

2021

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)

Depends on context but from Gilgrinding's viewpoint yes - the young person must want to be part of the youth work activity at a basic level - even if they need targeted encouragement to participate in certain elements of the programme.

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

Inclusion - of all abilities + cultural backgrounds.
Encouraging understanding of others' needs and views. Respect - for themselves, for others and for their world.

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)

Publicising who we are + what we can offer as a fully inclusive organisation through as many media routes as possible, youth publications, internet etc.; ensuring schools + other youth groups are aware of what we offer. Continuing to support lone Guides. Being aware of, + responding flexibly to, the young people's backgrounds - inner city/rural/religious + cultural needs.

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)

Ask the young people themselves what they are looking for. Ensure there are easy routes to channel this information back up the chain of command - e.g. through internet; through questionnaires (but keep them "short, sweet + simple"). Involve young people themselves on planning groups/committees + pay attention to what they actually say - not what we think they'll say.

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

By offering achievement awards/badge/certificates & providing positive support & encouragement every step of the way. Break up tasks into smaller, manageable "chunks" to show that things can be achieved & emphasize what has been done when each stage is reached. Publicize achievements in local press/guiding publications. Talk about what girls have achieved/are in the process of doing at local events.

Community Involvement

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

Being seen out & about involved in local events / activities. Supporting & being involved with charities / fundraising / practical activities (eg. a litter cleanup / working in a community garden / painting community property) that relate to good causes & based in their area. Setting good standards - consideration for others etc. - for our members.

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)

Ensuring that relevant personnel / contact details are kept up-to-date & are publicised - eg. local library; schools etc. & made available to local authority.
Ensuring participation if invited to take part in planning exercises but sharing tasks among members of the District to keep involvement small & manageable for each individual & thus it's not one person being landed with the job every time.

Volunteers

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

Give a clear idea of the commitment (in terms of time & activities) being asked for. Try not to overload individuals - respect their other commitments & value whatever time they give. Emphasise the very positive benefits to a person's CV if their volunteering is presented in the right way. (of course, their own sense of achievement & satisfaction).

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

Enthusiasm for the task - if you have any doubts or feel negative then there's no point. Tolerance, self-respect & a good sense of humour. A belief that what you are doing will make a positive difference. The opportunity to share experiences with your fellow youth workers & strong support from those further up the chain of command - the knowledge that they've been there too. The streamlining & simplification of as much of the paperwork as possible.

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

They need the same core skills - tolerance, self-respect, sense of humour, communication - but there may well be a divergence of skills between voluntary / paid - not necessarily a bad thing. Strong support network is essential to all. However, each individual brings their own unique combination of skills to their role.

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

I think we are fortunate that Gilguiding as an organisation recognises the need for ongoing training to enhance what their volunteers bring to youth work. It is essential that we continue to make First Response / Safe from Harm / Dealing with Challenging Behaviour available to all members on a regular basis & to review & update all training opportunities offered on an ongoing basis.

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 paper work simple, clear & straightforward.

Recognise that volunteers have many other commitments in their lives & make timings realistic i.e. sensible deadlines to allow time for completion, not a two day turnaround.

Make training timings/days varied & frequent.

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)

Publicising the value of voluntary work - the benefits that can be brought to the young / their community if adults are willing to take a few hours away from the 24/7 mentality of paid work. Volunteers gain too from what they do. Encouraging business to support & value the volunteers among their work force - they are likely to be good, well motivated employees too & support from their employer will be repaid in motivation & effort.

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

Recruit more adult helpers !!!!!

(Far easier said than done though.)

As above.

There is also the difficulty of making youth activities appear "cool" to the young themselves - I honestly don't have an answer except to give those already involved the best possible experience, & use word of mouth to promote what's happening. Peer pressure can be almost impossible to overcome except for some of the really determined but they do enjoy benefit from what we offer.

Any other comments that you would like to make?

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

Name: <i>Anne Walker</i>				
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Are you responding:	As an individual member			(Please tick box) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	On behalf of a unit/district/division/county or other grouping			<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Over 60 <input type="checkbox"/>
If as a group, what is the name of your unit/district/division/county/other?				
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"/>		