

Questionnaire " what do you think?

Introduction " the role of youth work

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?

Young people should be encouraged to take part in youth work activity but should be given a choice or final say whether they want to take part.

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?

There should be youth work activities open to everyone and closed groups which target individuals with difficulties taking part. Support should be provided for those target young people to integrate with main stream groups

Better information for young people

Pre-payment certificate scheme

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?

Young people should help run youth clubs/drop-ins and encourage other young people through word of mouth. Information should be provided using 'young people's language' (e.g. text or slang). No adult jargon should be used. Young people could help design posters or videos advertising youth information.

Access to opportunities for young people

Question 4: What are the main benefits that young people get from youth work?

Young people who take part in youth work benefit from a better future, more opportunities as well as interacting with other young people whilst improving their confidence and learning new things.

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?

Young people led/peer support activities could be used to make young people feel more welcome by somebody who understands their needs. Equality and diversity training and awareness raising of different issues should be used to highlight support for those from different ethnic/racial/religious backgrounds.

Question 6: What can youth organisations do to

Ask young people living in the area what they want by carrying out a survey. Make activities

provide the kind of youth work opportunities that young people want and also attract more young people?	young people friendly by using food and music they like. Do not search young people and have more trust
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Empowering and engaging young people

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?	Ask more young people what they think are the most important issues by carrying out consultation like the youth work strategy consultation. Target hard to reach young people who don't usually participate. Don't invite young people to meetings, but instead ask them questions in an informal environment where they don't feel pressured. Respect young people's decision not to participate.
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?	The Scottish Youth Parliament should have more resources which make taking part fun and attractive to young people. The SYP should be more accessible to all young people who want to take part and not just those interested in politics. More awareness raising should be carried detailing what the SYP is about and what the benefits of getting involved are

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?	Make employees more aware of the benefits of the Youth Achievement Award and Duke of Edinburgh Award through adverts on radio etc to raise their profile. Promote the awards at job fairs and target employers with information about the awards.
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Training

Question 10: What skills and qualities do you think a good youth worker or volunteer should have?	Good youth workers should be patient, good listeners, have a good personality, be approachable, sensitive, fun, trusting, reliable, flexible, and understanding of different needs and also be trained in equality and diversity. Youth workers do not necessarily need to be qualified to have these qualities.
Any other comments?	N/A

PLEASE NOTE: THE ABOVE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED FROM THE INTERNET.