

Wandsworth Youth Work Service Registration Scheme for Youth Clubs

Youth Work in Wandsworth is made up of clubs and centres run or staffed by the Council and all the groups, clubs and projects which operate in the voluntary sector. The Council's Youth Work Service runs a registration scheme in order to create a forum of youth clubs that can keep in touch with each other, share tips and ideas, promote good practice and raise standards and, where appropriate, work together.

Basic eligibility

To be eligible to register you need to be a **youth club** based in Wandsworth and working predominantly with young people over 11 and under 19 (this can include young people with a learning disability up to age 25).

What we offer registered groups

- **Youth Service grants**

Priority access to up to £15,000 of grant funding from the Wandsworth Grant Fund (WGF) to uniformed and registered groups.

- **Free training for your staff and volunteers**

We run *Essentials of Youth Work* – 6 x 2.5 hour session course that can be tailored to the needs of your group and covers the principles of youth work, boundaries and safety, child protection, ideas for activities. We also run the JNC recognised Level Two qualification for Part Time Youth Workers.

- **Free loan of equipment and resources**

We are setting up three or four bases across the borough where you can borrow items such as cameras, overhead projectors, activity packs, drugs and sexual health education packs....and much more.

- **Staff to run short courses or programmes on specific issues**

Our Part Time Youth Workers or Tutors who have expertise or interests in specific areas can run short programmes, often leading to accreditation such as the Wandsworth Award.

- **Information about what's happening and new activities in the youth work world**

We will keep you abreast of new information including new sources of funding, training opportunities, new activities that are on offer, new resources and where to go to get the best deals. We hope you will keep us informed of things you come across too!

- **DBS (formerly CRB) checks for your staff and volunteers**

If you are not registered with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS - previously the CRB), we will process DBS forms for your staff and volunteers.

- **Advice and help with health and safety, the curriculum, child protection and other policies**

We can provide help tailored to your needs and examples of ready-made policies that you can adapt if you need to.

What needs to be in place for a youth club to be registered?

Youth clubs need to meet the following criteria. If you think you don't yet meet them all, we can help you do this.

- The group or club has a name, address and premises to work from
- The group/club works mainly with young people aged 11 - 19 (and up to 25 if they have disabilities) who live in Wandsworth

- The group/club is open access
- The group has clear aims and purposes which are in line with the Core Values that Underpin Youth Work (see Appendix One)
- The group follows the Wandsworth Youth Work Core Curriculum Areas (see Appendix Two)
- The group/club is working towards equal opportunities
- All paid staff and volunteers who work directly with YP have a satisfactory DBS check, no more than three years old
- There is a written policy around child protection and safeguarding. We will want to see a copy of this.
- All staff/volunteers are aware of this policy and their responsibilities for keeping children safe and they know what to do if they are concerned about a child or young person
- The group has or is interested in developing a constitution with a chair, secretary and treasurer
- There are systems in place for regularly checking health and safety of premises
- There are systems in place for assessing other risks associated with activities run on the premises (or off the premises including trips or residential)
- The group has relevant insurance – public liability and, where appropriate, employer liability
- There are clear and efficient financial systems in place showing where any subscriptions or other income goes and how it is spent
- The group is happy to be contacted by the Council's Family Information Service which publicises services and activities for children and families through its website and telephone desk
- The group is happy to be visited by the Youth Work Service twice a year with a formal review once a year
- The group is happy to complete a 'service level agreement' with the Council's Youth Work Service when any services are delivered jointly or the group receives Council staffing.

To register

Interested groups or clubs should first check their eligibility with a Youth Work Officer and then complete an application form to be returned to the Council's **Youth Office, 7th floor, Town Hall Extension, Wandsworth, SW18 2PU**.

We will then arrange for a member of staff to visit you and go through the registration form and criteria. If there are aspects of the criteria that you need help to meet, we will support you with this.

Once the criteria are met, the group will be registered with the Council's Youth Work Service and added to our mailing list.

Any questions?

Please contact the Youth Office or the Detached Development Support Worker or Team Manager in your area.

Youth Work Service
7th Floor
Town Hall Extension
Wandsworth SW18 2PU

Tel. 020 8871 7553

Email: youth@wandsworth.gov.uk

Voluntary engagement

- Young people choose to be involved, not least because they want to relax, meet friends, make new relationships, to have fun, and to find support,

Starts where young people are at

- The work starts from where young people are in relation to their own values, views and principles, as well as their own personal and social space,

Widens horizons, promotes participation

- It seeks to go beyond where young people start, to widen their horizons, promote participation and invite social commitment, in particular by encouraging them to be critical and creative in their responses to their experience and the world around them,

Respects and values young people

- It treats young people with respect, valuing each individual and their differences, and promoting the acceptance and understanding of others, whilst challenging oppressive behaviour and ideas,

Equality diversity and interdependence

- It respects and values individual differences by supporting and strengthening young people's belief in themselves, and their capacity to grow and to change through a supportive group environment, it is underpinned by the principles of equity, diversity and interdependence,

