

YOUTH WORK UNIT

**Yorkshire &
The Humber**



**Promoting Quality Youth Work
and Integrated Youth Support**

What is Youth Work?

Youth work is non-formal education with young people, primarily 13-19, promoting personal development and social education, in the important transition years to adulthood. Young people involve themselves by choice and their voice and influence is critical to the work. Activities, which combine enjoyment with challenge and learning, take place in a broad range of settings. Youth workers build relationships with young people which support their development, improve their life chances and help them to reach their potential.

YWU - The Regional Resource for Work with Young People

The Youth Work Unit (YWU) is the strategic youth work development agency for the Yorkshire and Humber region. It is the focal point for **all** youth work in the region and has a unique role in bringing together the dual functions of support **and** development.

Established in 1998, the YWU, a charitable company, works with voluntary, Local Authority (LA) and private youth work providers, as well as regional and national policymakers. Increasingly, we are working with a broader range of services, departments and organisations all seeking to deliver in line with the Government *Every Child Matters* and *Youth Matters* agendas and outcomes:

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieving
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic well-being



We Can Help Your Organisation

With the focus on improving outcomes for young people, many organisations need strategic, expert and objective support regarding services for young people. From Children and Young People's Trusts to Council Lead Members, from health trusts to the police, from arts and sports organisations to regeneration and enterprise initiatives, we can help.

The YWU can be commissioned to:

- assist with strategic planning, marketing and development
- broker partnerships to support innovation
- manage regional, sub-regional and local projects
- undertake bespoke research studies, reviews, evaluations
- advise on quality standards and on workforce and training
- support young people's voice and influence work
- organise conferences, training events and seminars

We have a number of expert Associates to help us deliver contracted work.

What We Do and How We Do It

The YWU runs a number of strategic and operational networks - Heads of Service, Voluntary Youth Organisations Network, Trainers, Quality Assurance, International, Voice and Influence. With these groups we:

- identify best practice and innovation and provide a regional overview analysing developments and trends.
- maintain a collection of policy, curriculum and other support resources enabling evidence-based information and advice
- organise workshops and conferences to promote developments and disseminate learning
- broker and build key partnerships with regional and national agencies to influence and develop youth work policy and to advocate for and with young people.

In all of our work we bring a regional strategic perspective building on experience of what works. In this way, we remove duplication of effort, add value and complement local services.



Some Examples of Our Recent Work

- Youth Opportunities Fund workshops
- 'Integrated Youth Support' work - tracking and analysing developments, collecting case studies and a conference with NYA
- Youth Service Quality Mark training session
- FPM Strategic Management & Leadership course
- Ready Steady Change workshop
- Piloting of Clubs for Young People Quality Mark
- Organised practice visits for HM Treasury Policy Review team
- Overview of Youth Support Worker and initial professional training
- Regional Quality Assurance moderation
- Infrastructure support to Voluntary Youth Organisations networks
- UKYP members regional meetings

Funders

- 15 LAs in Y&H
- National Youth Agency
- Connect Youth International
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- UK Youth Parliament
- Participation Works
- Reading Agency & Library services
- Learning Network



Contacting the Youth Work Unit

If you need information or advice on any area of youth work or would like to discuss a potential project, please contact any of the staff below:

Margaret Clarkson Finance & Administration Officer • **Trevor Wood** Development Officer
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