

2019 National Youth Work Awards

Celebrating Excellence

**CATEGORIES AND GUIDANCE
NOTES FOR NOMINATORS**



YouthLink
Scotland
The national agency for youth work

National Youth Work Awards 2019

National Youth Work Awards 2019 Criteria

YOUTHLINK SCOTLAND

YouthLink Scotland is the national agency for youth work. We represent a sector that includes a workforce of over 80,000 working with 380,000 young people in every part of Scotland. The vast majority of this workforce is volunteers.

We believe that youth work changes lives and we want to celebrate young people and the youth workers who make the difference.

NATIONAL YOUTH WORK AWARDS 2019

The National Youth Work Awards celebrates youth work and the youth workers who make a difference every year in the lives of young people. Young people will co-design the event with YouthLink Scotland staff, member organisations and event sponsors. This will include pre-event planning, selecting the finalists and contributing to the awards ceremony along with the sponsors.

THE AUDIENCE

The National Youth Works Awards is now in its 12th year. The audience includes more than 300 practitioners, managers, volunteers and supporters of youth work from many different sectors as well as Scottish Government Ministers, MSP's, civil servants, other figures from public life and young people.

NOMINATION FORMS

Forms can be accessed online or hard copies can be submitted to YouthLink Scotland. Find out more at bit.ly/YLSAwards

National Youth Work Awards 2019

EVENT CATEGORIES

The National Youth Work Awards are aimed at individual youth workers, managers, projects or groups for work that is delivered in youth work settings or in other settings, using a youth work approach. The awards are a mixture of universal, targeted and specialist youth work provision. Award categories are listed below in alphabetical order:

- **Community-Based Youth Work**
- **Digital Youth Work**
- **Equality and Diversity**
- **Faith-Based Youth Work**
- **Inspirational Leader**
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing**
- **Prevention and Inclusion**
- **Raising Attainment**
- **Skills for Life**
- **Team of the Year**
- **Time to Shine Arts and Creativity**
- **Volunteer Youth worker**
- **Youth Participation**
- **Youth Worker of the Year**

THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is in the gift of the Board of YouthLink Scotland. Nominations may be submitted in the normal way or via the YouthLink Scotland Board.

National Youth Work Awards 2019

GUIDANCE NOTES

- Read the criteria and eligibility for each category carefully and ensure the information is clear, concise and demonstrates why your nominee should be a finalist
- Information on the nominee must be accurate – please ensure contact details (especially email addresses) are correct
- Entries MUST adhere to the word limit in each section of the nomination form
- Please attach any supporting materials (clearly marked with the nominee's name and category)
- Why not nominate in more than one category? If you would like to nominate in more than one category you can do so, but you must provide separate nomination forms tailored to the category heading
- The young person's statement is really important in all the categories but is not required for Inspirational Leadership or Lifetime Achievement nominations
- If a nominee submitted by a young person is shortlisted, we will contact the supporting person to assist with additional information and consent forms and getting to and from the awards venue depending on the young person's age
- Why not submit evidence in a different format? You can use film, sound clips, etc. – be as creative as you wish!
- It is preferred that nominations and any attachments are submitted using our online form or sent by email to **awards@youthlinkscotland.org** but hard copies are also accepted

National Youth Work Awards 2019

TIMESCALE

- Nominations open on 10th October 2018 and close on 26th November at 5pm 2018. No extension to this date will be given
- The judging process will begin week beginning 10th December 2018 and nominators will be informed week beginning 17th December 2018
- The awards ceremony will be on 14th March 2019
- Finalists and nominators will receive information to confirm their attendance at the Awards Dinner

National Youth Work Awards 2019

Categories

COMMUNITY-BASED YOUTH WORK

The **Community-Based Youth Work** award recognises an individual or group with a strong focus on delivering universal youth work in their local community.

