



## 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, otherwise many of the benefits are lost as the activities are seen as imposed and therefore an immediate barrier is erected. Guiding benefits from being open to all and we must ensure that this is the message put across to all girls. Thereafter the young person still has choices and a say in the programme. There is a future job for guiding here to advertise the fact that choices are involved and that activities while being fun are relevant to 21<sup>st</sup> living and many skills are transferable and highly relevant in C.V's

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

In our area there are 2 main issues.

① Attracting adult volunteers - while many people claim lack of time, we are still disadvantaged by the public's perception of what we do. Everyone harks back to 'when I was a guide'.

② Ensuring that while volunteers do give up a lot of time - with little or no appreciation by parents - they need to be supported locally with accommodation. Rentals of schools etc. can be very prohibitive. If we are offering a service which would need to be provided if we didn't have volunteers why do L.A's not give us free access to meeting places?

- 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)

I think Equiding does this well at the moment and we have Units in all types of areas. If girls are unable to attend meetings then they can be 'home' or 'net' members.

Also we have different sorts of units - church based, school based and community based.

- 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)

I think we actually already do this with various forums for Senior Section. Possibly we could do more at local level - maybe unit reps. (girls) at some District or Division meetings.

Many young people are asked for opinions eg. at school but often they are not 'listened to' and many good ideas are missed. They are the ones who know how their peer group will react to suggestions.

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

Schools, youth organisations etc. should be acting positively to recognise skills and abilities and pointing these out to young people. Too often we concentrate on the negative. Many young people need help to recognise their qualities and how these can be transferred to employment situations etc.

## Community Involvement

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

By working in the community in various ways with different age groups. The girls have many opportunities to get involved - community tidying groups, gardening groups, CAB singing, concerts, using community members as speakers, testers etc. Bag packing, church services, coffee mornings. Links with all parts of the community are extremely good in all our districts.

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)

Have regular forums to discuss areas of common ground and diversity. Please 'listen' and 'lead'!

## Volunteers

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

Approach possible volunteers positively and in person - speak to groups eg. mothers groups, toddlers groups, at P.T.A. nights etc. Encourage this approach to be done by young, dynamic quilters who are enthusiastic. Too often such info is put across by people who give the impression that there is only one way of doing things and that we are very traditional and strict.

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

An enjoyment of young people's company.  
A sense of fun - not afraid to make yourself appear silly to make girls react and relax.  
A caring attitude with respect of everyone's ideas, feelings and backgrounds.  
An ability to put yourself in the place of others.  
A bank of ideas for activities.  
Local support network.

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

No - the ~~beauty~~ beauty of volunteers is that they can be quite diverse in skills. Paid youth workers tend to have to conform to 'job description'.

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

Not sure - we have a good Guiding Development Programme in Fife Valley. The problem is getting volunteers to realise that, after Leadership Qualification is gained, training should continue. This may be due to lack of time. However some Guides just want to run their own Unit their own way and this can be bad - leads to small mini-youth clubs.

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)

Keep paperwork to a minimum!  
Explain the relevance of what is asked for.  
Lessen the amount of duplication of procedures for people  
volunteering in more than 1 organisation.

## 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)

Recognition that as volunteers we give up a great deal of time which if we had to be paid (which I definitely do not want to happen) there would be a high cost. A small portion of this <sup>saved</sup> high cost could be used to help with accommodation costs as recognition of our contributions.

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

I don't think this is a great problem for Aquidring - we get the girls but not the leaders - see waiting lists!

Any other comments that you would like to make?

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

Name: <i>SHEILA ROGER</i>				
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(Please tick box)				
Are you responding:	As an individual member			<input type="checkbox"/>
	On behalf of a unit/district/division/county or other grouping			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If as an individual, what is your age?	Under 16 <input type="checkbox"/>	16-18 <input type="checkbox"/>	19-25 <input type="checkbox"/>	
	26-35 <input type="checkbox"/>	36-45 <input type="checkbox"/>	46-60 <input type="checkbox"/>	Over 60 <input type="checkbox"/>
If as a group, what is the name of your unit/district/division/county/other?				
<i>ARDOLAH DIVISION - FORTH VALLEY</i>				
What is your ethnicity?	White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mixed	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Black, Black Scottish or Black British	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Other Ethnic Background.	<input type="checkbox"/>		