

DP61

Young People & Opportunities

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

Yes I think its important that the young person makes the decision. If they are coerced into attending they may not realise the opportunities to be gained and close their minds to any further involvement in the projects undertaken.

- 2) What do you think are the priorities for youth work in the 21st century in your area? (13)

We must continue to reach out to all the young people so that we make them aware of the complete range of opportunities on offer. We have to channel their energies and imaginations into projects and communities, and help them develop into well educated, balanced and confident individuals, above all we must value and respect our young people.

3) 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? (14)

We must expand our volunteers so that we can cover more events attended by our young people.

Provide venues where we can meet and stimulate their interests. - be in tune with their outlook and expectations.

Provide a framework of support, inclusion and equality with our young people.

4) What more can be done at national, local and organisational levels to make sure that young people can participate in decisions that affect them? (24)

We must communicate with them through channels they recognise and are comfortable with.

Provide Electronic information
" Websites.

Through the media

Wherever our young people work and play, we must have a presence.

5) How do we make sure that young people receive recognition for informal learning? (28)

Make sure that anything they become involved in or do is a stepping stone to the next stage of their development. Everything a young person becomes involved in adds to their knowledge, and develops the character and ultimately influences what they will eventually do with their lives. and so all stages along the way should have formal recognition.

Community Involvement

6) How can youth work contribute to good community relations? (15)

By providing a bond within the community whether it is by making improvements to their surroundings or by working with other members of the community on projects to improve the area for all concerned.

To be seen to be an important member of the community - respected, reliable and helpful.

7) What can be done to enable all youth work providers to engage in and influence local networks and partnerships, including the Community Planning framework? (which is co-ordinated by the local authority) (21)

Be a recognised force within your community - be represented on any committee or panel of influence. Have knowledge of your local area and how decisions are made - and be there when it counts - be at the forefront of any Community Action.

Volunteers

8) How do we attract and retain more volunteers to help deliver youth work opportunities? (5)

Take any opportunity to advertise and recruit
Accept any small amount of help that is offered.
Don't pressurise already busy volunteers - accept only what they can give.
Have a good support network to provide back-up whenever possible
Always let the volunteer know how valuable they are.

9) What skills, qualities and support does a 21st century youth worker need? (31)

Enthusiasm, patience, understanding, counselling skills, anger management, common sense, good communication skills, organising & planning. Safety awareness.

Support from parents and co-workers
" " higher levels of your organisation.
" " your own family members.
literature, practical help and on going training and updating of skills.

10) Do volunteer youth workers need the same skills and support as paid youth workers? (32)

Working on a voluntary basis requires the same skills and support, in fact I think we may need more reassurance and training as we do not have regular meetings and conferences to compare notes as the professionals do.

Support is vital.

11) Are there specific types of training that are difficult to access and that volunteers need to do their job more effectively? (34)

Perhaps trainings on Crisis Management
Difficult situations with parents etc., Safety
and people management - things that only
crop up now and then and are difficult to
handle or compromise on when they arise

12) How do we make sure that any measures put in place to strengthen standards, including registration, are suitable and work effectively for volunteers? (36)

We have to ensure that the work load is evenly distributed so that no-one is overloaded with paper work and forms

If possible have teams, each doing only a small part so that each person is comfortable and can check so that mistakes are rare and can be caught fairly quickly. and rectified without delay.

Ensure adequate training and support are in place. for all concerned.

Resources & Capacity

13) What type of support is needed at national level to improve opportunities and outcomes for young people at a local level?

(8)

Good communication throughout all levels of the organisation.

The young people must be aware that their ideas and efforts are appreciated and views are respected

They must also be aware that they have an effective communication channel to national level and that they have a voice at this level.

They must know that ideas and disputes are effectively dealt with and that they can make a difference

14) How can youth organisations expand the numbers of young people they deal with? (22)

We must recruit more interested adult volunteers and value the volunteers we already have, so that we can provide more opportunities for our young people.

We should also try to help our own young people to realise that they can continue in the organisation as an adult helper and provide training and support in order to encourage them to do so.
We must advertise ourselves and our organisation

Any other comments that you would like to make?

We would be most grateful if you could complete the following details.

Name:	L. Hall																				
Postcode:	MK1 2PL.																				
Are you responding:	<div style="text-align: right;">(Please tick box)</div> As an individual member <input type="checkbox"/> On behalf of a unit/district/division/ <u>county</u> or other grouping <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>																				
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