ECSO 6006

Student Number 2115612
ECSO 6006 Ass 1

Skills for Life: Employability and Future Pathways

Introduction

- For an employment opportunity of your choice, prepare a 20-minute presentation outlining your suitability for the post
- Define the main responsibilities of a youth worker and explain why I believe I am suitable for this position.
- Demonstrate how my personal experiences, qualifications, and development align with the person specification, attitudes, qualities, and key responsibilities required by Drmz Carmarthen Youth Project.
- Utilise the STAR Technique to highlight how my experiences qualify me as a suitable candidate.

Job Role: Youth Support Worker

- Support the project leads, Planning and running sessions for young people,
- Developing opportunities for young people to participate,
- Developing opportunities for young people to learn new skills through sessions, cleaning and closing down at the end of the shift,
- Adhering to the relevant policies and procedures of Carmarthen Youth Project, including health and safety, safeguarding, equal opportunities, and confidentiality policies.

(DRMZ, Job Form, 2020 c)

Job Role: Youth Support Worker

- Developing the skills, opportunities and knowledge of the young people, giving them the opportunity to take on a new challenge and make a difference to the lives of the young people in the local area

- Collecting and collating outcome data and reporting it to management and funders via our database
- Always having the interests of the Young People and the Organisation at the Forefront of the Role.

- Dr Mz is a youth drop-in centre operated by Carmarthen Youth Project for individuals aged 8-25. We offer a welcoming, secure, educational, and engaging environment for young people to gather. Here, they can savour delicious food and participate in a variety of enjoyable activities, acquire new skills, volunteer, and engage in community efforts.

(DRMZ, Job Form, 2020 c)

Job Purpose

- As a youth support worker, you will directly support the frontline work we do with our young people by providing, in consultation with young people, a wide range of sessions and activities (Drmz job form, 2025 c).

- Youth work functions as an educational approach that emphasises non-formal education and informal learning experiences. Its curriculum is not a rigid syllabus, but rather a flexible framework rooted in the values and ethics of youth work. This structure adapts to the diverse needs and interests of young individuals, placing them, whether as individuals, in groups, or communities, at the heart of the learning process (National Youth Agency, 2024,p.5)

Background/Experience

Employment

- Travel Agent
- Holiday Representative
- Guest Service Manager (Holiday Industry)
- Assistant Bar Manager/ Entertainment Coordinator
- Phone shop Sales assistant
- Phone Shop Team Leader
- Phone shops Acting Manager
- Customer assistant retail (ongoing)

Background/Experiences

- Education and Qualifications

- GCSE in English, Maths, Science, History, Art, Social and Vocational, Craft and Design.
- BA in Advocacy (ongoing)

- Ongoing Personal Growth

- Assist Trained
- Safeguard Training
- Volunteering in Youth Centre project (ongoing)

Skills, Values, and Abilities

- Problem Solving
- Team player/ Solo worker
- Time Management
- Think on your feet
- Hitting Targets
- Ability to adapt
- Good listener
- Hard Worker

DrMZ

Safe

The initiative seeks to support the well-being of youth from Carmarthen and the neighbouring rural regions.

Educational

We help young individuals enhance their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual abilities.

Informative

Our goal is to enable young individuals to grow into mature and fully engaged members of society.

(DrMz, 2024, b)

Person Specification

- Qualifications in youth and community work or equivalent, and/or experience of working with young people in a paid or voluntary capacity. Minimum level 2 in youth work
- Experience in developing activities
- Knowledge of the current issues affecting young people
- A demonstrable commitment to equal opportunities and an understanding of anti-discrimination practice

(DRMZ Job Form, 2020 c)

Person Specification

- Experience of working in a team and a demonstrable ability to be self-motivated and to work under own initiative
- An understanding of the basics of safeguarding and general data protection
- Evidence of interest in the voluntary sector and in making a contribution to the life of the local community
- Experience of working with young people in a youth setting

