

Activity Agreement

Youth Work Approach



Falkirk Council

Falkirk Council Activity Agreements use the principle and ethos of youth work practice. The youth work approach is used to provide informal education opportunities based on the reality of young people's situations to enable them to learn and develop. It supports young people to realise their potential and address life's challenges, critically and creatively in the context of their peers, community and culture. Equality and diversity are central principals of this approach which is distinctive to its voluntary nature and inclusive approach.

Young people choose to participate

Young people are given the choice to participate in an Activity Agreement. They are included in all stages from referral to initial engagement to sign up and participating in the programme. The young people and referring partners are made aware that engagement is voluntary and the process will be developed to support the young people's progression.

The work must build from the young person's position

Youth work is not bound by a formal curriculum and is based on the young people's influence and actions - enabling them to exercise genuine power to make decisions and take responsibility for their consequences. It plays a key role in supporting young people at points of transition where links to mainstream opportunities, for example, education may be at risk or more challenging to engage with.

During all stages the young person takes the lead in how their programme of learning will be developed, with the key worker supporting the young person to be able to identify their gaps in learning and address their learning needs. The local authority use Outcome Star to identify the young people's needs and in partnership will build a programme of learning to address these. Youth work recognises that the youth worker and young person are partners in the learning process.

For many young people a positive youth work experience can set them on a positive path addressing their issues, identifying and achieving their aspirations, developing and maintaining positive relationships. This in turn can help them to re-engage with more formal learning.

Feedback from young people undertaking an Activity Agreement has highlighted the relationship with the keyworker/youth worker as key to their engagement and that the activities that they attended, whilst still of importance, were rated as less important.

In line with GIRFEC and pathways planning all young people are also assessed using Outcome Star and an action plan is developed.

Recognising achievement

Most of the young people have left school with little or no qualifications. Therefore a focus on learning is recognised by formal accreditation. Most young people will achieve a Youth Achievement Award or Duke of Edinburgh's Award. All of the young people are invited to an annual youth award event to receive a certificate of participation.

Youth work outcomes

The main purpose of using a youth work approach is to achieve the following youth work outcomes to ensure that the young people can move into a positive destination:

Young people:

- are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future
- manage personal, social and formal relationships
- create, describe and apply their learning and skills
- participate safely and effectively in groups
- consider risk, makes reasoned decisions and take control
- express their voice and demonstrate social commitment
- broaden their perspectives through new experiences and thinking