



Youth Work Outcomes – Case Study

West Lothian Council, CLD Youth Services

Using the Youth Work Outcomes to plan, deliver and evaluate our Youth Work in Schools

About West Lothian's CLD Youth Services

West Lothian Council's Community Learning and Development Youth Services provides learning opportunities for young people so they can develop their potential and reach a positive destination. CLD Youth Services deliver the Youth Work in Schools programme where we work in partnership with schools to provide programmes of support in secondary and special schools in West Lothian responsive to the needs of young people.

What did you use the youth work outcomes for?

- ❖ Planning
- ❖ Self-Evaluation
- ❖ Partnership working
- ❖ Communicating youth work

Background

All work delivered in West Lothian's Youth Work In Schools Programme is planned, delivered and evaluated using a quality assurance framework. This framework, developed by practitioners is an easy to use tool that enhances our practice. The framework contextualises our work in terms of National Outcomes and West Lothian Council priorities. From there, we use the National Youth Work Outcomes to plan the detail of our delivery, identify what success will look like and how we will evaluate and report on the work.



Describe your experience of using the Youth Work Outcomes

The Youth Work In Schools Programme is delivered in 11 mainstream secondary schools and Pinewood Special School. We deliver support to pupils in S1 to S6 around a variety of themes, e.g. managing stress, developing self-confidence/esteem/resilience, anti-bullying, risk-taking behaviour, and pupil representative training. Support can take the form of a 6 – 8 week group work programme, single inputs to PSE classes and/or one-day training sessions. Individual schools request the support they require based on priorities identified in their school improvement planning and the specific needs of their pupils.

CLD Youth Services allocates a member of staff to work with the school to ensure that support/programmes are designed to meet the needs of the young people participating. A project outline is completed detailing which of the national outcomes, local priorities and Youth Work Outcomes this work contributes to and how the work will be evaluated and reported on. It is at this point that staff will also identify which of the youth work outcomes indicators they are working towards and evidence when the work is completed. This process helps to identify what evaluation methods will be used to gather evidence, e.g. baseline surveys, worksheets, staff observation, evaluation forms etc.

On completion of the work, evidence is collated and a project report is completed detailing which outcomes young people have made progress towards and how we know this. Where appropriate, recommendations are made for future work based on evaluation findings.

What difference has using the youth work outcomes made?

Prior to having the Youth Work Outcomes, we used Curriculum for Excellence and Skills for Learning Life and Work. The introduction of the youth work outcomes was positively received by all staff feeling that they were very relevant, more representative and able to be applied more intuitively to the work we were carrying out. When introducing the youth work outcomes in schools we were met with a positive response in all cases. Being able to demonstrate to school staff that they are linked to the wider policy field, e.g. Curriculum for Excellence, GIRFEC, National Outcomes, and CLD Competencies etc. was very helpful.



Using the youth work outcomes and indicators as part of our quality assurance process ensures that practitioners take a carefully planned approach to our work from the outset. It helps us to identify how we will know what success will look like and what we have to do to get there. This in turn enhances the quality of the support we provide which benefits the young people we work with. In addition to enhancing practice, this approach enables us to develop partners understanding of a youth work approach and how effective it can be.

Related Links and Resources

❖ <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/youthservices>

Contact

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