(DRMZ.co.uk, 2020, c)

Person Specification

- Ideally a level 3 in youth and community work
- Knowledge of the working of a statutory agencies
- Knowledge of current legislation and strategy referring to children and young people, e.g. Five Ways to Wellbeing and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. National Occupational Standards in youth work and other relevant strategies

(DRMZ .co.uk, 2020, c)

Attitude and Qualities

- Non-judgmental
- Good listening skills
- Good organisational skills and a demonstrable ability to plan and prioritise own workload
- Good communication and IT skills
- The ability to deal calmly and sympathetically with a wide range of situations
- A sensitive attitude to the support needs of young people, staff, and volunteers when dealing with personal crises, disturbances, etc.
- The ability to work as part of a team

(DRMZ, Job Form, 2020, c)

Star Technique

- Situation

Provide context, set the scene

- Task

Say what your task was in this situation

- Action

Describe step by step the actions you took to complete the task and/to solve the problem

- Result

Describe the results of your actions

(National Careers Service, 2025)

Theory focused

- Positive Youth Development

- Positive youth development (PYD) emerged in the 1990s as a counter to the deficit-focused view of adolescent growth that dominated the 20th century. Unlike the traditional approach that sees youth as problems to be managed, PYD emphasises their strengths and potential as assets to be nurtured. This summary outlines the key theoretical frameworks of PYD and provides examples of successful initiatives. Ongoing research and practice continue to address the challenges of fostering PYD and promoting positive development in all young people (Burkhard, Robinson, Murray, Lerner, 2020)

Theory Focused

- Person Centred Approach

- A person-centred approach prompts us to listen to individuals by recognising their interests, talents, and aspirations. Implicit signals regarding personal preferences are conveyed in people's everyday lives, requiring us to look beyond the labels, shortcomings, and needs that frequently characterise individuals to uncover and nurture their interests and talents (Mount, 1987-2000, p.5).

