

Proposed Youth Work (Scotland) Bill

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A proposal for a Bill to ensure accessible, well-funded, and high-quality youth work services across Scotland, supporting the holistic development, well-being, and social inclusion of young people, and ensuring equal opportunities for all, regardless of background or circumstance.

[Read about the proposed Bill in the Consultation Document \(274KB, pdf\)](#) posted 22 November 2024.

Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig

Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcome the proposal to create a legal requirement for local authorities to ensure that youth work services are universally available. Provision of youth work services that are accessible and inclusive need to ensure equity access for young Gaelic speakers and this should be acknowledged in any legislation.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig advocates that in any new legislation there is a fundamental recognition that in Scotland education is delivered in two languages - English or Gaelic and that young Gaelic speakers require opportunities to use their own language in their communities. It is important that national strategies and organisations leading development and funding ensure that Gaelic is included in all strategic planning.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig welcome the proposal for the Bill to place a legal duty on Local Authorities to develop comprehensive Youth Work Strategies tailored to the needs of their communities. Bòrd na Gàidhlig has commissioned work on the creation of a Gaelic Youth Strategy and the information and outcomes should inform the consultation with young people, families and community stakeholders.

Access to Youth Work enables young people to use their Gaelic language skills in social settings, taking the language out of the classroom into the wider community. In addition to developing social skills, many youth work services improve literacy and numeracy, and young people should have the opportunity to use and develop their Gaelic through youth work.

We welcome the proposed policy to mandate ongoing professional development and training for all paid and volunteer youth workers by establish a comprehensive professional development framework. It is crucial that this includes training materials and resources and opportunities in Gaelic that can be used by those involved in the

delivery of youth work services to Gaelic speakers. Not only will this foster a culture of lifelong learning within the sector it could enable more people to consider youth work as a career where Gaelic skills are valued.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig look forward to being involved in future work in relation to this proposed Bill.