Award nominees will be adopting an approach that is generic and open to all in the local area.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Building positive relationships with young people
- Creating opportunities for informal learning for young people in their local community
- Working with young people to shape opportunities for learning through active participation in activities that are of interest to young people
- Delivering youth work in their local community and being open to all
- Promoting partnership working and empowering their communities

National Youth Work Awards 2019

DIGITAL YOUTH WORK

The **Digital Youth Work** award recognises an individual or group that has used digital technology or social media in an innovative way within their youth work practice.

Award nominees will either be using digital technology within youth work or supporting young people to navigate the online aspects of their lives.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Making use of innovative approaches and offering new experiences to young people
- Involving young people in the planning, implementation and evaluation of digital youth work
- Using digital media and technology to achieve youth work outcomes
- Addressing online and social media challenges and opportunities for young people e.g. sexting, cyber-bullying, online campaigning

National Youth Work Awards 2019

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The **Equality and Diversity** award recognises individuals or groups who are making a significant difference to the lives of young people facing discrimination, through youth work.

Award nominees will be promoting the Equality Act and active in one or more of the protected characteristics, supporting young people to understand and challenge, prejudice and discrimination in all its forms.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Promoting an equalities and human rights best practice approach through their work with young people
- Supporting young people to understand and challenge prejudice and discrimination in all its forms
- Supporting young people to understand and overcome barriers caused by inequality
- Demonstrating an understanding of intersectionality in their work and fostering partnership working

National Youth Work Awards 2019

FAITH-BASED YOUTH WORK

The **Faith-Based Youth Work** award recognises an individual or group who have supported young people to explore spiritual wellbeing and consider social action from a faith based context.

Award nominees will be adopting an approach that is holistic and open to all and supports young people to broaden their perspectives through new experiences and thinking.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following from a faith-based context:

- Encouraging young people to explore spiritual wellbeing
- Supporting young people to participate in new experiences and thinking
- Fostering young people's understanding of social justice issues and to consider social action
- Providing young people with positive role models through youth work

National Youth Work Awards 2019

INSPIRATIONAL LEADER

The **Inspirational Leader** award recognises the value of quality leadership within a voluntary or local authority youth work setting. The award recognises that leadership within youth work happens at various levels.

Award nominees will be demonstrating their ability to lead and inspire their teams during periods of change or challenging circumstances.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Inspiring their team and building workforce capacity
- Promoting a culture of improvement through reflective practice and self-evaluation
- Providing innovative solutions to meet the challenge of change

National Youth Work Awards 2019

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The **Mental Health and Wellbeing** award recognises individuals or groups that are transforming the mental health and wellbeing of young people.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Increasing mental health literacy
- Helping young people build resilience
- Creating places and spaces for young people that contribute to positive wellbeing and healthier, active lives
- Demonstrating effective partnership working with the health sector
- Using innovative practice locally or nationally to provide consistent skill, knowledge and dedication in delivering quality services to young people
- Striving to be psychologically informed in their practice

National Youth Work Awards 2019

PREVENTION AND INCLUSION

The **Prevention and Inclusion** award recognises an individual or group with a strong focus on prevention and effective intervention with young people.

Award nominees will be adopting a holistic youth work approach that safeguards young people and prevents offending, in partnership with other agencies.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Building positive relationships with young people
- Early intervention which is targeted towards young people at risk of offending behaviour
- Supporting young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control of their situation

National Youth Work Awards 2019

RAISING ATTAINMENT

The **Raising Attainment** award recognises an individual or group working effectively in partnership with formal education providers, such as schools or colleges, to support young people to achieve.

Award nominees will be using a youth work approach to support young people's learning.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Creating a stronger role for young people in shaping their learning
- Supporting young people to overcome barriers to learning
- Encouraging young people towards positive pathways
- Helping to close the poverty related attainment gap

National Youth Work Awards 2019

SKILLS FOR LIFE

The **Skills for Life** award recognises individuals or groups who are succeeding in supporting young people to gain confidence and skills for life, employment and enterprise.

