

CONSULTATION RESPONSE

INTRODUCTION – THE ROLE OF YOUTH WORK

1. Should it always be for a young person to decide whether they want to take part in a youth work activity?

Yes. Young people's participation is voluntary. It is this voluntary participation that is the building block of the relationship between youth worker and young person. Although it is recognised that some young people need some extra encouragement from Youth workers.

<p>2. Do you have any examples to share of good youth work?</p>	<p>Yes. - Residentials. - Open All Hours. - Seniors Youth Clubs. - Art Attack Youth Club. - Young people's project " Refurbishment of the Calton Centre. - Community Fair. - Outdoor Education trips. - Homework Club. - Fun in the Sun Holiday Programme. - East Linton Broomlea Centre. - R.U.T.S Programme. - ALP Music Project " in Dads and Kids Club. - Caledonian Girls Group " Photography project.</p>
<p>3. To what extent should youth work opportunities be generally available to all young people, or be targeted on those who are particularly vulnerable or disadvantaged?</p>	<p>Both, there has to be open to all provision and targeted provision and also a support structure to ensure that young people who are particularly vulnerable or disadvantaged can access mainstream provision. Young people have shared issues independently of their capability or social and economic background. There are concerns regarding more funding becoming targeted for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people.</p>
<p>4. To what extent will different types of youth work or youth organisations require different treatment in the National Youth Work Strategy?</p>	
<p>5. How do we attract and retain more volunteers to help deliver youth work opportunities?</p>	
<p>6. How can better links be forged with schools and other providers to improve the opportunities available to young people?</p>	
<p>7. What particular skills can youth workers bring to work within or around schools, especially to keep young people engaged?</p>	
<p><i>NATIONAL STRUCTURES</i></p>	
<p>8. What type of support is needed at national level to improve opportunities and outcomes for young people at a local level?</p>	
<p>9. Do you have any views on how YouthLink Scotland can best support and represent the range of youth work providers?</p>	
<p>10. How can we help national youth work organisations to work more with each other to share good practice, build capacity and make best use of their resources?</p>	
<p><i>BETTER INFORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE</i></p>	

<p>11. What can be done to improve the information available to young people and their ability to access it?</p>	<p>Professional Publicity and Marketing is needed in order to raise the youth work profile and promote positive perceptions of young people in the wider community. As at the moment Youth Work is undervalued. There also has to be better links with schools and other organisations working with young people where they appreciate and value the role of the youth worker.</p>
<p>12. How can young people be more involved in developing information for other young people?</p>	
<p><i>ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE</i></p>	
<p>13. What do you think are the priorities for youth work in the 21st century?</p>	<p>- Funding and resources available. - Maintain and extend youth work provision all year round eliminating gaps. - Be young people focussed. - Youth work is becoming too structured, too focussed in programming and achieving Performance and Quality indicators. - Bring in interagency work. - Government should make a commitment that every young person has a space in a youth club; youth work should become entitled to all young people. - Involve young people in policy making and decision making.</p>
<p>14. How do we make sure that youth work is accessible to all young people, including equality groups and those in rural areas, and respects their differences?</p>	
<p>15. How can youth work contribute to good community relations?</p>	
<p>16. What particular issues and barriers do young people from minority ethnic backgrounds, disabled young people and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) young people encounter in accessing youth work opportunities?</p>	<p>The main barrier to participation from minorities groups are the young people's prejudices and discriminatory attitudes themselves. Also the lack of resources and support to those young people to get involved in mainstream youth clubs. The challenge is to concentrate on the positive not the negative and celebrate the difference.</p>
<p>17. Are there any gender issues or other issues affecting equality groups that we need to consider?</p>	
<p>18. What can be done to provide the right kind of opportunities for young people of school age?</p>	<p>Dialogue with young people is central to developing appropriate opportunities. Sufficient budgets should be in place to make sure that youth work opportunities are accessible to all young people independently</p>

