The Benefits of Youth Work for Employability Skills

In Future Scotland needs young people in the following:
- Food and Drink
- Creative Industries
- Sustainable Tourism Energy (inc renewables)
- Finance and Business
- Life Sciences

CBI says industry needs

Priority Job Areas
- Food and Drink
- Creative Industries
- Sustainable Tourism Energy (inc renewables)
- Finance and Business
- Life Sciences

CBI definition of employability skills

- A positive attitude (readiness to take part, openness to new ideas and activities, desire to achieve) underpinning:
- Self-management – readiness to accept responsibility, flexibility, time management, readiness to improve own performance.
- Team working – respecting others, co-operating, negotiating/persuading, contributing to discussions
- Business and customer awareness – basic understanding of the key drivers for business success and the need to provide customer satisfaction.
- Problem solving – analysing facts and circumstances and applying creative thinking to develop appropriate solutions.
- Communication and literacy – application of literacy, ability to produce clear, structured written work and oral literacy, including listening and questioning.
- Application of numeracy – manipulation of numbers, general mathematical awareness and its application in practical contexts.
- Application of information technology – basic IT skills, including familiarity with word processing, spreadsheets, file management and use of internet search engines

The delivery of Youth Work enables the development of skills:
- Youth worker engages with the young person on their turf and on their terms.
- Relationships built on mutual trust.
- Where young people choose the delivery of Youth Work can be accredited by a range of Awards such as:
  - Dynamic and Youth Achievement Awards
  - Duke of Edinburgh Awards
  - Uniformed Sector Awards
  - Environmental Awards
  - MV Awards

The importance of interpersonal skills

“Interpersonal and communication skills are not soft skills they can be the underlying skills that provide companies with a competitive advantage. Empathy, resilience, creativity, enthusiasm and commitment are also shared language between youth work and the world of work”.

Barry Fisher, Director, The DoE – Scotland

“We need students to outline all of their achievements and demonstrate different abilities, qualities and experience. A good personal statement showing examples of community contribution, teamwork and responsibility gives individuals the opportunity to stand out from the crowd”.

Moira Douglas, Motherwell College

Potential Employability Opportunities

Articulating the benefits of Youth Work

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For a full list of awards see – Amazing Things at: www.awardsnetwork.org
Links to What youth provision is available locally
Local Authority Youth Work managers list.
T: 0131 313 2488

General Information on youth work
W: www.youthlinkscotland.org
T: 0131 313 2488

Information on the range of Awards
W: www.awardsnetwork.org
T: 0131 554 2561

Information on Curriculum for Excellence
W: www.educationscotland.gov.uk
T: 0141 282 5000

Information on what qualifications are available
W: www.scqf.org.uk
T: 0141 225 2926

Information on Employment and Training – Skills Development Scotland
W: www.myworldofwork.co.uk
T: 0800 917 8000