YOUTH WORK’S ROLE IN IMPROVING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Every day, in communities across Scotland, youth work positively impacts on the lives of young people. Diverse and accessible, wide-reaching and targeted, youth work improves the life chances of Scotland’s young people, helping them to fulfil their potential and equip them with the crucial skills needed to prepare them for the world of work.

In the current economic climate and against a backdrop of high youth unemployment, there has never been a more important time to support and invest in youth work services both locally and nationally.

Youth work supports Scotland’s young people with their transitions into the world of work by engaging in a partnership with them to help develop the crucial professional and personal skills that employers are demanding:

Youth work is a vital service and should never be regarded as an optional extra. This is why YouthLink Scotland has challenged every new councillor, from all political parties, to help make Scotland the best place in Europe to be a young person by committing to our four Youth Work Pledges.

These pledges build on the key points of YouthLink Scotland’s 2011 manifesto and the main topics and themes agreed on at the first National Youth Work Summit held in September 2011:

- PLEDGE to ensure that no young person is left behind in any of Scotland’s local authority areas
- PLEDGE to improve equality of access to youth work in all local authority areas
- PLEDGE to improve sustained, permanent funding for youth work services and to support and work with the voluntary sector in all local authority areas
- PLEDGE to improve recognition in all local authority areas of the positive and preventative impact of youth work

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**How Youth Work Supports Transitions into Employment**

- Young person chooses to participate
- Local Authority Youth Work Services
- Local Voluntary Organisations
- National Voluntary Youth Work Organisations

**Developing Key Personal & Employability Skills**

- Universal youth work services
- Targeted youth work services
- Specialist youth work services
- Detached outreach youth work services

**Preparing for Work**

- Youth worker engages with the young person on their turf and on their terms
- Relationships built on mutual trust

**Outcome**

- Work in schools
- Work with unemployed young people
- Transitional programmes
- Outdoor education
- Street work
- Youth literacy work
- Accredited programmes
- Senior phase CfE work
- Youth exchanges
- Sure Start work
- Youth parenting work
- Diversity & equalities work
- Volunteering work
- Youth participation issues
- Youth citizenship issues

(And many other types of activities)

**Contribution to National Outcomes & Priorities**

- More Choices, More Chances
- Youth Employability
- GIRFEC
- Curriculum for Excellence
- Preventative Spending
- Equalities

**Opportunities for All**

Young person is more confident and prepared to join the work force, with better employability prospects.