
FOREWORD

This document is the product of an international group of youth workers who in their everyday work interact at the grassroots level with young people. In no way are we insulated from the reality of youth in society. What we are insulated from is the opportunity to contribute directly to the policy-making areas of government that relate to youth.

We see a definite need for contact workers to be able to feedback information that affects young people to those making the decisions. It is equally necessary for youth workers to have the opportunity to communicate with policy-makers and understand government views and priorities in relation to youth.

Unless there is an open channel that encourages this two-way communication the efforts of Governments at the policy-making level and youth workers at the policy delivery level can be at cross-purposes.

The timing of the pan-Commonwealth Conference has presented us, as participants in the Fourth Diploma Course in Youth and Development, with an unique learning opportunity. Not only does it allow us to understand the processes involved in policy-making within the Commonwealth on such a critical issue as youth policy but it has promoted us to take an initiative in compiling our consensus views on what we feel a National Youth Policy is all about.

The concept of linking the theoretical component of the course work with the practical application of the conference was a logical connection.

The full significance and impact of the exercise was only fully realised when Mr. Peter Brooks, Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme, allocated time to us to present the document to the Conference.

This document then is our attempt to give the policy-makers present at this Conference our perspective based on our experience in the field. All participants contributed to the plenary sessions, working parties, and written comments on early drafts. Tying these together was the task of a drafting group consisting of: Julius Ankomah (Ghana), Mark Broadbent (New Zealand), Bill Hoyles (United Kingdom), Farook Khodoruth (Mauritius), Greg Sheldon (Australia) and the Senior Tutor, Chris O'Connell.

We welcome the Pan-Commonwealth Conference and expect that Governments will take positive steps to put into effect the resolutions from this Conference, among which we hope would be recommendations for instigating a National Youth Policy.