Award nominees will be demonstrating their contribution to Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, supporting young people to be innovative and entrepreneurial.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Delivering learning experiences and one-to-one support that help young people develop the skills and capabilities essential for their learner and career journey
- Creating meaningful and good quality experiences of work that promote innovation and entrepreneurship
- Effective partnership working with schools, colleges, universities and employers which widens access to learning and employment
- Creating opportunities for young people to gain accreditation and qualification

National Youth Work Awards 2019

TEAM OF THE YEAR

The **Team of the Year** award recognises effective and high performing team work, leading to positive youth work outcomes.

Award nominees will be evidencing sector-leading practice through collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Supporting and empowering staff and volunteers to deliver high quality services
- Demonstrating the impact of its work with young people through evaluation and evidence-based practice
- Partnership working with young people, partners and stakeholders to design and deliver significant outcomes for the young people who have participated in youth work activities

National Youth Work Awards 2019

TIME TO SHINE ARTS AND CREATIVITY

The **Time to Shine Arts and Creativity** award recognises individuals or groups who have been highly successful in encouraging young people's participation in the arts.

Award nominees will be using a youth work approach to support young people's learning in the arts or building arts and creativity into a youth work setting.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Targeting inequality and removing barriers to access the arts
- Demonstrating effective partnership working between the arts and youth work sector
- Using innovative approaches to deliver creative opportunities for young people in one or more of the following art forms – drama, dance, film, visual arts, music, literature or digital arts
- Engaging young people in the arts for the first time or supporting young people to nurture and grow existing talent

National Youth Work Awards 2019

VOLUNTEER YOUTH WORKER

The **Volunteer Youth Worker** award will go to a volunteer youth worker who has consistently demonstrated their commitment to delivering quality youth work opportunities for young people.

Award nominees, will be involved in face-to-face work with young people in a youth work setting.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Supporting young people to achieve youth work outcomes
- Creating opportunities for young people to realise their potential
- Raising the profile of young people's achievements through youth work

National Youth Work Awards 2019

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The **Youth Participation** award recognises individuals or groups that are leading the way in supporting youth-led advocacy and decision-making.

Award nominees will be effecting change that benefits young people and the wider community.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Enabling youth-led structures, such as youth forums, pupil councils, or youth parliaments
- Supporting young people to play a representative and/or co-design role in charities, businesses, public sector bodies or community planning partnerships
- Supporting young people in youth-led advocacy and decision making, through unstructured and/or nontraditional routes

National Youth Work Awards 2019

YOUTH WORKER OF THE YEAR

The **Youth Worker of the Year** award recognises a youth worker with a passion and dedication to improving the lives of young people through youth work.

Award nominees will be delivering quality services, which are having a positive impact on young people. Their contribution is recognised and respected by young people, youth workers and partners.

Award nominees are likely to be doing one or more of the following:

- Consistently demonstrating the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work
- Delivering youth work outcomes with young people
- Innovating and sustaining new models of practice
- Demonstrating an evidence-based approach to practice
- Working effectively in partnership with others

National Youth Work Awards 2019

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT (FELLOWSHIP OF YOUTHLINK SCOTLAND)

The **Lifetime Achievement** award recognises an individual who has made a consistent and outstanding contribution to youth work, impacting significantly on the lives of young people.

The award nominee's contribution will be evident at a local and/or national level in a youth work setting. They will be held in high regard by young people, youth workers, managers and partner organisations. Their contribution will have left a lasting legacy in the youth work sector.

Nominations may be submitted by organisations or individuals from the field of youth work and must be supported by a positive endorsement from a senior member of management.

The Lifetime Award is in the gift of the Board of YouthLink Scotland.

#YouthWorkChangesLives #YLSAwards



YouthLink Scotland, Rosebery House, 9 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5EZ
T: 0131 313 2488 E: info@youthlinkscotland.org W: www.youthlinkscotland.org

YouthLink Scotland is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in Scotland No: 164547. Charity Ref: SC003923