Case Studies from the voluntary youth work sector

The six case studies presented here demonstrate how current practice and provision from the voluntary youth work sector can better support the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (YEPF) in Wales.

Each case study provides exemplars of provision that actively support young people into or towards education, employment training, whether or not the organisation has formal involvement with YEPF.

The case studies represent provision from rural areas to urban, open access to targeted provision, detached to centre based.

The Tanyard Youth Project Ltd., Pembroke, West Wales
West Rhyl Young People’s Project, Rhyl, North Wales
Cwmbran Centre for Young People, Cwmbran, South East Wales
Bad Bikes, Bridgend, Central South Wales
The Prince’s Trust, pan-Wales
Wales Federation of YFC, pan-Wales

In addition to the case studies, a booklet entitled ‘Stories from Youth Work in Wales’ has been produced by CWVYS. This is a collection of young people’s experiences, challenges and opportunities.

The publication also addresses how organisations and youth workers help young people to progress towards realising their full potential. A copy of the booklet is attached to the final report ‘Youth Engagement & Progression Framework and the role of the voluntary youth work sector in Wales’ and will also be made widely available as a standalone document.
Case Studies: Organisation Overviews

The Tanyard Youth Project Ltd.

Location: Pembroke (Pembrokeshire)

Aims
The Tanyard Youth Project, founded in 1997, is a charity working with young people aged 10-25, many of whom come from deprived backgrounds, with four key aims:

- To provide a safe and welcoming space for young people to make constructive use of their leisure time and access a range of activities
- A place for young people to access support, information, advice and guidance
- To provide formal, informal and non-formal education to young people, including: qualifications; personal development and life skills
- To help young people to become mature members of society and positive citizens in their community

Funding
The Tanyard is supported by a number of financial partners: Children in Need; Families First; Big Lottery Fund; Comic Relief; Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner; Pembrokeshire Youth Service; Schools; Communities First.

Brokerage
Strategic and delivery partnerships have been developed with Pembrokeshire Youth Service; Communities First; Greenlinks Community Interest Company; Pembroke 21C; The Point; The Hive, Milford Young People Matter (the latter three organisations comprise a Consortium, which includes The Tanyard); Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services; and the Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner. These partnerships provide opportunities for young people to engage with a wider range of services to best meet their needs.

Early Identification
By providing a welcoming and relaxed environment, and developing good relationships, young people are able to discuss issues openly with staff and volunteers, enabling the team to identify those most at risk of disengagement or who have additional needs. The Tanyard carries out regular consultation to assess the effectiveness of programmes and services, using this information to address gaps in provision, and signposting young people as necessary to other service providers.
The manager has recently developed a tool for recording, monitoring and assessing interventions, in partnership with members of the Consortium. This monitors young people in: behaviour; substance misuse; emotions; sexual issues; welfare; health; personal assistance. It also records the level of intervention in each of the seven areas from basic to high-level, ensuring the safeguarding of young people, providing targeted education, and engaging appropriate agencies at the earliest stage. Already a number of other agencies and organisations have shown great interest in this model as an innovative and effective way of recording soft skills and outcomes.

Tracking
The organisation gathers basic personal information through its membership forms, and other data as required by funders. Data is not currently shared with third parties, unless as part of a specific referral to a support service to directly benefit a young person.

Provision
- Youth Drop In – currently open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday with a project night on a Wednesday evening. The Tanyard operates for 49 weeks of the year.

- Additional/alternative curriculum – by arrangement with local schools and takes place during the day either at the Tanyard or in the school. This is currently delivered on-site with a group from Pembroke School twice per week and at Pembroke School twice per fortnight; in Milford Haven once per week and also in Fishguard once per week. Tanyard staff deliver a wide ranging programme, including key skills such as improving individual learning of young people and working as part of a team plus delivery of literacy and numeracy along with personal and social development projects.

- Diversionary holiday activities – offering services in school holidays.

