

Youth Work National Occupational Standards 2019

Key Purpose

The key purpose of youth work 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’

This statement refers to the holistic development of young people, recognising that personal, social and educational development can also include, for example, physical, political and spiritual development.

Summary map

The following summary map identifies the functions and principal areas of activity undertaken in achieving this key purpose.

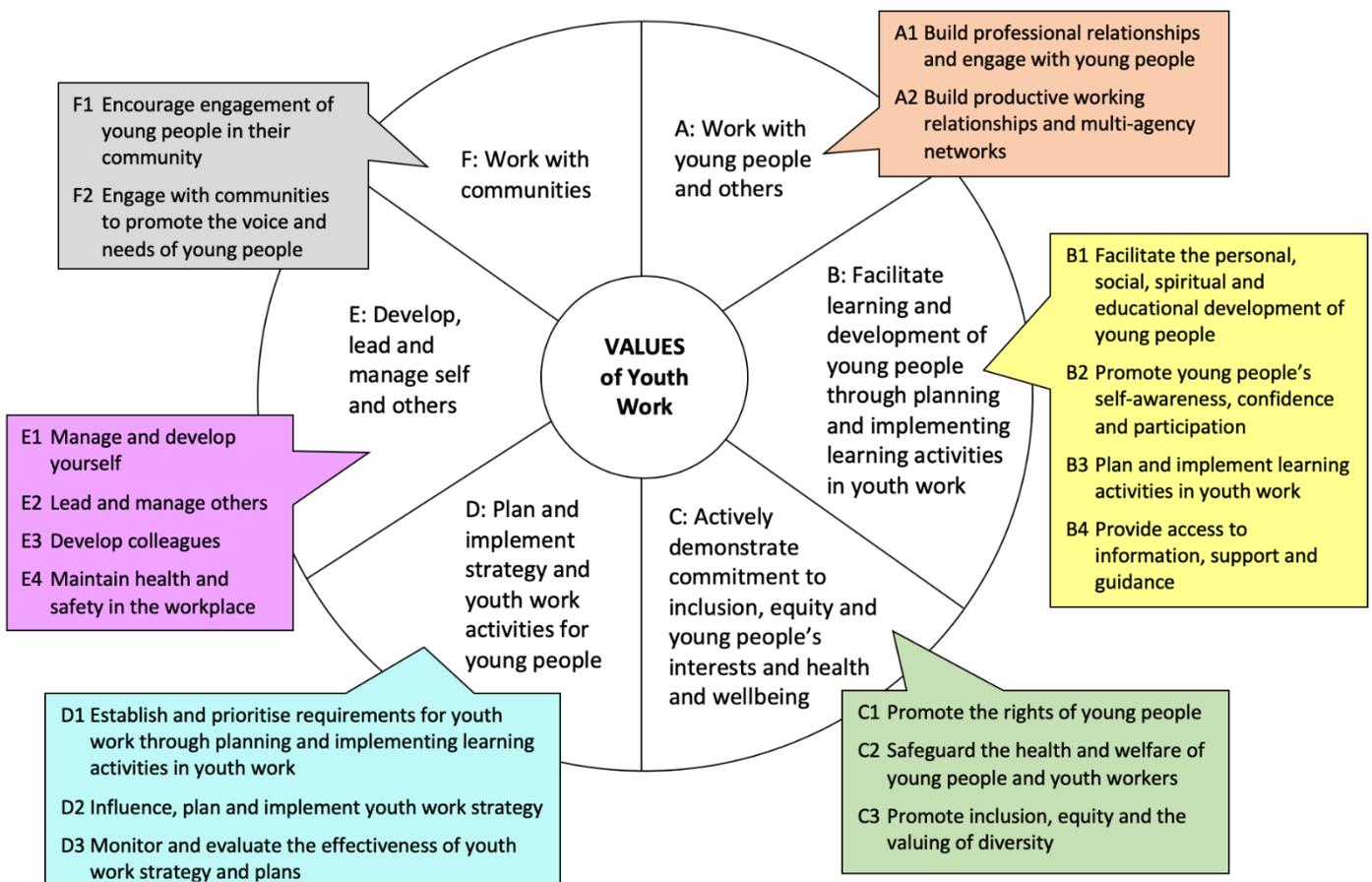
The functional areas are proposed as the full range of those undertaken by youth workers. However, it is unlikely that any individual youth worker will do all of the activities; rather the Map expresses the full range of activities that may be undertaken in order to deliver youth work.

The areas suggested are not of equal size/complexity, as they reflect activities and roles undertaken by individuals of varying levels of experience, responsibility and seniority. It is also recognised that many of the functions/activities are inter-related, such that the outcomes of one will impact upon another.

Best practice, as set out by the NOS requires youth workers to be aware of the local, social and political context within which youth work activities are undertaken.

In addition, youth workers will be required to demonstrate a commitment to the Values and principles which underpin and support all activities across youth work.

SUMMARY FUNCTIONAL MAP FOR YOUTH WORK



Youth Work Values at the core of Youth Work

Working with representatives of the sectors within youth work, a suite of values has been agreed which distinguishes youth work from other, sometimes related activities involving young people. These values are at the core of the work undertaken within youth work and underpin the standards; recognising that at the heart of all youth work is a young person led approach.

It is also recognised that these values need to be placed within the local, social and political context within which youth work activities are undertaken, and of which youth workers will need to be aware. These values also illustrate how youth work is involved in the holistic development of young people, and are as follows:

Participation and active involvement

- 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,
- 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,
- 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,

Equity, diversity and inclusion:

- 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,
- 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,

Partnership with young people and others

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

Personal, social and political development:

- It is concerned with how young people feel, and not just with what they know and can do,
- It is concerned with facilitating and empowering the voice of young people, encouraging and enabling them to influence the environment in which they live
- It safeguards the welfare of young people, and provides them with a safe environment in which to explore their values, beliefs, ideas and issues

These values underpin and are to be reflected within the requirements of the relevant standards.