



Institute for Youth Work, England

CAYWA Case Study 2020

The Institute for Youth Work (IYW) is the professional association for Youth Workers in England, yet is in its relative infancy. It was formed by a consortium of Youth Sector organisations in 2014 under the National Youth Agency's wing. Following the election of a 'Council' committee to steer the work, the NYA found itself no longer able to financially support the project and the IYW Council voted to become an independent organisation in Spring 2015. The organisation was given £150 and a membership list of 700 youth workers and set off, led by a group of volunteers (the elected Council) towards manifesting a new destiny for the organisation and for Youth Work in England.

In the following years, the IYW Council members used the limited resources we had from membership subscriptions to attend all sector-relevant events and conferences and try to raise the profile of the professional association. We gave energy to networking and relationship building in attempts to locate our best chances at meaningful influence in the national strategic sphere, with some success. Our membership grew and we were regularly meeting with other national bodies and the Government's Civil Service.

Our annual 'In the Service of Youth' conferences have always drawn a crowd and been very well received.



We also became proud members of the Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Worker Associations (CAYWA) and have been able to glean fantastic insight into other professional associations around the globe and contribute from our own experience to other, emerging associations.



We were mandated to 'think big' by our membership and set out a new [Strategic Plan](#) in 2018. This helped us to articulate our mission, vision and values and find funding support from the amazing Paul Hamlyn Foundation in support of our growth and recruitment of a part-time Development Officer. Following our leadership for several years on a cross-sector project that would see a voluntary Register of Youth Workers created as part of the national infrastructure, we are now poised to push it over the line and assume some responsibility for managing this valuable resource. With a Register, the sector will finally understand the scale and proficiency of the youth workforce in England and be better placed to take new and well-considered plans to Government for a bolder, more ambitious Youth Work for the future.