- Boatyard Film and Music Studio – this is a fully equipped, modern facility. It is open on a Thursday night for young people. Previous partners include the local Youth Offending Team, Span Arts and the Welsh National Opera. It is also available for private hire.

YEPF
There is limited formal involvement in the YEPF at this stage. However, the project works for prolonged periods directly with local schools and colleges to support young people towards employment, further education and training. The Tanyard delivers an alternative curriculum programme for young people who have become or are at risk of becoming NEET, helping them work towards tangible outcomes and accreditation.
Volunteering

Young people have the opportunity to volunteer within the organisation by cleaning, cooking and maintaining the premises. Additionally, The Tanyard participates in community events and projects where young people can take on a number of volunteer roles. There are plans to develop a structured volunteering programme and they have identified young people interested in participating in this.

Challenges

Of the challenges faced, a key one is a feeling by the organisation that it is not taken seriously or recognised as ‘professional’ and therefore believes there is a lack of appreciation and awareness of their provision.

Some of the grant streams that support current delivery are soon to conclude and the organisation faces the challenge of securing new funding to continue its provision of services. They have been successful as part of a consortium bid for funding from the Department for Work and Pensions to work with 16-24 yr olds on a project to support young people into employment and training. They are hoping to develop a number of social enterprises with young people to support the increase of employability skills, and generate sustainable income streams.

The lack of long-term funding leads to an inability to deal with the root of issues and so interventions and subsequent outcomes are more limited than desired. With better and longer-term resourcing The Tanyard could deliver increased and further reaching benefits to young people.
West Rhyl Young People’s Project (WRYPP)

Location: Rhyl (Denbighshire)

Aims
WRYPP was established in 1991 and became a registered charity in 1994. It provides an accessible centre and a range of activities for young people aged 11-25 and families. Many of the charity’s beneficiaries are drawn from two of the most deprived wards in Wales - Rhyl West and South West.

They work to reduce barriers to engagement by offering information, support, advice and a range of informal learning opportunities intended to increase skills, awareness and individual capacity to undergo positive transition into adulthood; nurturing aspirations along with emotional and practical resilience. WRYPP is a charity which has grown from the self-identified needs of its community and continues to focus its efforts on tackling inequality and deprivation and promoting the engagement and participation of young people and the disenfranchised in their own communities.

Services are targeted towards young people who experience high levels of social disadvantage – those often described as NEET and potentially NEET but also from other potentially vulnerable or marginalised groups e.g. lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender.

The project also supports the development of basic skills in literacy, numeracy, arts and sport. These are all aimed at growing confidence, aspiration and self-esteem, and assisting young people to progress to employment, with the skills to manage finances and live independently.

The project seeks to engage young people in democratic processes, providing opportunities for them to have their voice heard both locally, regionally and nationally.

Funding
Funding is drawn from a variety of sources, including: charitable trusts, Families First, Communities First and local schools.

Brokerage
WRYPP works closely with a range of organisations to ensure the best possible outcomes for young people. Currently they are part of a consortium through Families First to deliver services across Denbighshire. In addition they are involved in a local authority-led process of developing a multi-agency information sharing protocol to enable the sharing of appropriate data between agencies to better equip them to provide robust, holistic services for young people.

Other strategic and operational partnerships are in place with North Wales Police LGBT Community Liaison Group, CWVYS, the Youth Engagement Practitioners group and Multi Agency Partnership group.
Early Identification
Through the relationships built between young people and staff / volunteers within the open access and ‘Viva’ programmes, WRYPP is able to identify young people at risk of disengagement. Once identified, the project will broker ‘wrap around’ services to support the young person deal with the causes, and subsequently progress towards re-engagement and positive outcomes. Young people on Pixel and Youth & Family Liaison programmes are referred by schools, Team Around the Family and other agencies whilst young people are also sometimes referred to ‘Viva’.

Tracking
In terms of tracking the progress of young people, WRYPP undertake baseline assessments, session evaluations, progress reviews, and observations and there are accredited outcomes for some courses.

