 | 691,935 | 538,828 | 544,444 | 1,978,844 | 1,916,022 | 1,582,628 | 1,549,727 |
| Ceredigion | 358,381 | 354,325 | 354,667 | 308,229 | 109,657 | 90,945 | 92,949 | 91,541 | 468,038 | 445,270 | 447,616 | 399,770 |
| Pembrokeshire | 927,685 | 711,002 | 686,540 | 613,115 | 485,961 | 495,548 | 431,672 | 516,653 | 1,413,646 | 1,206,550 | 1,118,212 | 1,129,768 |
| Carmarthenshire | 551,907 | 435,678 | 690,699 | 659,764 | 1,438,254 | 1,165,422 | 1,188,190 | 1,237,359 | 1,990,161 | 1,601,100 | 1,878,889 | 1,897,123 |
| Swansea | 999,700 | 922,532 | 1,907,200 | 1,727,000 | 1,167,999 | 1,315,182 | 926,375 | 708,625 | 2,167,699 | 2,237,714 | 2,833,575 | 2,435,625 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 833,643 | 581,246 | 502,602 | 519,441 | 791,258 | 573,759 | 583,144 | 513,455 | 1,624,901 | 1,155,005 | 1,085,746 | 1,032,896 |
| Bridgend | 714,142 | 428,092 | 648,986 | 635,630 | 710,302 | 606,276 | 824,421 | 1,214,669 | 1,424,445 | 1,034,368 | 1,473,407 | 1,850,299 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 1,065,689 | 970,325 | 1,002,650 | 1,012,788 | 581,621 | 552,341 | 556,719 | 576,434 | 1,647,310 | 1,522,667 | 1,559,369 | 1,589,222 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 2,845,473 | 2,324,918 | 2,117,889 | 2,009,745 | 901,631 | 588,004 | 664,001 | 608,702 | 3,747,104 | 2,912,922 | 2,781,890 | 2,618,447 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 642,000 | 522,452 | 461,914 | 486,964 | 52,954 | 179,333 | 280,152 | 276,842 | 694,954 | 701,785 | 742,066 | 763,806 |
| Caerphilly | 1,731,689 | 1,626,799 | 1,449,127 | 1,408,908 | 1,298,314 | 1,372,293 | 1,213,227 | 1,032,368 | 3,030,003 | 2,999,092 | 2,662,354 | 2,441,276 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 422,432 | 342,367 | 342,960 | 358,551 | 851,749 | 739,567 | 827,713 | 905,642 | 1,274,181 | 1,081,934 | 1,170,673 | 1,264,193 |
| Torfaen | 511,667 | 579,281 | 451,964 | 479,242 | 395,127 | 295,299 | 218,300 | 213,229 | 906,794 | 874,580 | 670,264 | 692,471 |
| Monmouthshire | 796,000 | 596,000 | 517,669 | 758,797 | 395,092 | 400,484 | 443,889 | 487,947 | 1,191,092 | 996,484 | 961,558 | 1,246,744 |
| Newport | 629,912 | 442,568 | 298,379 | 249,988 | 767,332 | 724,701 | 819,007 | 1,005,045 | 1,397,244 | 1,167,269 | 1,117,386 | 1,255,033 |
| Cardiff | 3,083,857 | 2,344,864 | 1,692,229 | 1,565,957 | 868,149 | 974,312 | 952,304 | 965,566 | 3,952,006 | 3,319,176 | 2,644,533 | 2,531,523 |
| Wales | 22,853,099 | 19,707,399 | .. | 18,858,935 | 13,751,548 | 12,861,461 | .. | 13,064,144 | 36,604,648 | 32,568,860 | .. | 31,923,079 |
| Wales less Isle of Anglesey | 22,349,600 | 19,331,269 | 19,084,497 | 18,386,659 | 13,566,278 | 12,605,825 | 12,263,507 | 12,742,098 | 35,915,879 | 31,937,094 | 31,348,004 | 31,128,757 |

(a) Isle of Anglesey income data not available for 2016-17.

