

Statement of Purpose – Youth Service

Vision:

We want Nottinghamshire to be a place where young people feel they can take part in a wide variety of fun and meaningful social education activities; have their voices heard and feel respected.

Purpose:

The Youth Service provides young people with somewhere **safe** to go, **trusted** Youth Workers, and fun and **engaging** things to do.

Who with, Where and When:

We engage young people from age 10 to 19, children in our care until the age of 21 and young people with disabilities up to the age of 25.

Our provision is either mobile, outreach, building or community based in partnership with voluntary and community sector groups. Universal provision often takes place outside of the school day, in the evenings, at the weekends and during some school holidays. Youth Workers endeavor to link with partners and local schools and can provide focused support and tailored interventions during the school day to help address identified need.

How:

Youth Workers build positive relationships with young people based on honesty and trust. In Nottinghamshire Youth Work has a 3 tiered approach of engagement, enabling young people to access additional support depending on their individual need. The Youth Service's ambition is to enable young people to independently access mainstream universal provision, but also recognises that at times young people may need extra care and support. Therefore, our offer is carefully designed to enable long term contextual support at the earliest opportunity, as well as focused and tailored interventions.

Tier 1 – Universal. Youth Work takes place in universal settings with groups of young people to provide access to high quality, safe and positive social education activities and to deliver a structure for children and young people to voice their opinions and to shape the services provided for them.

Tier 2 – Focused Youth Work Intervention. This approach enables Youth Workers to develop a clear understanding of the local needs of young people through their community profiles and work with partners. Youth Workers will develop and deliver supported and contextual interventions to small groups of young people to help address local needs and concerns. These programmes will cover a range of topics from cannabis use through to local concern around online safety and sexting. Typically, these programmes of focused youth work intervention will take place over a 6 to 12 week period. Youth workers will collaboratively deliver specific pieces of work with key partners to ensure young people receive support from specialist services as and when required.

Tier 3 - Tailored Youth Work Intervention. Tailored Youth Work Interventions are commissioned and bespoke programmes of youth work. An example being funding received to help address youth violence and knife crime, targeting young people who are known offenders and to divert young people who are on the periphery of engaging in risky behaviours into positive activities and opportunities. Or for instance in providing support to young people at risk of family/placement breakdown to help stabilise and maintain their living arrangements.

Principles:

As part of the Council's Early Help and Youth Offer, the Youth Service is available to all young people who live in Nottinghamshire and is prioritised in communities with highest need.

We actively promote equality of access to the positive activities we deliver for and with young people. Through participation we engage young people in these activities to ensure that the services we provide are fun and responsive to their needs

We believe that each young person has worth, value and potential.

Youth Work is structured to make a positive difference to young people, their families and their local communities.