Provision
- **Youth Engagement** - open-access evening 'drop-in sessions' in West Rhyl where young people can get involved in a varied range of fun and engaging activities including supper club and indoor games. Issue-based workshops are a strong feature of these sessions.
- **After school group** - One afternoon session with activities & creative media/drop-in session
- **Outreach/Detached** - One evening session of street-based youth work meeting young people wherever they congregate and engaging them to build trust and deliver informal education
- **Sports session** - One afternoon per week in collaboration with the local Youth Service
- **Young Women’s group** - Once weekly on Monday afternoons
- **Afternoon drop-in session** – Weekly for young people aged 16+
- **Viva LGBT** - Weekly youth group in Rhyl and another fortnightly in Llangollen
- **Viva LGBT** education sessions delivered in schools across north Wales to promote equality & diversity, challenge homophobia and transphobia, and prevent hate crime.
- **Pixel** - multi-media alternative education sessions delivered across four days per week targeted at young people at risk of becoming NEET. Referrals are received directly from the local high schools.
- **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze** award sessions (hopefully advancing to Silver next year)
- **Youth & Family Liaison work** – handling referrals through the Denbighshire Gateway (including Team Around the Family) to provide support directly to individual young people and their families, to address their concerns and prevent crisis from occurring.

YEPF
Involvement in the YEPF is very limited at all levels, having only once been invited to an information meeting almost a year ago and heard nothing since from the local authority. This has raised concerns within the voluntary sector, feeling the local authority is not involving them.
Volunteering
From its inception, WRYPP has championed the direct involvement of young people in the design and delivery of its services. Young people are actively encouraged to identify their own learning needs and, where possible, to engage in delivery through peer support, volunteering, and trainee youth work opportunities. Currently, one of the charity's trustees, a member of salaried staff and two volunteer staff are former service users.

Challenges
Pressure to fit to outside agendas rather than being able to focus on the personal and social needs of young people from the local community

Short-term funding that leads to a ‘merry-go-round’ of short term provision or programmes, reducing impact on the fundamental barriers to engagement and thus supporting disillusionment and cynicism amongst young people about the opportunities available to them. A rolling funding strategy is in place, but this means a perpetual process of seeking out and applying for funds, which is a challenge with limited staff resources.

The lack of meaningful progression opportunities available for young people in the local area is an on-going concern.

With many of the young people growing up in families experiencing chronic, long-term unemployment and therefore reliant upon benefits, WRYPP delivers a financial literacy programme and a range of employability skills projects.
**Cwmbran Centre for Young People (CCYP)**

**Location:** Cwmbran (Torfaen)

**Aims**
The vision of CCYP: “Whatever you need, we’ll help you get it; whatever you want to achieve, we’ll help you do it, and when you do we’ll help you celebrate it!”

Established in 1988, CCYP operates within a self-contained building, which is divided into offices, meeting, training and conference rooms, gymnasium, music and recording studio, kitchen, chill out room, and large open social space furnished with 2 pool tables, computer suite and relaxed seating. In addition, CCYP has taken a suite of offices in a separate building that houses Randomz (social enterprise incubation units), where young people have been developing and are continuing to develop their own businesses with support from CCYP youth work staff.

**Funding**
Current funding streams include: Engagement Gateway (ESF), community councils, Torfaen County Council, social enterprise income, income from training programmes, and a range of grants.

A number of young people have undertaken training to become Portable Appliance Testers (PAT), enabling them to undertake safety tests on electrical equipment for external bodies and in turn, providing one of the social enterprise income sources.

**Brokerage**
Young people enter CCYP just as they are and are welcomed in the same manner. Those who require any level of additional support will be assigned a mentor or key worker who will liaise with other service providers as necessary to ensure young people find the best and most comprehensive support package to meet their needs. The key worker is selected as the member of staff that a young person best relates to and can engage with most easily.

Rather than simply signposting young people to other professional services, CCYP tries to bring services to the centre, so that they offer as comprehensive as service as possible on-site with as little challenge to the individual. Where this is not possible, a young person will be directed to appropriate service providers or will be accompanied by the key worker.

