

Professional Development Award in Youth Work

PDA Youth Work

The award has been designed for those who provide support, advice and guidance for young people in an informal setting and who, through this work, help develop the knowledge and skills of young people.

It is the first national introductory level Youth Work qualification in Scotland (nationally recognised, SQA accredited qualification at SCQF Level 6) available to volunteers and paid staff and will form part of a framework of SQA qualifications for the sector.

The PDA in Youth Work offers a range of benefits:

- Skills, knowledge and capabilities needed for employment
- Practical experience
- Progression to higher education
- Enhanced career prospects
- Achievement is certified and nationally recognised

The award could also be utilised for the continuing professional development of staff and volunteers from other professions:

- Voluntary sector staff and carers, including foster carers
- Education staff — teaching staff, guidance staff, classroom assistants, family support liaison workers,
- Careers advisors
- Advice and guidance staff
- Emergency services staff
- Counsellors
- Social work staff — including through care and after care workers

All participants must be working with young people in a paid or voluntary capacity. They should:

- Currently work or volunteer with young people.
- Have a minimum of 1 year's experience of regularly working/ volunteering in a youth work setting
- Be interested in gaining a SQA accredited qualification which will help them improve their knowledge and skills in working with young people.
- Be able to commit to a training course which will be delivered over a series of sessions (including weekends).



INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS



INTRODUCTION

The PDA in Youth Work has been designed for those working with young people in a Community Learning and Development context. It is suitable for people who have experience of youth work in a paid or volunteering capacity but who might not have formal qualifications in youth work.

The PDA in Youth Work offers a nationally recognised, SQA accredited qualification at SCQF Level 6.

In order to complete the PDA, participants will also be observed delivering youth work in their workplace or the group/club where they volunteer.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All applicants/participants must be able to demonstrate that they:

- Have a minimum of 1 year's experience of working/volunteering in a youth work setting.
- Currently work/volunteer in a youth work setting.
- Have permission from their workplace or the youth group where they volunteer, confirming they can be observed delivering youth work as part of the PDA course.
- Are able to attend all the outlined training sessions and undertake all the required assessments.

This course is open to both voluntary sector and local authority applicants. However, final selection will ensure a mix of candidates based on experience, location and funding criteria.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course will involve six main delivery sessions designed to build knowledge and skills in working with young people (usually three non residential weekends). Participants are required to take part in all six organised sessions of the programme. Participants will also be required to undertake additional research and learning activities in their own time and to compile a learning log / portfolio to evidence their work.

The PDA in Youth Work is divided into three units of work.

- Understanding and Exploring Youth Work
- Engaging Young People
- Delivering Youth Work

Unit 1 will be delivered to introduce participants to the underpinning knowledge they need to undertake Units 2 and Unit 3. Throughout Units 2 and 3, participants must practice developing their youth work skills within their own work setting. Unit 3 requires each participant to plan, organise and lead youth work sessions in their own work setting.

UNITS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES



On completion of each unit, participants must demonstrate competence, knowledge and skills in each of the Learning Outcomes.

UNIT 1: Understanding and Exploring Youth Work

The Unit introduces participants to the context, core values and principles which underpin youth work and raises awareness of the issues facing young people and those working with them. It provides underpinning knowledge and understanding for the National Occupational Standards for Youth Work.

On completion of the Unit the participants should be able to:

1. Explain the current context of youth work in Scotland
2. Outline current definitions of youth work in Scotland
3. Explain the core values and principles underpinning youth work
4. Outline the factors which may impact on youth work practice

UNIT 2: Engaging Young People

This Unit is designed to provide participants with an understanding of communication and group work skills necessary to engage with young people in a range of settings.

On completion of the Unit the participants should be able to:

1. Describe a range of approaches which may be used to engage with young people
2. Outline relevant communication and interpersonal skills required of the youth worker
3. Describe group work skills used in youth work.

UNIT 3: Delivering Youth Work

This Unit is designed to provide participants with the knowledge and skills required to work with young people in a range of youth work settings. It offers opportunities to develop practical skills and to demonstrate the application of the core values and principles of youth work in practice.

On completion of the Unit the participants should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the application of core values and principles of youth work in practice
2. Engage with young people in a youth work setting
3. Plan, deliver and review a youth work activity

THE LEARNING LOG/PORTFOLIO

Participants will be required to keep a learning log /portfolio to record and evidence their learning throughout the course. Support on how to complete this log / portfolio will be given.

ASSESSMENTS

Participants will be asked to undertake written assessments at the end of each unit. Further information and support about completing these assessments will be given. As part of the assessment of Unit 3, participants will also be observed delivering a youth work activity in their own workplace/ volunteer setting. This observation will be carried out by a suitable person – either one of the course tutors or by a suitable workplace supervisor / colleague.

For further information contact **Youth Highland** on **01349 865186** or email info@youthhighland.org.uk