

# CYWU

The specialist trade union for  
Youth - Community - Play Workers - Mentors and Personal Advisers

## **NORTHERN IRELAND REGION**

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Review of Public Administration

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Response from Community and Youth Workers Union in support of Option 1 (retaining the Youth Service within any future Education body)

Nationally since the publication of the Albemarle Report in 1960 and locally with the Education and Library Board (NI) Order 1972 the Youth Service has been regarded as a key deliverer with Education. The informal, voluntary approach taken by Youth Workers is complimentary to and an enhancement of the formal, compulsory delivery by teachers. The input by youth workers within schools linked with their work outside of school time has provided a holistic seamless service to many disturbed and disaffected young people.

Currently with 5 different models working across 5 ELBs the level of service varies; to consider fragmenting that service further by transferring responsibility for Youth Service to local councils would be highly detrimental to those who need it most. Youth workers are not leisure providers nor are they community development workers. They have a unique role in that they provide a service specifically for young people based on the self-identified needs of each young person. This service is provided 'on-demand', the young person's access is purely voluntary, the outcomes are educational in the purest sense, focussing on the Personal and Social Development of the young person.

It is vital that the Youth Service becomes an integral and statutory part of any future education body.

Francis Loughlin

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