	from their social and economic background.
19. And what can be done to provide the right kind of opportunities for young people who have left school?	Dialogue with young people is central to developing appropriate opportunities. Working with this age range group should be flexible adapting to their interests at the time i.e. job opportunities, support groups, volunteering, mentoring, etc. as well as being flexible with the timescale of the projects.
20. How do we make sure that partnerships and youth work providers are focused on delivering better outcomes for young people at a local level?	
21. What more can be done to enable all youth work providers to engage in and influence local networks and partnerships, including the community planning framework?	
22. How can youth organisations expand the numbers of young people they deal with?	To be able to expand youth participation we need to do PR with schools, youth organisations and young people themselves promoting our services.
23. What steps can be taken to make the best use of buildings and facilities to deliver youth work opportunities?	Building should be secure and safe for young people to be in. It should be a fair distribution of the space of the building between the different user groups.
<i>EMPOWERING AND ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE</i>	
24. What more can be done at national, local and organisational levels to make sure that young people can participate in decisions that affect them?	Continuos and creative feedback sessions. Also better citizenshipâ€™s courses in schools.
25. What more can be done at local or national level to support the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) to engage with and represent young people in Scotland?	
<i>IMPROVING QUALITY</i>	
26. Are you getting enough support with self-evaluation and with identifying and measuring outcomes and impacts?	We are getting adequate support using both systematic and informal procedures.
If no, what would help?	Yes
27. How can youth workers work more closely with others (for example, health workers) to make sure that young people's needs are identified and met?	

28. How do we make sure that young people receive recognition for informal learning?	With ongoing positive feedback and media covering.
29. How do we ensure that employers and others understand and value these achievements?	
30. How can we promote and encourage excellence in the youth work sector?	
TRAINING	
31. What skills, qualities and support does a 21st century youth worker need?	The key qualities are:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ability to communicate with young people • An ability to empathise with young people • Flexibility to take on new ideas • IT literate • An ability to work in partnership with other organisations.
32. Do volunteers need the same skills and support?	Volunteers should be valued as part of the team; given extra support if needed to be involved in all the aspects of decision making within the organisations.
33. How do we attract and retain more people as youth workers on a full- or part-time basis?	Youth Workers need more structure, more incentives and security of contracts (loosing the gaps). Also, Youth Work is a job that needs to be advertised out of the youth work network to attract new youth workers from different backgrounds. To be able to attract new people into the field basic youth work training is needed and alternatives to University to be able to become a full time youth worker.
34. Are there specific types of training that are difficult to access and that workers or volunteers need to do their job more effectively?	Training should be practical, inspirational and accessible (suitable times and locations). The idea of a Youth Workers Forum has been highlighted as a way to share and discuss best practise and information.
35. Is there enough information about the training available?	There is not enough information available to Youth Workers at the moment regarding training. A Web Site has been highlighted as the best way to pass information as well as direct information from line managers and notice boards in their place of work.
If no, what would help?	No
36. How do we make sure that any measures put in place to strengthen standards, including registration, are suitable and work effectively for volunteers?	Any measures included needs to be practical and easy to implement. There has been an initial interest in a registration scheme but with concerns regarding its practical introduction. Any scheme introduced will need induction and support.
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	

<p>Any other comments?</p>	<p>- Youth work is not an isolated activity. The Scottish Executive needs to consider and value young people and prioritise Youth Work. - Housing and green spaces have to be thought out with young people considered as well. - Public perception of Youth Work is misunderstood and undervalued. Youth Workers are seen as childminders. Awareness needs to be raised to challenge those perceptions. - There is a big problem with schools not appreciating and valuing what youth work does and how it can contribute to the personal and social development of the young people and everyone as a whole. - It will be useful to have National and Edinburgh wide Youth Events and Youth Days to raise Youth Work profile and Young People's perceptions.</p>
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More About You

<p>Question 1: What is your age? Please tick the most appropriate box.</p>	
<p>Question 2: Are you?</p>	
<p>Question 3: What is your ethnicity? Please tick the most appropriate box.</p>	
<p>Question 4: If responding as an individual, it would be helpful to know what your background is. Please tick the most appropriate box.</p>	<p>Youth worker (paid or volunteer)</p>
<p>If Other" please give details:</p>	
<p>Question 5: Do You work:</p>	<p>Part-Time</p>
<p>Question 6: If responding on the behalf of a group or organisation, what age group(s) of young people do you mainly work with? Please tick as many boxes as appropriate.</p>	<p>12-15</p>
<p>Question 7: Do you work for:</p>	<p>Local Authority</p>
<p>If Other please specify:</p>	
<p>Question 8: Did you go to an event to discuss the youth work consultation?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If yes please give details:</p>	<p>South CLD - Part Time Youth Workers Consultation</p>

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