

1. QUESTIONNAIRE

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Introduction - the role of youth work

1. Should it always be up to a young person to decide whether they want to take part in a youth work activity? Or are there circumstances where it would be okay to require a young person to take part e.g. as part of a drug rehabilitation programme?

The freedom of choice should be yours but if its for their benefit, but they can't see it or don't want to admit it (peer pressure) then they should be told to do it.

2. Do you think youth work activities should be open and available to all young people? Or should there be different types of activities or extra activities for young people who might find it difficult to take part, for whatever reason?

Should be different activities for different age group - they get more out of it if its in their age group. People with disabilities should have the option for activities as part of a disability group but also be included with non-disabled so that they don't feel left out. Activities should be free to include people without the cash to pay for it and give them more chances.

Better information for young people

3. What can we do to provide better information for young people? How can young people be more involved in developing information for other young people?

Make magazines, leaflets, get them involved in consultations. Activity days with information given + get to young people to go into groups and take over issues + the information pages on Young Scot website. Use of an anonymous suggestions box - for advice + information we need.

Access to opportunities for young people

4. What are the main benefits that young people get from youth work?

The craft group helps us to express ourselves, we get a chance to take it seriously. Its the one group that we actually get to ourselves + do something. Get confidence, meeting new people + responsibility.

5. How can we make sure that all young people can take part in youth work activities (no matter where they live, their background, their ethnicity, their sexuality etc)? And how do we make sure that youth work respects any differences that they may have?

Set up activities the young people want + provide it. Make sure everyone has a chance to participate, dont allow to people to feel left out.

6. What can youth organisations do to provide the kind of youth work opportunities that young people want and also attract more young people?

Provide young women with more activities. - Need to get boys to give us more respect - let us do activities without interrupting us.

Empowering and engaging young people

7. What more can be done to make sure that young people's views are heard when people are making decisions that affect them?

Use the suggestions boxes - allows the quieter young people to have their say. Encourage young people to use Dialogue Youth and join Youth forums - but not enough people have heard of them or know what they do.

8. How can the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) get more young people involved and also make sure that it represents young people in Scotland?

They could get more people involved if more people knew about it - they need to advertise themselves better.

Improving quality

9. How can we make sure that young people's achievements in youth work (e.g. Youth Achievement Award and Duke of Edinburgh's Award) are recognised by others, like employers?

Make sure young people get certificates for their efforts. They can put them onto their CV's.
More celebrations of our successes - organised events where our family + friends could come + see us getting our certificates and realise what we are capable of.

Training

10. What skills and qualities do you think a good youth worker or volunteer should have?

Patience, understanding of young people. Know how to handle issues - with the boys etc.
Should be approachable, have counselling skills - how to deal with people + get the best of them. Should have a sense of humor - but still have a serious side, to know when to stop being funny. Be able to interact. Be their friends not just a worker - be like a mentor - someone to look up to.

Any other comments?

Youth workers should help us to fundraise but the money we raise should be put back into providing activities / facilities for young people in our community.

We'd like to learn research skills to do a family tree / history of our village.

Thank you for your time.