

Participate!

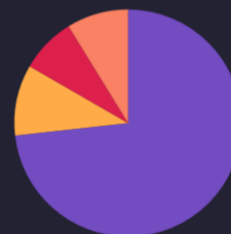
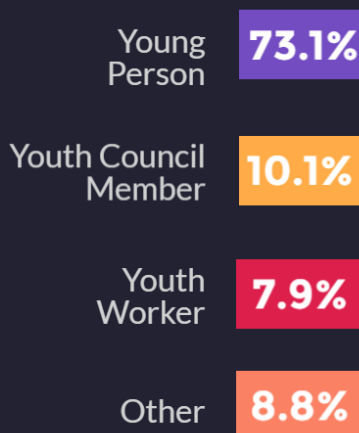
A FUNC+ follow up report

The Survey

The Campaign for a Children and Young People's Assembly for Wales submitted the FUNC+ report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child at the pre-session in October 2015. Following the responses to the committee's list of issues made by the Welsh Government the Campaign board decided to conduct further research involving a short survey with three questions.

In total 230 people responded to the survey that was sent out through the Campaign networks and online. In comparison, 122 young people took part in the Children in Wales report to the UN.

How would you describe yourself?



Do you believe that your opinions are being listened to by decision makers and politicians in Wales?



Yes (13%) No (61%) Don't know (26%)

What the Welsh Government said:

"There has been no reduction in commitment or delivery of opportunities for young people to participate."

What the Board thinks:

"Despite the Welsh Government saying there has been no reduction in commitment or delivery of opportunities to participate, the figures we have gathered suggest that the methods used may be ineffective as 61% of young people say they are not being listened to by politicians."

What the Welsh Government said:

"Young Wales have stated the feedback they have received from young people is that they feel that there are more opportunities to participate than before"

What the Board thinks:

"It is clear that from the data gathered from young people across Wales, including some involved in the Young Wales project, that young people do not believe that they have more opportunities to participate in decision making"

Do you believe you have more opportunities to participate in decision making at a national level since October 2014?



■ Yes (16%) ■ No (51%) ■ Don't Know (33%)

Have you heard of the 'Young Wales' project?



■ No (71%) ■ Yes (29%)

What the Welsh Government said:

"...it (Young Wales) has resulted in a wider reach, higher numbers and increased engagement of disadvantaged groups..."

What the Board thinks:

"It is not clear what evidence is available to show increased engagement with disadvantaged groups but our survey suggests that more widely speaking the Young Wales project has not been successful in engaging young people."

"I really feel that the removal of funding for Funky Dragon was a step backwards for children and young people's rights in Wales- we need a youth assembly!"

"The loss of Funky Dragon was disastrous for young people in Wales."

Comments

At the end of the survey we asked participants to leave any other comments on participation in Wales. Here are a select few:

"I feel that Young Wales is more about engagement rather than proper participation. Also, I feel that the participation and engagement isn't meeting another important criteria, which is representation. I believe we do need a new Youth Assembly for Wales which is truly representative of the young people of Wales."

"They talk about the need to involve young people in issues that directly relate to them this is done on their terms. Within the projects I have been involved in when it is time to justify funding then usually a tokenistic young persons voice is asked for with managers chaotic rushing to find young people to talk positively about it and then it takes the form of a survey with leading questions. Though Funky Dragon could be said to have had its issues mainly down to a lack of funding and a lack of independence from the establishment the work it did do was of a high quality and did allow for the youth of wales to voice their views."

What the Welsh Government said:

"Given all of these developments, collectively the participation environment for children and young people in Wales remains strong."

What the Board thinks:

"The information we have gathered proves that participation in Wales does not remain as strong as the Welsh Government may believe."



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Written by Matt Walker

info@cypaw.wales