

Professional Practice: Principles and Contexts of Work with Young People.

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Within this assignment will be discussing and comparing the contrast of two different types of work with young people. This will include the principles, values and the characteristics which underpin youth work practice and be linked to the Youth Work National Occupational Standards. The two that has been chosen to discuss in more depth is the centre-based youth work and school-based youth work. Within the assignment it will show a demonstration of understanding of the principles and practices of non-formal education and the wider services who work with young people. The assignment will also contain the key policies on which impact on the organisations and services that work with young people. Show an understanding of the variety of contexts where youth work happens and in wider services where young people are supported and to organise their knowledge and learning through the use of a range of information and resources.

There are six key important principles for working in centre- based youth work such as respect, empowerment, youth-led, quality, safety and well-being, positivity and inclusivity, equality and diversity which all mean and help young people in different way. Respect is not just valued for those who live with one another but is also part of the community who need and who equally to other groups in or around different communities. Young people are sometimes encouraged to participate in many different activities in their communities and opportunities in their local area without them fearing about being judged or having negative stereotypes. Young people who

have a voice is the central of where they are and weather they chose to be in different types of services on a voluntary basis or in full time services. With young people who have a voice and is in centre-based youth work and working with their trust in practitioners will help encourage the engagements with further work where it is most needed. Centre-based youth work can sometimes be structured around the needs of young people in the local area, with can offer both open-access and universal provision where it is possible for this to happen. (1. Six key principles for effective youth services, 2022). Some young people will disagree with there being six important principles of youth work as many will think there is only three such as voluntary attendance, accessibility, and partnership, which would also have a different meaning than other important principles. Youth work in a centre-based setting might not have the accessibility that another centre-based setting has. Accessibility with young people may become a little complicated as they cannot or will not be able to travel long distance to another centre or be able to have the access to transport outside of the community. When obtaining to youth work it is to be able to accommodate the needs of all young people. Partnership youth work is and should always be centred around the individual's needs. When being in a partnership with young people in youth work whether it be in working in a centre or else where they should always be there to work together with one another and not leave a young person on their own. Being a youth worker in a centre-based workplace means that the worker will be able to understand the young people's personal and circumstances background a lot better, and this could help them build a mutual understanding of one another, which could also help the young person's development in a youth programme that will just take a focus on their individual capabilities and the areas that they see need to be improved. (Burton-Hughes,

2018). Youth work has many values but there are some that are underpinned by the clear set of values such as, treating young people with respect, being able to let the young people choose to take part in things, respecting and valuing their differences, utilising young people's view of the world, helping young people develop stronger relationships and collective identities, seeking to develop young people's skills and attitudes rather than remedies and promoting the voice of young people who need to be heard. (What is Youth Work – NYA, 2022).

There seems to be a little bit much of the literature to set youth work against schooling. Youth work should be based on making or building a relationship with young people who have entered themselves not just into school but into non-educational centres. Going to school is for some of the parts compulsory but not all families send their children to school. Being in youth work it is a place where it is relationship focused. Youth work over the years has since been wrapped up school since it first became a key form of an educational and social intervention. Over time youth work has continued to grow in many parts to help young people gain their school initiatives out of doing and joining in on activities. Sunday schools and the ragged schools as well as evening institutes grew in the mid-nineteenth century which meant that more youth workers need to be improved. In 1954 the latter was a key feature in the boy's club but not as much could have been said about the latter in the girl's clubs, as back in the early century's youth work would have been split into an all boy's and all girl's school. Girl workers used to be able to use the mix of formal schooling and recreation back in the very early century (1890). Maud Stanley who used to work as a youth worker in the early 18th century worked with young men and also young women to help encourage them to participate in evening and Sunday schools as well as trying to get them to attend clubs. (Youth work in schools –

infed.org: 2019). All youth workers can help young people develop their skills to learn by building positive relationships and help by acting as their role models. Some young people who are in school without having the effective intervention may have the outcome poor compared to their family. Youth work can sometimes not just be for a young person who is in school and doing really well but can also be relevant to young people who are at risk of disengaging themselves from society to those who are becoming too disaffected at school, risk of committing an offence, someone who could become a non-stakeholder in their own community and to those who could adversely be affected by the legacy of conflict. Youth work is always there to provide for the young people with the space and the opportunities to participate at sub-regional, local, and regional levels. With this action in mind, it does underpin the priorities for youth work. (Dowd, 2013). There are three important values in youth work such as interdependence, equity, and diversity, which all are the heart of working in youth work. When working in youth work it is very important that all workers do not take the three core values for granted. Each youth work whether it be in education, agency, group, or organisation should test their policies, practice, and procedures against the core values of youth work. (Morgan, 2008). Since the 2018 government report youth work has moved on a little bit. There are five key aims that the Welsh Government of Youth Work Strategy like to keep in for youth workers who are living or working in Wales such as youth work is accessible and inclusive, making sure that young people are thriving, youth work is valued and understood by everyone, voluntary and paid professional youth work staff are to be supported throughout their careers to improve their practice and to also have a sustainable model for youth work delivery in both a school and non-school setting.

(Understanding the value of youth work and youth workers | Estyn, 2021)

With all the information that has been gathered shows that youth work in a centre-based workplace needs to be more accessible to young people who cannot get in there to be able to have the support that they would require. Every youth workplace should respect the young people no matter how old or what sex they are as this will show the young people that respecting someone, or something would get you somewhere in their life. A youth workplace should be a place where anyone can go whether, they are in a school setting or out of school they should be welcome in any community that they would feel safe in. There should be a youth workplace in every community that are open anytime a young person feels like they need to get away for a while and speak to someone who is outside of their family. A youth worker should try and make themselves available during the evening times when a youth centre is closed.

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