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“What is youth work and why is it important?”

Deborah Terras

Programme Lead and Senior Lecturer.....and a youth worker for 30 odd years

Relational Youth worker

01

Turn to the
person next to
you

02

Say hello

03

Introduce
yourself

04

Ask them what
they did over
the weekend

What do you think Youth work is?

Using the QR use ONE
word to describe youthwork
OR go to [mentimeter.com](https://www.mentimeter.com)
and type in the code

7633 4702

[Text Analysis - Mentimeter](#)



Check under your seats

Looking for 3 envelopes.

If you have an envelope,
please raise your hand or stand
(if you are able to).



Guess the date?

“The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannize their teachers.”

One of the origins of 'youthwork'

1873 Maud Stanley

Set up Sunday school followed by night schools

Known for her work in the Five Dials area 1878
engaging the inhabitants in meaningful activity.

Founded the Soho Club for Girls 1880 a refuge
as well as an educational establishment.

Wrote the first specific text on girls clubs in
1880.



Purpose of youth work

‘The key purpose of youth work is to....‘Enable young people to develop holistically, working with them to facilitate their personal, social and educational development, to enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their potential’ –

Youth Work National Occupational Standards.



A view of youthwork

"Politicians and policy makers in Britain and Northern Ireland currently tend to talk about young people in three linked ways - as thugs, users and victims... Yet a view of 'youth as a problem continues to drive policy discussion and, in the UK at least, is linked to notions of social exclusion. Certain groups of young people are seen in deficit, as a problem - and the answer' to this behaviour is to impose more control on the one hand (Jeffs and Smith 1995), and, on the other, to direct 'remedial' resources and interventions at those deemed to be in need."

Jeffs T and Smith, M. (1999) the problem of youth' for youth work

Folk devils and moral panics (2500 years later)



What is Youth work?

Youth Work is a distinct educational process adapted across a variety of settings to support a young person's personal, social, emotional and educational development. It begins with the development of a unique, challenging and developmental relationship with young people, which is utilised to:

- Explore their values, beliefs, ideas and issues
- Enable them to develop their voice, influence and place in society
- Facilitate learning practical and life skills that will help them to realise their full potential

We facilitate informal pedagogy – we embrace relational participatory practice

Youth work is underpinned by a clear set of values. These include:



Young people voluntarily participating

Utilising young people's view of the world

Treating young people with respect

Seeking to develop young people's skills and attitudes rather than remedy 'problem behaviours'

Helping young people develop stronger relationships and collective identities

Respecting and valuing differences

Promoting the voice of young people

Youth work has a Curriculum



The curriculum framework is founded on four cornerstones, which describe the broad aims of youth work:

- Education.** Youth work offers informal learning opportunities that can complement formal learning in schools and colleges. It gives young people the opportunity to learn – about themselves, about others, about issues they care about or that concern them and about society and how to engage in their communities.

- Empowerment.** Youth work helps young people to develop the skills and confidence to make decisions and act on issues that affect their own lives, the lives of others, their communities and society. This enables young people to take control, have a voice and get involved as advocates.

- Equality.** Youth work is for all young people. It respects differences and builds connections between different groups and individuals. It recognises and promotes human rights, social justice and anti-oppressive practices, supporting and challenging young people to reflect on their understanding of themselves and their behaviour towards others.

- Participation.** Youth work supports young people and works with them to become partners and leaders in their own learning, to help them gain influence over issues they are concerned about and to engage them with democratic processes

The future of youthwork

In the last decade youth provision has been cut by almost three quarters.

The 2022 youth sector census by the National Youth Agency (NYA) suggests charities and community groups are now “disproportionately providing” open-access, universal services and out-of-school activities.

The future of youthwork

In 2022, the government launched the National Youth Guarantee, to provide young people in England with access to activities, backed by a £300m Youth Investment Fund to build and refurbish new facilities by March 2025.

After being heavily oversubscribed, applications closed in June 2023.

The future of youth work – Local Authority

There has been a recent publication of the government's new guidance for Tier 1 local authorities on their statutory duty to provide young people with access to youth work activities to support their wellbeing and to promote their personal and social development, in line with section 507B of the Education Act 1996.

The new guidance makes it much clearer for Councils to ensure that their provision is effectively meeting the needs of young people in their localities.

The future of youth work – Local Authority

Under Section 507b of the Education Act (1996), all young people aged 13 to 19 years (and up to 25 years for those with special educational needs and disability (SEND)) have the right to access youth work activities which are for the improvement of their wellbeing and promote their personal and social development

Since 2010 there has been a £1 billion real terms cut in spending by local authorities on youth services, which has resulted in fragmented provision, a recruitment and retention crises, and youth work as a profession being overlooked and misunderstood.




Current investment in the Youthwork profession


The NYSAB's Roadmap to a National Youth Strategy sets out a bold ambition for youth work to be given its rightful place at the table, together with the investment needed to build the capacity of the workforce, strengthen the evidence-base and create the policies needed to formally integrate youth work practice into wider youth strategies.”

How do we invest in youth work and youth workers

More research funding to develop the evidence-based of the impact of youth work



More investment in pathways into youth work from volunteers to JNC – to develop a 'better' equitable offer



Ensure all young people have access to quality youth work and youth work resources

Working together for pathways into youthwork

Youth support worker to JNC
Qualified

Level 2 Award in Youth Work Principles

Level 2 Certificate in Youth Work Practice

Level 3 Certificate in Youth Work Practice

Level 3 Diploma in Youth Work Practice

Level 3 Youth Work Practice Apprenticeship

A Level 6 integrated degree youth work
apprenticeship due to commence September 2024
Key element (subject to validation)



**INSTITUTE FOR
APPRENTICESHIPS**



University of
CUMBRIA

Level 6 Integrated Degree

No. of Hours: three years full time (and part time equivalent) (inc at least 800 hours of assessed professional practice)

This apprenticeship is work-based training programme for people employed for at least 30 hours a week in a youth work setting.

With a mixture of on-the-job and off-the-job training you will acquire the knowledge, skills and behaviours to meet the occupational duties of a professional youth worker.

Young People's voices need to be heard

Young people are driven. They fight for what they believe in, based off soaked up knowledge they are exposed to regularly through education. The choices and decisions made by the politicians and the powerful may be made by older generations, but the young people are the ones that have to bear the consequences. Young people are the potential of our future and they don't deserve to be discounted

Callum Sutton - student

Relational Youth worker



Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me today.

Any questions ?