

Questionnaire " what do you think?

Introduction " the role of youth work

<p><b>Question 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?</b></p>	<p>Yes, it should always ultimately be the choice of the young person whether they want to take part in youth work activities, although sometimes youth workers or other professionals should point young people in the direction of specific groups which might help them with individual issues that don't affect all young people. Youth workers should do more to inform young people of what choice is available.</p>
<p>Question 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 for young people who might find it difficult to take part, for whatever reason?</p>	<p>All youth work should be open to all young people with no discrimination. Support should be provided to make sure all activity is fully inclusive. Therefore more resources, funding and training should be allocated to help achieve this goal. However, as well as making youth work accessible to all there should be groups which target young people who find it difficult to take part and support those young people to integrate with other groups.</p>

Better information for young people

Pre-payment certificate scheme

<p>Question 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?</p>	<p>Information for young people should be young people led using their language and slang terms and not adult 'jargon'. Young people should be able tell 'their story' about youth activities to let other young people know what is available. Information should be presented in a fun and interactive way, using e-based methods as well as video. Projects should work together more to promote each others work to help inform young people about what is available. Word of mouth is also a good way of informing young people. young people should also get the chance to go into schools and other youth groups and promote groups in their own words. The Young Scot website or My Space are also good ways to promote youth work activities. Young people who attend groups should be put on a mailing list and sent out regular updates.</p>
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## Access to opportunities for young people

<p>Question 4: What are the main benefits that young people get from youth work?</p>	<p>Youth work helps young people build their confidence and self esteem, get involved with new things and learn skills, as well as becoming peer mentors/supporters. Youth work also helps young people make friends and have fun while travelling to new places and gaining a better understanding about what is available. This is provided in a neutral, safe, and relaxed environment.</p>
<p><b>Question 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?</b></p>	<p>Youth work should be provided in a central location which is neutral and easily accessible by a choice of transport options. Youth work should take place in a safe environment which has good disabled access. Subsidising should be used to make sure that there are no financial barriers and that all young people can afford to take part. Youth workers should be trained in how to cater for all religious backgrounds and different cultures.</p>
<p>Question 6: What can youth organisations do to provide the kind of youth work opportunities that young people want and also attract more young people?</p>	<p>Youth work should be led by and involve young people in the whole process. Peer support should be available for all young people. Organisations should consult more with young people on what they want and more action should be shown from this consultation. Youth work should also be given more funding and resources to help achieve these goals</p>

## Empowering and engaging young people

<p><b>Question 7: What more can be done to make sure that young people's views are heard when people are making decisions that affect them?</b></p>	<p>More groups like Dundee Youth Voice should be used to get young people involved in local decision making. Young people should be involved in the whole decision making process including with consultations which are designed and carried out by young people. Young people should be given more information and there should be more advocacy on behalf of young people at meetings and where appropriate young people should be invited to attend meetings. More e-based methods should be used to get young people involved including the Young Scot website and maybe others like My Space. It should be respected that it is the choice of young people to get involved.</p>
	<p>The Scottish Youth Parliament should be made more fun and accessible to all types of young</p>

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

people from all backgrounds. More publicity should be used to promote the SYP and what it aims to achieve. The SYP should demonstrate and show real action which has been taken to promote the benefits for getting involved. More consultation should be taken with young people to get their views about how the SYP operates. Better access to the website (currently banned in schools). Road shows should be used to tour around Scotland promoting the work of the SYP. Young people involved in the SYP should get the opportunity to tell other young people about the SYP during visits in schools and at other youth groups. Peer support should be used to help young people get more involved. Word of mouth again is a good way to promote the groups. Also, the website should be fully accessible with no public authority restrictions

#### Improving quality

***Question 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?***

Case studies should be used and promoted to show employers the benefits of young people's awards. The profile of awards should be raised with employers through job fairs and job centres. Businesses should be given more information about the awards and what young people go through to achieve these awards and the skills they pick up on the way. More information should be distributed using e-based methods and leaflets.

#### Training

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

Youth workers should have patience, be easy to approach and talk too, have good listening skills and a sense of humour. It is also important that they are able to relate to young people and the issues which they are facing. Youth workers should have good hands-on experience working directly with young people. There should be a governing body or council which all youth workers are accountable to and which provides compulsory basic training on the fundamentals of being a good youth worker. Young people should be involved in this process and even be involved in the process of employing youth workers. Youth

	workers should also be multi skilled and able to work in partnership with other groups as well having an understanding of the different needs of young people from all backgrounds, including those with disability needs, learning difficulties or different ethnic, religious or cultural backgrounds.
<i>Any other comments?</i>	More funding and resources or better allocation should be available for youth work activities. Projects should be means tested and extra funding should be allocated to groups who can prove they are doing what they say are. Also, there should be more done to demonstrate action which has been taken from consultations before carrying out further consultation with young people.

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