



Concordat between UK Youth, Youth Action Northern Ireland, Youth Scotland, Youth Cymru and Youth Work Ireland

Introduction

This Concordat has been drafted to formalise the co-operative and consensual method of co working that has been developed between UK Youth, Youth Action Northern Ireland, Youth Scotland, Youth Cymru and Youth Work Ireland in recent years. It acknowledges the evolving relationships between the countries and jurisdictions of the UK and Ireland, with youth work policy and other policy increasingly devolved to regional and national Parliaments and Assemblies in the UK. The Concordat establishes the status of UK Youth, Youth Action Northern Ireland, Youth Scotland and Youth Cymru as equal partners, and formalises the long standing relationship between Youth Work Ireland and the other Youth Partners. The Concordat will provide a framework for delivery on priorities agreed by the British – Irish Strategic Partnership.

The Concordat

This Concordat is agreed between UK Youth, Youth Action Northern Ireland, Youth Scotland, Youth Cymru and Youth Work Ireland, the Five Leading National Youth Organisations, referred to collectively as the Youth Partners.

Each Youth Partner recognises and respects the primacy of the others as a lead body for the youth sector in their respective countries and jurisdictions. This principle underpins the relationship between the Youth Partners as leading organisations across the UK and Ireland.

The Five Leading National Youth Organisations agree:

- To share ideas, publications, information and intelligence
- To undertake joint initiatives (where appropriate) at a bilateral, British / Irish, UK, European or international level.
- To co-operate on issues of mutual interest and concern.
- To work towards consensual policy positions on bilateral, UK, British / Irish, European and international matters where appropriate.
- To promote together co-operation and understanding between young people across the UK and Ireland and to promote the participation of young people in civic engagement and decision making.
- To consult in advance on any action at any level which might have consequences for fellow Youth Partners.

- To receive into membership local and regional organisations in their own nation / jurisdiction.
- To prioritise fellow Youth Partners in all partnership opportunities, funding applications and policy discussions over other youth agencies or organisations .

The Concordat will be a standing agenda item at all British / Irish meetings.

Where a disagreement arises between two or more Youth Partners the uninvolved Youth Partners will be invited to investigate and to recommend a solution. If the outcome of this arbitration is not accepted by either party, the dispute will be referred to a British / Irish meeting for resolution. Failure to agree at this stage can be referred to non-binding arbitration.

The Concordat should be a living and well known document and be implemented through:

- Inclusion in induction materials of all new staff and trustees
- Meetings of Chief Officers, as a standing agenda item.
- Meetings between other members of staff.

The Concordat will be formally reviewed every two years by the Chief Officers, who will then refer any proposed changes to the Trustees of each Youth Partner.