**Early Identification**
Operating for 90 hours per week, the universal provision is where much of the initial contact with young people is made, allowing the staff to identify needs and risks at an early stage of engagement through a very informal approach. Young people are invited to engage with activities initially, with staff and volunteers work to build relationships with them that may lead to referral to other services, such as the on-site counselling service. Some young people self-refer for additional support.
Tracking
The tracking of young people’s progress is enabled through consultation, face-to-face meetings and discussions, and through the keeping of data that records all achievements, qualifications and accreditation gained. As the majority of staff and volunteers live within the Cwmbran community, they are well placed to track young people post-programme. CCYP remains accessible to young people who have left provision, and many return for further support or advice, offering additional tracking opportunities.

Through a range of accredited programmes, achievements include:
- 31 young people achieved Welsh Government Traineeship qualifications at Engagement and Level 1
- 157 underwent a WCVA Engagement Gateway programme: 117 gained an essential skills qualification
- 3 Getting Together projects.
- 11 acquired Essential Skills Wales qualifications in application of number and communication, from a local school.
- 4 took up apprenticeships through the Welsh Government Young Recruits programme.
- 2 achieved HGV qualifications.
- 407 accessed the CCYP counselling service.

Provision
- Opening 7 days per week, 365 days per year, CCYP attracts vast numbers (350-400 per week) of young people through open access, referrals and training programmes. CCYP offers a professional counselling service and specialist advice, guidance and information on a wide range of issues from housing, homelessness and employment, to sexual health, healthy eating and lifestyle, substance misuse and all aspects of life, work and recreation.

- CCYP is a Welsh Government-approved training provider and is subcontracted by Torfaen Training to deliver work-based learning programmes. They have successfully delivered an Engagement Gateway programme and offer several Jobs Growth Wales positions, providing additional support, as required. To further assist young people to progress towards employment, education and training Careers Wales, Citizens Advice Bureau and Communities First hold weekly drop-in sessions at the centre, where young people can engage with these services in an environment in which they feel safe and comfortable.

- A recent building project has enabled the CCYP to develop a suite of training and meeting facilities on the first floor, building capacity to deliver more opportunities for more young people whilst maintaining the accessibility of universal provision.
**Volunteering**
CCYP employs over 15 staff and has a team of volunteers. A number of these were young people within the project and have progressed through training, become qualified to various levels including degree-level and been employed by CCYP.

Young people can undertake a number of volunteering roles including: running the tuck shop; event management and support; working with the elderly; help lead sessions for children, young people and adults with disabilities; centre maintenance and cleaning.

**YEPF**
Whilst fully aware of YEPF, largely through their membership of CWVYS where most information has been disseminated, CCYP is not involved formally. Although they receive a small amount of core funding from the local authority, the relationship between the two bodies is limited.

**Challenges**
Besides the usual challenge of income generation, CCYP feels there is a lack of understanding by decision-makers of the barriers that prevent young people from entering the labour market, e.g. some training providers refuse access to more challenging young people.

CCYP believes that the Welsh Government Traineeship programme should offer longer-term programmes for young people. CCYP runs its own traineeship programme for a longer period of time but fund this itself and resources are limited.

The organisation also firmly believes that there is an additional need for “pre-traineeships” with appropriate funding, to better prepare young people for progression into a full traineeship.
The Prince’s Trust

Location: Pan-Wales

Aims
Established nearly 40 years ago, The Prince’s Trust offers personal development opportunities for disadvantaged young people aged 13-30 to help them develop skills and increase motivation to re-engage with society, secure employment, return to education, gain qualifications, and become economically active citizens.

The suite of 7 programmes is targeted towards three core groups of young people.

- Unemployed, particularly those out of work for six months or more
- Educational underachievers, including those who have been excluded, or are at risk of being excluded
- Those facing complex and often multiple barriers to engagement, including: offenders/ex-offenders; lone parents; care leavers; disabled young people

Funding
The Prince’s Trust is funded from various public and private sector bodies, charitable grants, personal giving and philanthropists. The main public sector funders currently are the Welsh Government and the European Social Fund. The organisation continues to seek additional funding to sustain current and develop future programme delivery.

