



JOB of the Week



Job name: Youth Worker

Job description: Youth workers guide and support young people in their personal, social and educational development to help them reach their full potential. As a youth worker, you'll set, organise and run community programmes aimed at young people aged between 11 and 25. Through these programmes, you'll help them to explore and understand their ideas, values and beliefs, building their confidence and life skills so that they can make a successful transition to adulthood. You'll work in a variety of settings, such as: colleges; faith-based groups; schools and youth centres. You may also deliver targeted street work to engage with high-risk young people.

Tasks you will undertake in the job: You'll need to:

- assess the needs of young people to correctly plan and deliver programmes related to areas such as health, fitness, smoking, drugs, gangs, violence, relationships and bullying
- set up and run arts-based activities, community/environmental projects, residential activities, outdoor education and sporting activities
- develop a relationship with young people based on respect and trust, ensuring they have a safe place to develop their identity and place in society
- establish boundaries and challenge inappropriate behaviour
- support young people in different settings, including outreach work
- mentor, coach and support individuals, encouraging greater social inclusion
- set targets for progression and regularly monitor and review the quality of the local youth work provision
- work in partnership with families and other key people in the young person's life, as well as with professionals from other organisations involved with young people such as social care, health, police, education, youth offending teams and local authorities, in order to build a strong support network
- attend and contribute to multi-agency meetings, bringing together practitioners from different sectors as part of a 'team around the family' (TAF) approach
- attend regular training and development opportunities to maintain an up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding, health and safety, and local policy developments
- recruit, train and manage staff, including volunteers
- undertake administrative tasks, maintain effective recording systems and respond to queries
- work with parents and community groups to win support for improved provision and act as an advocate for young people's interests
- identify and pursue sources of funding for projects to improve services and/or resources for young people
- draw up business plans, manage budgets, write reports and make formal presentations to funding bodies.

Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

Sectors in which Youth Workers would normally work: Youth workers are employed in the public sector through local authority provision or via public sector organisations and charities. The main employers are: Local authorities, including the Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS); Voluntary organisations such as the YMCA, Barnardo's and National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO); Schools and colleges; Housing associations; Churches and community or faith groups; Drug and alcohol services; Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) (England and Wales); Social services and the National Health Service (NHS).

Salary: Youth support workers (those who are not fully qualified professional youth workers) can expect to earn between £18,117 and £28,017. Salaries rise incrementally for experienced professional youth workers with a recommended range of £24,636 to around £41,575.



Working hours: Working hours are usually around 37 hours per week. You may need to work some evenings and weekends. Many positions depend on the availability of funding and are temporary or fixed-term.

Qualifications to become a Youth Worker:

The minimum qualification required to work as a professional youth worker is an honours degree validated by the National Youth Agency (NYA) and recognised by the JNC. Courses last three years full time or part-time equivalent. Professional training is also available at postgraduate level if you have a degree in a subject other than youth work: Graduate Diploma - two years full time; Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) - one year full time and part-time equivalent; Masters (MA) - one year and part-time equivalent.

Courses include Youth and Community work, Community Development and Youth Work, and Youth Work and Theology. You'll usually need two A-levels or equivalent to get a place on a course. You'll also need relevant work experience. The amount and type of experience varies between courses, so you'll need to check with course providers to find out what experience they're looking for.

Essential skills you need to show: You'll need to have:

- a strong commitment to young people and an understanding of the factors affecting their lives
- the ability to provide reliable support to young people and act with integrity in times of stress
- excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to establish and maintain good relationships with young people
- patience, tolerance and flexibility; a sense of adventure and a willingness to try new things
- formal communication skills for presentations, report writing and funding applications
- the ability to treat young people's concerns with respect, tact and sensitivity, while being aware of the limits that are required by confidentiality and the boundaries that govern the youth/youth worker relationship
- a great deal of resilience
- a second language - while not essential, this can be useful if you intend to work with a relevant ethnic group
- an interest in, or talent for, sport or performing arts - not essential but this can be helpful.

This job in the future: The workforce is projected to grow by 8.9%, creating 8 000 jobs; in the same period, 50.3% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 45 200 job opportunities.

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www.ucas.com/careers-advice
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www.careersbox.co.uk (careers videos)

Helpful sites for careers information
GAT careers links

<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb0OfqvMPCykZA>



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