Table 4: Core budget and spend per head of youth population

| | Core budget per youth population aged 11-25 (£ per head) | | | | Total spend per youth population aged 11-25 (£ per head) | | | | Core budget per youth population aged 11-19 (£ per head) | | | | Total spend per youth population aged 11-19 (£ per head) | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 |
| Isle of Anglesey (a) | 46 | 35 | .. | 46 | 63 | 59 | .. | 78 | 77 | 59 | .. | 76 | 105 | 99 | .. | 128 |
| Gwynedd | 47 | 44 | 45 | 44 | 59 | 56 | 55 | 60 | 92 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 116 | 112 | 109 | 120 |
| Conwy | 53 | 53 | 52 | 48 | 56 | 57 | 56 | 61 | 86 | 86 | 84 | 76 | 91 | 91 | 91 | 98 |
| Denbighshire | 32 | 30 | 33 | 35 | 45 | 45 | 44 | 46 | 54 | 50 | 55 | 57 | 76 | 75 | 72 | 75 |
| Flintshire | 38 | 39 | 40 | 38 | 47 | 46 | 43 | 43 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 62 | 78 | 77 | 70 | 71 |
| Wrexham | 58 | 61 | 60 | 53 | 106 | 101 | 98 | 94 | 101 | 104 | 101 | 87 | 182 | 173 | 166 | 156 |
| Powys | 56 | 59 | 51 | 51 | 93 | 89 | 77 | 72 | 89 | 93 | 81 | 79 | 147 | 141 | 122 | 114 |
| Ceredigion | 19 | 19 | 20 | 18 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 24 | 44 | 45 | 47 | 41 | 57 | 56 | 55 | 53 |
| Pembrokeshire | 45 | 35 | 34 | 31 | 68 | 59 | 58 | 60 | 74 | 57 | 56 | 51 | 113 | 97 | 95 | 97 |
| Carmarthenshire | 18 | 14 | 23 | 22 | 64 | 52 | 62 | 64 | 29 | 23 | 38 | 36 | 105 | 86 | 103 | 104 |
| Swansea | 20 | 18 | 37 | 34 | 43 | 44 | 56 | 48 | 40 | 36 | 75 | 68 | 86 | 87 | 111 | 96 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 35 | 25 | 21 | 22 | 68 | 49 | 46 | 43 | 59 | 42 | 36 | 36 | 115 | 83 | 77 | 71 |
| Bridgend | 29 | 18 | 27 | 27 | 59 | 43 | 62 | 78 | 49 | 30 | 45 | 45 | 98 | 72 | 102 | 130 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 48 | 45 | 47 | 47 | 75 | 71 | 73 | 74 | 78 | 73 | 75 | 76 | 121 | 114 | 117 | 120 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 64 | 53 | 48 | 47 | 69 | 65 | 63 | 60 | 115 | 95 | 87 | 83 | 124 | 118 | 112 | 108 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 59 | 49 | 44 | 47 | 50 | 59 | 71 | 74 | 105 | 87 | 78 | 83 | 88 | 103 | 125 | 130 |
| Caerphilly | 54 | 51 | 46 | 45 | 89 | 94 | 85 | 78 | 90 | 86 | 78 | 76 | 149 | 158 | 143 | 132 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 34 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 99 | 88 | 82 | 106 | 60 | 50 | 51 | 53 | 177 | 158 | 147 | 187 |
| Torfaen | 31 | 36 | 28 | 30 | 54 | 53 | 44 | 44 | 53 | 62 | 49 | 52 | 94 | 91 | 76 | 76 |
| Monmouthshire | 52 | 40 | 35 | 52 | 76 | 68 | 76 | 88 | 81 | 62 | 55 | 83 | 118 | 105 | 119 | 139 |
| Newport | 22 | 16 | 11 | 9 | 51 | 43 | 41 | 47 | 39 | 27 | 19 | 16 | 88 | 74 | 71 | 79 |
| Cardiff | 36 | 27 | 19 | 18 | 46 | 38 | 30 | 29 | 82 | 62 | 44 | 41 | 105 | 87 | 69 | 67 |
| Wales (b) | 39 | 34 | 34 | 33 | 61 | 56 | 56 | 57 | 71 | 62 | 62 | 60 | 111 | 102 | 101 | 102 |

(a) Core budget data not available for 2016-17

(b) Wales average is calculated excluding Isle of Anglesey for 2016-17.