In addition to financial partners, The Prince’s Trust has strategic partnerships in place that include: Welsh Government, Regional Skills Partnerships, WCVA and Equality in Education Research.

Brokerage
Operationally, the Trust works with a wide range of delivery partners including: football clubs, retail businesses, emergency services, prison service, NHS and community groups. There are formalised agreements in place with a number of support organisations for brokerage purposes to ensure needs of a young person are met as fully as possible.

The Prince’s Trust use various methods to track progress of young people. Information is shared with funders, researchers and evaluators to assure quality of provision and inform future programme development. Methods for tracking progress include: face-to-face meetings, telephone conversations (including post-programme), accreditation and qualifications, surveys and questionnaires plus mentoring provided by a trained team of volunteer Progression Mentors. Both hard and soft skills are monitored through these methods and are also recorded. The Progression Mentors provide one-to-one support to assist young people to search and apply for jobs, prepare for interviews and to apply for courses.


**Early Identification**
The Prince’s Trust is not involved in early identification of young people but rather takes referrals from other agencies who have identified young people in Tiers 2 & 3.

**Tracking**
“**My Distance Travelled**” evaluations are completed for each young person that participates in a Prince’s Trust programme. This tracks development of soft skills including: confidence, teamwork, communication and coping skills. Assessments are completed upon engagement and at completion of a programme. The Trust’s ‘Outreach, Assessment and Outcomes’ team and ‘Programme’ team track hard outcomes achievement post-programme for up to 6 months.

In 2013/14, 88% of young people engaged with a Prince’s Trust programme recorded positive outcomes: 48% in employment or self-employment; 30% in education and/or training; 10% in volunteering.

**Provision**
Operating from a number of office hubs around the country, The Prince’s Trust delivers high quality programmes (on or off-site), which bring tangible and lasting benefits to both their young clients and the communities in which they live and which seek to deliver the best possible outcomes to those most in need of support.

The suite of Prince’s Trust Programmes includes:

- **Fairbridge**: Individually tailored personal development programme of 1-2-1 support and group activities for the most disengaged young people aged 13-25, who are far away from reaching their potential, have chaotic lifestyles and are not aware of or unable to overcome problems in their lives.

- **Get Started**: Short courses that engage and develop unemployed young people aged 16-25 and delivered with expert partners through themes such as sport and the arts, to support them into further education, training or employment. This can be delivered in custodial settings as part of a resettlement strategy.

- **XL**: A personal development programme made up of five activity areas, for young people aged 13 to 19 at risk of underachievement or exclusion from school. A dedicated Prince’s Trust staff member provides support to an Advisor and young people and the programme is usually delivered in schools.
Team: A 12-week personal development programme for unemployed young people aged 16-25, run and managed by partner organisations with support and coordination from Prince’s Trust staff. Some employees (sponsored by their employers) join the Team for 20 days to break down barriers and share skills.

Development Awards: Cash awards of up to £500 for young people aged 14-16 and in education but at risk of underachieving, or aged 16-25 and not in education, training or work (or working less than 16 hours per week). The aim is to help them to access education, training and employment. Young people also receive help with action planning and on-going support and monitoring.

Get Into: Short courses for unemployed, work-ready young people aged 16-25 that develop young people’s skills in a specific sector and support them into jobs. Courses are approximately 4 weeks long and are developed and run with employers.

Enterprise: Support and funding to help unemployed young people aged 18-30 explore and test ideas, write plans and start their own businesses or achieve other goals in education, training, work or volunteering.

YEPF
In their priority areas of Wales, the ‘Outreach, Assessment and Outcomes’ team has engaged with EPCs who can refer young people to them. The team will undertake an assessment process to identify the most suitable and beneficial programme/s for a young person and data is shared with the delivery team that will be working directly with the young person.

