FOUNDATIONS OF YOUTH WORK PRACTICE

HOW HISTORY SHAPED TODAY'S YOUTH WORK

Georgia Le Brocq

What is youth work?

- Voluntary & relationship-based
- Delivered in clubs, outreach, and communities
- Young person-led, flexible, informal

CORNERSTONES OF YOUTH WORK

- Education – hands on learning
- Empowerment – confidence & decision making
- Equality - Inclusion & Fairness
- Participation - Voice & Choice

The National Youth Agency

VALUES & PRINCIPLES

As stated by the NYA ‘Youth Work relationships are underpinned by youth work values and principles. The values provide an ethical foundation that inform the way youth workers make decisions about their work.’

- Participation & active involvement
- Equity, diversity & inclusion
- Partnership with young people
- Personal Social & political development

The National Youth Agency

HISTORICAL MILESTONES OF YOUTH WORK

From the 1700's to 1900s:

- Sunday Schools - early informal learning
- Ragged Schools - support for disadvantaged youth
- YMCA - personal & social development
- Clubs & Groups - social change, equaity, inclusion
- Uniformed organisations - adventure, temwork, skills

HISTORICAL MILESTONES OF YOUTH WORK

Key 20th Century Developments:

- Post WW1 - government involvement
- WW2 - organised youth support and outreach
- 1960 Albemarle Report - funding, youth centres
- 1970s - decline due to changing lifestyles

HISTORICAL MILESTONES OF YOUTH WORK

1980s-2000s

- Funding cuts
- Outreach and issue based work
- Focus on ‘at risk’ groups
- School and government led services

KEY HISTORICAL MILESTONES IN JERSEY

1945 - 1975

- 1945 - Advisory Body for Youth Movement formed
- 1947 - First grants and Youth Clubs open (Aquila & Seaton)
- 1950s-60s - Expansion of clubs, leadership and inter island activities
- 1975 - Youth Movement becomes Jersey Youth Service

KEY HISTORICAL MILESTONES IN JERSEY

1980s - 2000s:

- New clubs and projects open (Queens Silver Jubilee Centre, Maufant, La Motte Street)
- Focus on training and outreach
- 1998: Youth Service integrated into Community Services

What is Jerseys offer today?

12 Community Youth Projects - 1 in every parish of the island with 61 contracted full time/part time youth workers

Targeted Projects - Culture Club, LGBTQ+, MyTime, The Youth Enquiry Service, Targeted Youth Support, Youth Outreach Project, Next Steps

2010

2010: Impact of the Financial Crisis

- Unemployment in Jersey peaked post 2008 financial crisis
- Young People aged 16-19 most affected with over 25% out of work
- By 2019 the total employment in Jersey had risen by 4.5%

2010: LAUNCH OF INSTAGRAM

- Instagram launched as a photo sharing app
- Features over the years included photos, likes, sharing and direct messaging
- Today's platform offers stories, videos and reels of up to 20 minutes

2011: Launch of Snapchat

- Snapchat was a social media platform that was used for self-deleting photos and messages
- The app developed quickly into sending videos
- The platform today has the functions for stories, filters on pictures and location sharing

2013: BACK TO WORK PROGRAMME

- Launched to support jobseekers in Jersey
- Providing CV help, interview prep and access to training
- Todays services for young people include Skills Jersey, YES Project, Next Steps

2014: UNCRC EXTENDED TO JERSEY

- Jersey requested UK's ratification of UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Strengethened legal framework for children's rights in Jersey

2015: PRIDE

- First Channel Islands Pride Parade
- Saw over 3,000 people
- The event grew over the years and is now a weekend long event with artists such as Alexandra Burke







2017: INDEPENDENT JERSEY CARE INQUIRY

- Investigated abuse in Jersey's care system from 1945 onwards
- Found individual and systemic failings
- Made recommendations to improve residential and foster homes along with all other children and young people services

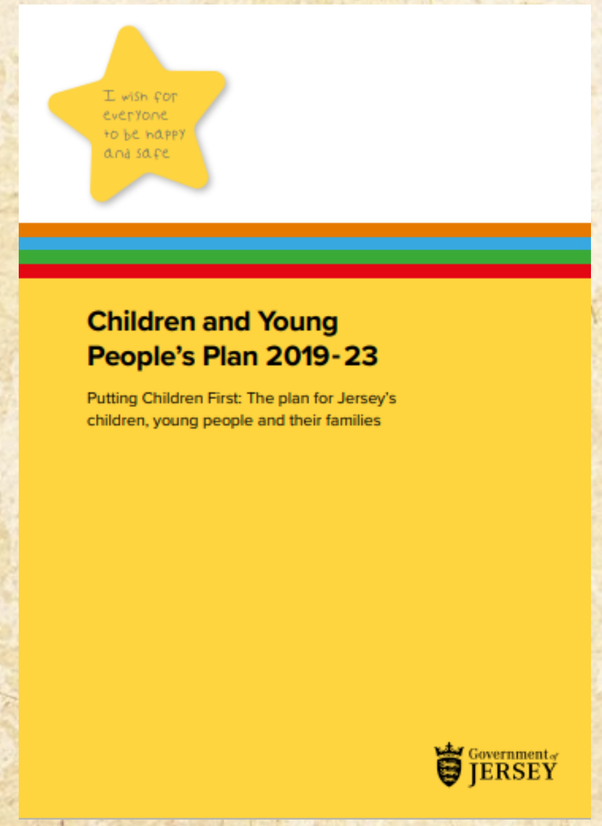
2018: FIRST CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER

- Deborah McMillan appointed as Jersey's First Children's Commissioner
- Role: promote and protect children's rights, underpinned by UNCRC
- Surveys conducted with children aged 3-18 to identify key issues



Children's Commissioner for Jersey
Promoting and Protecting Children's Rights

2019: First Children & Young People's Plan



- Vision: All children can be safe, flourish and reach potential
- Four measurable outcomes:
  - Grow up safely
  - Learn and achieve
  - Live a healthy life
  - Be valued and involved
- Provided framework for all services working with and for children and young people

IN CONCLUSION...

Youth work has changed a lot over the years but the values and principles are still at the core of everything that we do.

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