

National Youth Work Awards 2022

CATEGORIES AND GUIDANCE NOTES FOR NOMINATORS

YouthLink
Scotland
The national agency for youth work

National Youth Work Awards 2022

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 are volunteers.

Our vision is of a nation which values its young people and their contribution to society, where young people are supported to achieve their potential.

National Youth Work Awards 2022

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.

The last year has been exceptionally challenging for the sector as youth workers continued to support young people through the pandemic and the Awards will highlight the life-changing role youth workers have played.

The audience

The National Youth Works Awards were first held 15 years ago. 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 and returned to awards@youthlinkscotland.org
Find out more at www.youthlinkscotland.org

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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:

- **Arts & Creativity**
- **Community- based Youth Work**
- **Digital & Stem**
- **Environment & Conservation**
- **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion**
- **Inspirational Leader**
- **Health & Wellbeing**
- **Participation & Youth Voice**
- **Recognising Skills & Achievement**
- **Team of the Year**
- **Volunteer Youth Worker**
- **Youth Worker of the Year**
- **THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** (Fellowship of YouthLink Scotland) is in the gift of the Board of YouthLink Scotland. Nominations may be submitted in the normal way or via the YouthLink Scotland Board.

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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!
- Nominations should be sent by email to **awards@youthlinkscotland.org**
- Please make sure you attach a high resolution (at least 3MB) head and shoulders image of your nominee which can be used for the dinner programme, presentation and media purposes.

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TIMESCALE

27 September 2021	Nominations open
12 November 2021	Nominations close 5pm
29 November 2021	Judging panel meet
13 December 2021	Finalists informed
17 March 2022	Awards ceremony

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ARTS & CREATIVITY

The **Arts & 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
- Connecting young people with traditional music and arts, reflecting Scotland's diverse cultural heritage and modern identity
- Engaging young people in the arts for the first time or supporting young people to nurture and grow existing talent

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RECOGNISING SKILLS & ACHIEVEMENT

The **Recognising Skills & Achievements** award recognises individuals or groups who demonstrate best practice in raising attainment or closing the poverty-related attainment gap, by supporting young people to both develop and recognise their skills and achievements.

The work will use a youth work approach and should have been undertaken in collaboration with schools, youth awards, college or other partners.

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

- Working in partnership with schools, youth awards or other partners
- Providing tailored opportunities for young people to develop skills and achieve
- Supporting young people to recognise and articulate their skills and achievements
- Increasing volunteering, employment and enterprise opportunities for young people
- Supporting young people to overcome barriers to learning
- Encouraging young people towards positive pathways
- Creating meaningful and good quality experiences of work that promote innovation and entrepreneurship
- Tracking skills and achievements of young people
- Helping to close the poverty-related attainment gap
- Creating opportunities for young people to gain accreditation and qualifications
- Delivering learning experiences and one-to-one support that help young people develop the skills and capacities essential for their learner and career journey

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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 including Voluntary Organisations, Uniformed Youth Groups and Local Authorities.

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

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DIGITAL & STEM

The **Digital & STEM** award recognises an individual or group that has used digital technology, STEM approaches or social media in a creative way within their youth work practice.

Award nominees will either be using digital technology or STEM learning within youth work or supporting young people to navigate the online aspects of their lives. They may have used innovative approaches to deliver fantastic youth work online during lockdown.

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 and STEM youth work
- Using digital media and technology to achieve youth work outcomes
- Empowering young people to be creative in a digital or STEM context
- Addressing online challenges and opportunities for young people e.g. sexting, cyber-bullying, online campaigning and digital rights

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ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION

The **Environment & Conservation** award recognises an individual or group who have successfully worked with young people to develop an environmental, climate or conservation project using a youth work approach. The work will have been undertaken in a range of settings which could include: urban; rural; coastal or even digital.

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

- Developing an exciting and innovative project around the theme of environment, climate, biodiversity and/or conservation
- Encouraging young people and the wider community to better understand, have a voice and take action on environmental, climate, nature, conservation and/or biodiversity issues
- Promoting a greater awareness of and understanding of climate and environmental issues, this could include campaigns, advocacy and activism
- Making improvements or increasing access to Net Zero society, e.g., recycling, renewable energy and sustainability
- Connecting young people with nature, restoring natural habitats which may include tree planting, growing fruit and veg, etc

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EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

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

Award nominees will be promoting the Equality Act and be active in supporting young people facing additional barriers. For instance, protected characteristics, care experience, young carers and/or their experience of poverty. They will support 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
- Supporting young people to participate in new experiences and thinking
- Fostering young people's understanding of social justice issues and to consider social action
- Demonstrating an understanding of intersectionality in their work and fostering partnership working

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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

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HEALTH & WELLBEING

The **Health & Wellbeing** award recognises individuals or groups that are positively transforming the health and wellbeing of young people. This takes into account all aspects of health including: mental health, emotional & social, physical health & sports, sexual health & relationships, food & nutrition, substance misuse & addictions and poverty reduction.

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

- Increasing 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

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PARTICIPATION & YOUTH VOICE

The **Participation & Youth Voice** 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 non-traditional routes

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TEAM OF THE YEAR

The **Team of the Year** award recognises effective and high performing teams or partnership 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 their work with young people through evaluation and evidence-based practice
- Using a youth work approach to lead partnership with young people, partners and stakeholders to design and deliver significant outcomes for the young people who have participated in youth work activities

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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

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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 will be 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

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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

#YLSAwards2022



YouthLink Scotland, Caledonian Exchange, 19A Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EG

T: 0131 313 2488 **E:** info@youthlinkscotland.org **W:** www.youthlinkscotland.org

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