Volunteering
Following completion of a Prince’s Trust programme, young people aged 16-30 have the opportunity to become a Young Ambassador – a volunteer role to get more involved in the life and work of the trust. Young Ambassadors are offered additional high quality training, support from a staff member, individual assessment to determine skills and interests, a wide range of roles and opportunities within the trust, regular reviews and a final celebration event. Young people who volunteer as Ambassadors can develop leadership and communications skills, increase confidence and self-esteem, influence local and national policy by networking with leaders and decision makers and make a real contribution to their local community.

Challenges
Lack of Progression Mentors in the right geographical areas

Young people not taking up the voluntary offer of progression mentoring

Evidencing the progression of young people where strict guidelines exist with funders.
Bad Bikes

Location: No fixed location, Blackmill and other locations in the county of Bridgend.

Aims
In 2002 Blackmill and District Mountain Bike Club was founded as a group helping local young people to learn mountain biking skills. Young people helped to develop and maintain bike tracks, enhancing their local environment and providing an improved cycling experience for those visiting the area. As the group grew and young people started to talk about issues, the group leader established Bad Bikes in 2004, a constituted body with a youth work-focussed board, to offer support, advice and guidance to meet the needs of young people.

Their aim, as stated in their constitution, is to act as a resource for young people living in the ward of Blackmill, Bridgend and surrounding areas by providing advice and assistance and organising programmes of physical, educational and other activities as a means of:

a) Advancing in life and helping young people by developing their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent, mature and responsible individuals;

b) Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for people living in the area of benefit who have need by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances with a view to improving the conditions of life of such persons.

Funding
Bad Bikes is currently funded by Children In Need and in 2014 were selected from over 2000 projects to appear on BBC’s Bargain Hunt as part of the Children In Need appeal. They have also won awards for environmental and arts projects.

Brokerage
Although a small organisation, Bad Bikes maintains a presence within a number of youth work networks. In doing so, they undertake a “lead worker” role, signposting or accompanying young people to other service providers to best meet needs.

Early Identification
Through their universal provision in rural parts of the county, the staff team are often the first point of contact for young people at risk of becoming NEET. Their relational youth work approach enables early identification and subsequent engagement or referral.
Tracking
In 2013/14 the organisation worked with 39 young people identified as NEET or at risk of becoming NEET and aged between 13 and 25.

The organisation has certificated evidence of accreditation gained by these young people in: Food Hygiene; CSCS card; IMIAS Cycle Technician level 2 & 3; Key Skills in Hospitality and Catering level 2 & 3; Dragon Sports Leadership Awards; and OCN Level 3 in detached youth work.

Provision
Having no premises base of its own, the Bad Bikes staff team moves around Bridgend and the surrounding towns and villages to deliver youth provision where it is most needed. They engage with young people through detached work and use local community facilities for universal “drop-in” provision and some targeted work with young people identified as NEET. In 2009 (funded by Cymorth), the organisation employed a member of staff specifically to work with NEET young people, having gathered local statistics and evidencing need, particularly in one ward within Bridgend.

With just two employed members of staff (both part-time), Bad Bikes delivers and/or facilitates delivery of a range of activities and accredited programmes for young people. Young people engage with Bad Bikes in large numbers because it operates in areas and at times to suit them.

Bad Bikes maintains a focus on progression of young people into employment or training, with many seeking help with CV writing and job application forms. The team arranges mock interviews and help to prepare young people for the whole interview process and often take them to interviews owing to the lack of transport in rural areas.

YEPF
The organisation is learning a great deal about YEPF by regularly attending CWVYS Regional Group meetings. However, Bad Bikes would like to be more engaged in the YEPF process. Both staff attended the YEPF conference in March 2015.

Volunteering
The majority of the NEET young people are working towards Millennium Volunteers awards through GwirVol.