Positive relationships & inclusion

- It recognises, respects and is actively responsive to the wider networks of peers, communities, families and cultures which are important to young people, and through these networks seeks to help young people to achieve stronger relationships and collective identities, through the promotion of inclusivity,

Partnership

- It works in partnership with young people and other agencies which contribute to young people's social, educational and personal development,

Being not just doing

- It is concerned with how young people feel, and not just with what they know and can do,

The voice of young people

- It is concerned with facilitating and empowering the voice of young people, encouraging and enabling them to influence the environment in which they live,

Partners in learning

- It recognises the young person as a partner in a learning process, complementing formal education, promoting their access to learning opportunities which enable them to fulfil their potential,

Safe environment

- It safeguards the welfare of young people, and provides them with a safe environment in which to explore their values, beliefs, ideas and issues

Wandsworth Youth Work Curriculum Core Curriculum Areas Appendix Two

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to remind youth workers of the four curriculum themes and to provide them with a useful prompt to the range of activities they can use when planning youth work programmes.

The curriculum gives the service a common framework around which workers can develop informal and social education programmes in consultation with young people.

Remember the main principle that must underpin all youth work is the active engagement and empowerment of the young people as partners in the youth work process. The programme offered by the service should provide young people with a range of learning and development opportunities in an informal, safe environment.

Social and Personal

This theme is at the heart of all youth work. It is about the individual young person and groups of young people coming together to share experiences, participate by choice in the club/group life, make new friends and have fun. Topics and issues covered in this area should include:-

- Personal and social skills such as dealing with conflict, co-operation, assertiveness, problem solving, negotiation, etc. This can be done through games or other activities.
- Relationships – peers, parents and partners.
- Morality – exploring values, beliefs and attitudes.
- Education, employment and training – providing practical information and help to young people – referring on to the Connexions Service.
- Keeping safe – ensuring that young people understand they have a right to be safe and feel safe – includes bullying, sexual exploitation, gangs, being aware of the environment etc.
- Life skills – budgeting, opening a bank account, form filling, interview skills.
- Technology/social media – tablets, computers, mobile phones and internet and safe and responsible use
- Study support – help with homework access to computers and a quiet place to study.
- Practical skills.

Health and well being

This theme encompasses both physical and mental health. Its about promoting a fit and healthy lifestyle of mind and body. Young people taking part in physical sports and outdoor activities can develop an interest that may well continue into adulthood. Regular exercise will give young people more energy, lift their mood and let them blow off steam after a stressful day. Physical activities also stimulate various brain chemicals so can leave young people feeling happier and more relaxed.

- Sports – promoting physical fitness as well as softer skills such as teamwork, fair play, dealing with success and failure..
- Self esteem – being valued as team members recognition of abilities and personal goals.
- Mental health - understanding how different situations can add pressure, exploring ways to manage pressure and stress – peer pressure, relationships etc.
- Drug, alcohol, smoking and substance misuse.
- Sexual health – STD's, contraception, healthy relationships.
- Emotional literacy – dealing with and expressing feelings.
- Healthy eating

Citizenship

In this theme, we are working with young people to support them in exploring their involvement in community life, social and moral responsibilities and political literacy, assisting young people to take their place in the adult world as responsible, caring, just and active citizens. Topics and issues which can be used for this:-

- The law – exploring and informing young people of their legal rights and responsibilities, thinking about the impact of crime.
- Crime prevention work – dealing with peer pressure, understanding the rights of others, developing respect.
- Youth participation/democracy – young people being active decision makers, contributing to the development of services and shaping the future, taking an active part in discussion and debates
- Challenging prejudice, discrimination and disadvantage – exploring own values and beliefs, considering the impact of prejudice and discrimination, supporting and encouraging attitudes which address and counter discrimination in young people's lives.
- Faith and beliefs – promoting understanding and tolerance.
- Rights and responsibilities –human rights, learning to take responsibility for own actions, empathy for others, considering other people's feelings and needs.
- Community issues/community cohesion – getting involved in the local community to improve it, relationship between various groups/ tackling issues of local concern and improving neighbourhood.
- Volunteering – promoting the interests of others and peers.

Creativity

Art in its broadest sense is an ideal medium for helping young people to explore and express their identity and feelings and examine social issues. It also helps them to work as part of a team, develop self-confidence, gain recognition, appreciate the work of others and acquire an insight into other cultures and history. Think of the arts in three strands.

1. Exposure to the arts – young people having the opportunity to visit theatres, galleries, concerts, etc
2. Engagement in the arts – drama, dance, arts and crafts, creative writing, poetry, rap, making music are just a few examples.
3. Management of the arts – help to organise events, decision-making, set design and production.

Remember – youth work is educational. The curriculum is in place to provide a framework for planning and evaluation. However, activities should also be fun and enjoyable for young people, whatever the subject. If young people find it boring they will vote with their feet.