

Thu 27/07/2023 08:30

Dear Colleagues,

### **Residential Outdoor Education (Wales) Act 2024**

Plans to ensure that every school child will have the opportunity to go on an outdoor learning residential have moved to the next stage. The short [draft bill](#) has been published and will go through the committee stage in the autumn with a possible vote in December or January. There is more background on Sam Rowlands' bill [here](#). In the meantime, now is the time to engage with Members of the Welsh Parliament and encourage them to support the bill.

We will be doing that but there is nothing stopping any of you who live in Wales emailing your own MS on the issue. Don't forget that as well as having a constituency MS, you will also have a further four Regional Members that you can target who also cover your area. They provide an opportunity to engage with a wider range of political parties too. You can find out who they are and how to contact them simply by entering your postcode [on this page](#).

### **What about outdoor residentials for all in England?**

With private member's bills well underway in both Wales and Scotland, Tim Farron (MP who covers Castle Head) has also [tabled his own bill](#) to guarantee a residential for both primary and secondary learners. As it's what's technically known as a Presentation Bill, it's very unlikely to get much further, and was introduced without a speech being made. The point of these bills is often to get the issue aired and gather supporters within and outside politics. Having a bill in each of the three nations allows those of us with a UK wide remit to join up our campaigns.

### **Dormant Assets Fund**

Last year, the government consulted on what to do the nation's £892M of dormant assets sitting in dormant bank and building society accounts. A great deal of the resulting national consensus was around youth, financial inclusion and the environment. Further consultation with the Youth Sector is now being undertaken by the Department of Culture Media and Sport to refine a "statement of intent" to place before the Treasury before the end of the year.

We will continue to work with colleagues from the Access Unlimited Coalition on ideas as to how this 'found-down-the-back-of-the sofa' bonanza could be best used.

### **Train Tickets**

With the closure of ticket offices very much in the news, the Finance Team have asked that if you purchase tickets via Trainline, please ensure you receive the email with your tickets and/or travel information. If you are expecting an email and it hasn't arrived, contact the digital helpdesk who will investigate and check quarantined emails.

### **Special Mention**

This week's mention has come in for Peripatetic Chef Jason Goldsworthy. By the end of this month, Jason will have covered relief periods in every residential centre across the charity which is some feat. He sometimes changed personal plans at short notice to help when emergency situations have arisen.

It can be difficult for all of our Peripatetics to really feel part of the established teams and Field Studies Council family, but Jason is really making an impact. He has been able to step into all kitchens and offer support and guidance, ensuring all of our guests remain well fed whilst supporting the teams on the ground to take a well-earned break. Centre Mangers have appreciated his advice

and reviews from customers have been excellent including *"The relief chef was amazing and so accommodating."*

**Welcome to Field Studies Council**

Arthur Harris and Ruudi Hannaford have both joined Slapton as Hospitality and Catering Assistants.

Mark