Challenges
The organisation faces the usual challenge of lack of resources but is committed to ensuring delivery of provision continues to meet young people’s needs with whatever resources they can find.
Wales Federation of YFC

Location: Pan-Wales/rural communities

Aims
With their motto, “Creating opportunities for our members to shine”, Wales Young Farmers Club (YFC) is an umbrella body that supports its affiliated 155 local YFC groups all over rural Wales, through a network of 12 County Federations. Founded in 1936, it is a bilingual organisation that delivers a complete curriculum of learning to members aged 10-26 that can be placed in three categories: skills development; social interaction; advice and guidance. The curriculum is delivered through an informal and non-formal learning approach and, whilst it was founded with a focus on rural farming, YFC welcomes all young people within its target age range.

Funding
YFC works in partnership with a number of organisations to provide the best opportunities for young people. These include: CWVYS; Welsh Government; NFU; Farmers Union of Wales; Countryside Landowners Association; Natural Resources Wales; Harper Adams University; Gelli Aur College; Reaseheath College; Duke of Edinburgh. It has recently received news that it has been unsuccessful in securing the NVYO grant and is now assessing its ability to continue delivery of the wide range of programmes that assist young people to progress. It is working hard to secure other funding streams to maintain high quality of provision moving forward.

Brokerage
On a county-by-county basis and only where YFC’s county organisers have been invited to become part of practitioner groups or the Local Resource Solution Panel (LRSP) do they undertake any formal brokerage role. However, young people are signposted to services as and when needs are identified.

Early Identification
The organisation doesn't consider itself to be in a position to identify a young person who has disengaged or is at risk of disengagement from education, employment or training without better information sharing protocols, or unless the young person raises the issue.

Tracking
Having gathered personal information via annually completed organisation membership forms, progress of young people is recorded through the YFC accreditation scheme. Additional data may be gathered on a more local basis, dependent on funding streams for particular groups and data collection requirements from funders. Young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET will be tracked via the LRSP as a result of monitoring and communicated to the young person’s lead worker.
Provision
YFC groups are an important part of life in rural Wales and provide vital social and educational opportunities for young people. Whilst they exist for young people aged 10-26, in reality the provision by YFC stretches across generations and past members remain very much involved.

The programmes delivered by Wales YFC:

Skills Development:
- YFC Skills Bank
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Elwyn Jones Memorial Scholarship
- Wales YFC Lamb Initiative
- Llyndy Isaf Scholarship
- Club officer Training
- Rural Affairs Conference
- Public Speaking
- Competitions
- Presenting

Social Interaction:
- Club and County Activities
- International Programme
- Competitions
- Young People’s Village
- Freshers Weekend
- Rural Youth Europe
- Sports Day

Advice and Guidance:
- Members Wellbeing
- Charity Work
- Chairman’s Challenge
- Wales YFC Mentors

YFC provides universal, open access youth work where young people engage voluntarily. Following that voluntary engagement, YFC staff and volunteers seek to build professional relationships with members, identify needs and support individuals to realise their full potential.

YEFP
Some local YFC groups are in contact with EPCs and it would be possible for young people to be referred to them. Any young person identified as in the NEET or at risk categories and living within a rural area, should be encouraged to engage with a YFC group where they will find a wide range of opportunities for progression, with additional support. Other issues for engagement need to be considered, particularly in relation to transport and accessibility.
There is a question over how hidden an issue NEET young people in rural areas might be, as some may be 'employed' on family farms, receiving no salary as such but having free board and lodgings, and being given some money for social expenditure. Wales YFC is keen to learn whether a young person in this position would still be considered as NEET.

**Volunteering**
Young people are assisted in developing their CVs and writing of job applications to support them into employment. To enhance CVs and therefore chances of gaining employment, young people are encouraged to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme and volunteer within the YFC movement.

Volunteering opportunities include catering at events, representing YFC on committees, supporting group leaders, or other roles at events and carnivals.

YFC estimate that they have 1,556 young volunteers, offering in the region of 485,472 volunteer hours per year.

**Challenges**
To remain focussed on the aims of the organisation, a big challenge is ensuring the balance of encouraging learning whilst not implementing formal learning. It is important that the young people attending YFC can engage in fun, recreational activities and this then leads to incidental learning.