

The Roots Foundation Wales

Information Sheet



Aims

The organisation aims to create a safe space and environment for young people and for the young people's voices to be heard and listened to (Millar, no date; Sapin, 2013).

The Youth work setting focuses on the five pillars of youth work which are "Educative, Expressive, Participative, Inclusive, and Empowering" (Youth Work in Wales Review Group, 2018, p. 5).

The CLD Standards Council (2019, p. 4) say the main aim for youth workers 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 full potential

(CLD Standards Council, 2019, p. 4).

The organisation are a charity that supports care experienced children and young people, care leavers and adult carers (The Roots Foundation Wales, 2024a). The aim is that it is young people-led, with some sessions led by the youth workers to provide activities and support for young people, as well as the service users (Sapin, 2013).



(Kidd, 2021)

Objectives - how the organisation achieve their aims

One of the ways the organisation achieve their aims is by asking the young people to voice their opinions and views (Sapin, 2013). Also, by getting them to plan activities, such as putty and slime, and supporting them in arranging to buy the things they need for these sessions, gives them a sense of responsibility (Sapin, 2013; Wood, Westwood and Thompson, 2015). Additionally, getting them to do activities that relate to certain months such as – Black History Month, Movember, Doing Halloween Party, Cinema and Trampoline Parks.

Furthermore, ensuring that the young people are learning about topics that will educate them on tough subjects, and to make them aware of the dangers surrounding young people, for example, all types of exploitation, gangs, financial situations and substance misuse (Morgan and Banks, 2010). The organisation does this by youth workers planning sessions and also arranging for expert people to come in to talk to the young people and service users on a range of topics and themes (Morgan and Banks, 2010).

Additionally, the manager of the organisation helps to provide and support the young people with difficult situations going on (The Roots Foundation Wales, 2024a). For example, Christmas time can be quite hard for young people, especially if they have bad memories of negative past experiences. Also, they arrange for the young people to get gifts from an outside charitable organisation (The Roots Foundation Wales, 2024a).



Overall vision of the organisation

The Roots Foundation Wales (2024b) chooses to spend its money carefully in order to support:

... young people in care, leaving care, adult care leavers, those in kinship care and carers. We do this by providing activities, workshops, advice and guidance that promote positive life choices and positive independent living skills.

The Roots Foundation Wales (2024b)

Roles and Responsibilities of Trainee Youth Worker in Placement.

Being on time, being punctual.

Being respectful and courteous.

Ensuring that policies and procedures are read and familiarised with.

Make certain that the appropriate training is undertaken.

Interacting and listening to the young people, take the time to really hear them.

Focuses on observing (Level 4 requirement).

Concentrates on leading sessions (Level 5 requirement).

Managing someone else (Level 6 requirement).

Being able to carry out risk assessments.

Informing placement of any sick leave needed, as soon as possible.

Reflections in practice and maintaining reflective journals.

Supervision, roles and responsibilities.

Always taking a non-judgemental approach.

(Sapin, 2013)

References

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- Sapin, K. (2013) *Essential Skills for Youth Work Practice*. 2nd edn. London: Sage.
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Wood, J., Westwood, S. and Thompson, G. (2015) *Youth Work Preparation for Practice*. London: Routledge.

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