

Youth Work ethics

Youth Work provides a safe, friendly, learning environment for young people.

Youth Workers are committed to providing an ethical and appropriate approach, their priorities are:

- treat young people with respect
- promote and ensure the welfare and safety of young people
- respect and promote young people's rights to make informed decisions and choices
- recognise the boundaries between personal and professional life
- recognise the need to be accountable to young people, their parents or guardians and colleagues
- advocate on behalf of young people, promoting social justice for young people in society
- develop and maintain the skills and competencies required to do the job
- engage in ethical debate in Youth Work
- value young people as equal partners in the learning, decision making process
- ensure working conditions allow these principles to be discussed, evaluated and upheld.

(For further information and guidance please refer to Ethical Conduct in Youth Work –National Youth Agency 2000)



Four cornerstones of Youth Work

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The four cornerstones as well as service policies and national policies inform staff approaches used within Youth Work.



Education

Youth Work is about learning and offering young people a range of opportunities that stimulate, challenge and empower young people, creating opportunity for growth development and positive change.

Empowerment

Supporting young people to make informed decisions about issues that affect them. Equipping young people with skills that enable them to understand and act on the personal, social and political issues that affect their lives.

Equality of Opportunity

Youth Work has a key role in encouraging, understanding and supporting the participation of groups who experience discrimination. Youth Work actively challenges prejudice and oppression and seeks to redress discrimination.

Participation

The service provides and supports opportunities where young people are partners in the learning process and participate in the decision making and management of all aspects of their lives.

Methodology

This is about how we do Youth Work. The settings it takes place in and the delivery style and activities.

Work settings

Youth Work is delivered in a variety of settings:

- centre based
- detached
- outreach
- mobile Units
- residential work
- work within schools



