

The Albemarle Report into the Youth Service, published in 1960, was viewed as a watershed in the history of youth work and is associated with the expansion and professionalization of youth work in the 1960s and 1970s. The Report was sparked by both the realities and the perceptions of a growing 'youth problem' at that time. Albemarle was unequivocal about the positive role of physical recreation. The Report was first to identify the 'gap' which it referred to as "the manifest gap-break between, on the one hand, the participation in recreative (sic) physical activities which is normal for boys and girls at school, and, on the other hand, their participation in similar (though not necessarily identical) activities some years later when they are more adult."