This Statistical Release presents detailed information about the statutory youth work sector in Wales for the year 2017-18. The Release is produced annually with the statistics used within the Welsh Government, by local government and practitioners to monitor trends in membership, finance and youth work staff in Wales. [The National Youth Work Strategy for Wales](#), was launched in February 2014, setting the direction for youth work organisations for the next 4 years. Youth work provides and facilitates an environment within which young people can relax, have fun, feel secure, supported and valued. It is intended that through non-formal and informal educational opportunities and experiences youth workers challenge young people to enhance their life chances.

Key quality information

Data are collected as part of the statutory youth work sector provision in Wales survey, carried out each year amongst the 22 local authorities in Wales during the summer. Note that whilst returns were obtained from all authorities in 2017-18 this has not been the case in all previous years including 2016-17, and therefore direct comparisons with previous releases need to be made with caution. Any comparisons made with the previous year within this release are done on a directly equivalent basis (so on the basis of 21 or 20 authorities as appropriate).

Information is collected via Excel spreadsheets which are transferred via the Afon file transfer website which provides a secure method for users to submit data. Copies of the current [youth work data collection form and guidance](#) are available.

The spreadsheets allow respondents to validate their own data before sending to the Welsh Government. Local authorities are asked to provide explanatory comments where large changes have occurred. This helps ensure that the data received by the Welsh Government is already of a high quality. Examples of validation checks within the forms include year-on-year changes, cross checks with other relevant data tables and checks to ensure data is logically consistent, for example comparison of registered membership against population estimates.

Once data is received by Welsh Government, it goes through further validation and verification checks, for example, common sense checks, arithmetic consistency checks, cross checks against the data for the previous year and tolerance checks. Validation errors are followed up with local authorities to seek resolution, in the small number of cases we fail to get an answer within a reasonable timescale, we may use imputation if appropriate to fix the error. The method of imputation and the affected data is highlighted through this 'quality information' section.

The quality of the data collected through the statutory youth work sector provision in Wales survey continues to develop, as centrally we improve the guidance and definitions used within the survey, and local authorities providing youth work provision continue to refine their management systems and data, to ensure that all the data gathered for the audit is robust, consistent, current and accurate. Both of these issues impact upon the comparability of data from year to year.

Known data quality issues are highlighted by section below.

Prior to 2009-10, the collection and publication of statistics about Youth Work in Wales was carried out by the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales on behalf of the Welsh [Assembly] Government. On 1st April 2010, responsibility for this work transferred to Knowledge and Analytical Services of the Welsh Government. The data have not yet been assessed as National Statistics.

Membership

From the 2010-11 survey onwards, 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 in youth work provision from the youth population within a designated area/local authority.) In previous years some local 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 earlier 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.)

Membership data for Powys was based on their 2016-17 return.

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: Duke of Edinburgh (DofE), BELA; Agored Cymru/OCN; ASDAN; 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 from 2010-11 onwards are not comparable with previous years, which was a count of all those with any accreditation.

Prior to 2012-13 information on accreditations was collected by broad age group. For the 2012-13 survey onwards local accreditations continue to be collected on this basis, but national accreditations are now collected by level or award.

Projects

Prior to 2010-11 there is thought to have been inconsistent interpretations in the recording of projects by local authorities, whereby some authorities may have counted one project within a number of project types, where as others have limited to including each project into one or two project types. From the 2010-11 survey, the location or setting of projects (youth club etc.) has been separated 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. Similarly, the type of project information cannot be summed to give a total number of projects, as the same project can be multiple counted.

From 2013-14, information on the medium of delivery of projects has been collected (although only included in release from 2014-15), with local authorities identifying projects delivered mainly or entirely (70% or above) through the medium of Welsh.

Workforce

From the 2010-11 survey onwards 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 was also 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 has affected comparability of data with earlier years.

Finance

Improved definitions and validation processes have been applied to the collection of finance information for 2010-11 onwards, resulting in some discontinuity between that data and finance data for prior years.

Other data sources

The release includes population estimate data for 2013 to 2017 from Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates by local authority and age, as available at October 2018.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators (“national indicators”) that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

The document is available at: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/youth-services/?lang=en> with supporting [Statswales data](#).

Next update

October 2019 (provisional)

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to post16ed.stats@gov.wales.

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