Theory Focused

- Constructive Learning Theory

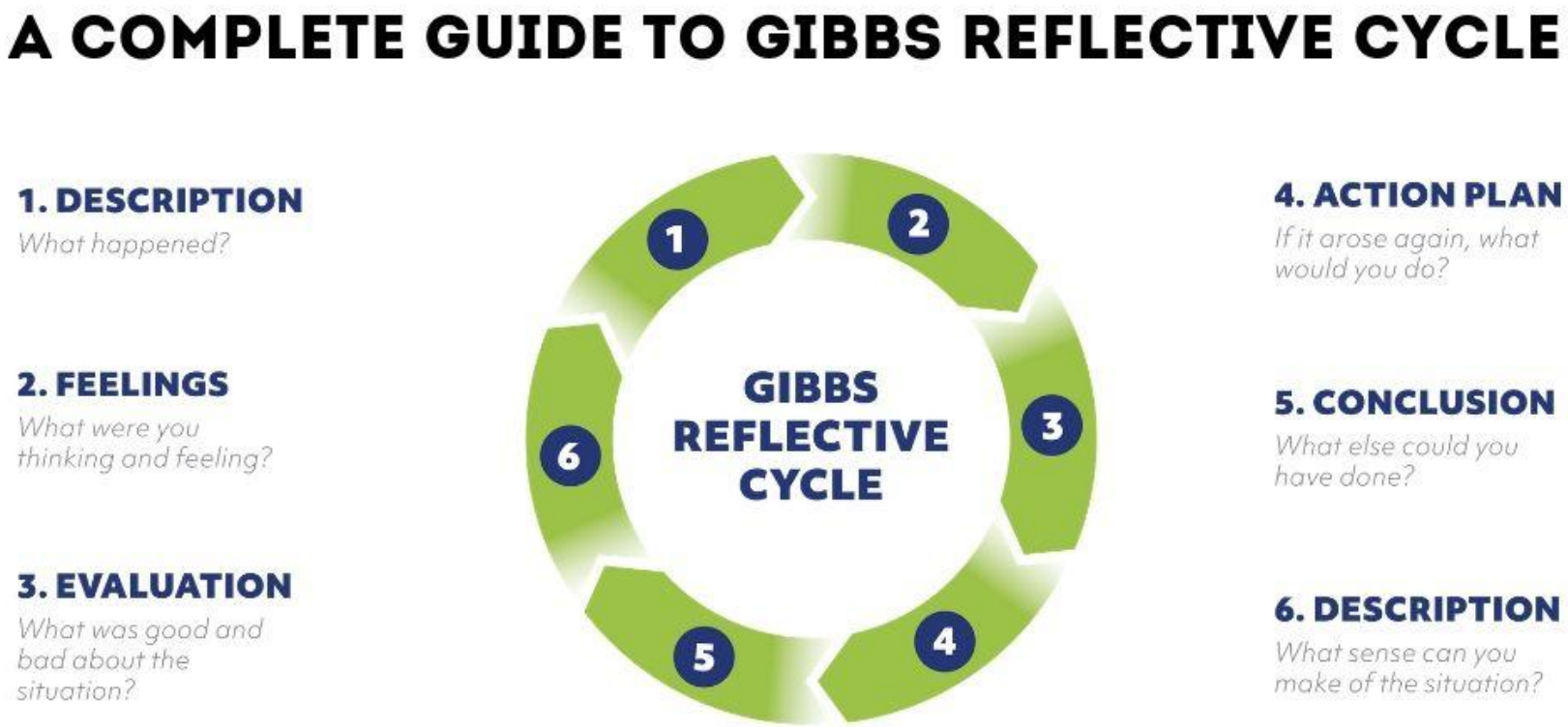
Both a learning theory and an educational philosophy, constructivism contends that knowledge is actively constructed by people via interactions and experiences. This approach holds that critical thinking and problem-solving skills should be emphasised in education, assisting learners in making connections between new and existing knowledge. To promote profound comprehension and application, it places a strong emphasis on people-centred learning, in which people mentor rather than dictate (McLeod, 2025).

Theory Focused

- Ecological Systems Theory

Ecological systems theory, which was created by psychologist Urie Bronfenbrenner, describes how many environmental systems affect human development. The opportunities and risks related to youth's discretionary time outside of the traditional school day are of interest to researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. Extracurricular activities, after-school programs, and events at community-based groups are some of the main places where young people spend their time while they are not in school. Ecological systems theory has been used in a lot of studies on after-school programs to understand how they promote the healthy, good development of young people from various backgrounds (Vest, Ettekal, Mahoney, 2025).

Theory Focused



(Sample Assignment.com, 2019).

Four Cornerstones of Youthwork

Participation

Youth work aids young individuals by collaborating with them to become active participants and leaders in their education, empowering them to have a say in issues that matter to them and involving them in democratic processes.

Equality

Youth work is intended for every young person. It honours diversity and fosters relationships among various groups and individuals. It acknowledges and upholds human rights, social justice, and practices that counter oppression, encouraging young people to contemplate their self-perception and their actions towards others.

Education

Youth work provides informal educational experiences that can enhance formal education in schools and colleges. It allows young individuals to discover more about themselves, others, issues they are passionate about or that affect them, as well as society and ways to become involved in their communities.

Empowerment

Youth work supports young individuals in cultivating the skills and confidence necessary to make choices and engage with matters that influence their own lives, the lives of others, their communities, and society at large. This empowers young people to take charge, express their opinions, and participate actively as advocates.

(National Youth Agency, nd,b)

Conclusion

- Witnessing young people develop in a setting that values their individuality and sets positive examples of leadership, problem-solving, teamwork, and community is the ultimate goal and reward of a career in youth work. All of this helps young people discover their place in society and land jobs that suit them well (Social Care People.co.uk, 2022-2025).

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