

# **DETACHED YOUTH WORK POLICY**

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The primary purpose of Iver Parish Council's Youth Service is to provide a system of formal and informal education, training and support which young people voluntarily enter into, and which will enable and empower them.

The Parish's Youth Work Curriculum emphasises that a variety of responses are necessary to meet the needs of the young people in a given area. Open access and equality of entitlement are underpinning requirements.

The most effective model for Youth Work delivery will be decided at a local level in conjunction with all those involved in that delivery including the young people themselves. This should generate a wide range of possible styles and models with possibility for various combinations depending upon the agreed local need.

The range to be considered includes:

- Detached work - making contact with young people on the street and exploring their social education needs with them.

## **DEFINITION OF DETACHED YOUTH WORK**

Detached Youth Work is a vital part of an overall Youth Work programme:

'Detached Youth Workers contact young people on their territory and negotiate any further contact or learning and development agenda'.

'Detached Youth Work offers the opportunity of working with groups and individuals who are not involved in the existing provision. This means that these groups do not have to 'fit in' to the dominant culture and be defined by it but can develop a self-defined standpoint about their identity'.

## **AIMS**

Youth Work in the Parish of Iver aims to:-

- a. put trained Youth Workers into contact with young people who may not be involved in current provision.
- b. extend this provision into a wider variety of settings, leading to a wider perception of their needs.
- c. to enable young people to negotiate their role within their wider community.
- d. extend Youth Work provision to a wider range of young people.
- e. get young people back into society and reduce the number of young people on the street
- f. to locate and work with young people who are marginalized and at risk

## **OBJECTIVES**

Specific Detached Youth Work objectives:

It is acknowledged that objectives may vary from project to project according to the needs of the 'particular' project. However, there are overriding objectives common to Detached Youth Work:

- a. To enable young people to have a positive voluntary relationship with an adult who has a professional interest in the well being of young people.
- b. To enable Youth Workers to gain a greater understanding of young people's situations in order to increase accuracy of intervention.
- c. To enable the wider community to understand the issues and needs of young people to the benefit of both.

The Detached Initiatives Team will meet the aims and objectives by:

- a. meeting young people on their territory
- b. researching needs through Crime and Disorder surveys, etc and prioritising depending on results
- c. offering information on job vacancies, form filling, interviews, CVs, contraception advice and drug advice
- d. enabling young people to take part in a range of positive and fun activities
- e. enabling young people to have a voice and advocating on their behalf

## DETACHED YOUTH WORK GUIDELINES

### **1.0 GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR LINE MANAGERS AND DETACHED YOUTH WORKERS**

Good practice is embodied in detached work when:

- work takes place in environments/communities which have been well researched
- work taking place embraces the equality and diversity of the community
- DYW is considered as the most appropriate method to have an effect
- communities are well informed and understand the nature of the project
- all work is documented and appropriate records kept
- projects embrace regular reviews and evaluation.

### **1.1 GOOD PRACTICE METHODS**

Through identification and prioritisation DYW would be most effective when:

- all Detached Youth Workers have a line manager
- supervision is provided at mutually agreed intervals
- there are regular recordings after each session
- line managers maintain a good understanding of the nature of the particular project
- where possible, non-managerial supervision should be encouraged
- it is the responsibility of the line manager for DYW to advocate on behalf of and support DY Workers in the development and understanding of this style of working
- the Detached Team understand why the project was started
- the Detached Team, prior to commencement of the project, review any previous research or historical data
- the Detached Team understand the community management structure and the various roles involved
- the members of the Detached Team carry Iver Parish Council identification cards at all times
- the Detached Team have methods of contacting a line manager or a base. A list of emergency contact telephone numbers should always be readily available.
- the Detached Team use local procedures to inform the police of work locations and who is involved.
- Consideration is also given to informing local community groups and existing related professionals before the project commences
- Young people are referred to specialist agencies where appropriate
- Appropriate exit strategies are in place, before work commences

## 1.2 RECORDINGS

- Every session of work delivered by the Detached Team must be recorded on sessional sheets for DYW thus facilitating a uniform response. In doing so, the Team should analyse their practice, identify quantitative and qualitative methods of performance and additionally show any further actions required.
- These recordings should be forwarded to the line manager on a mutually agreed regular basis.

## 2.0 PERSONAL SAFETY

Detached Youth Workers should always be aware of their own personal safety and that of their colleagues. The following Safety measures should be followed:-

- always carry I.D. cards
- always work in pairs (minimum numbers in team). It is recognised that in particular circumstances, lone working may be appropriate. Examples of when lone working may be appropriate include accompanying a young person to a court appearance, flyering at bus stops, or meeting with agencies where an advocacy role may be helpful.
- carry appropriate equipment ie. mobile phone, torch, personal alarm.
- know and be familiar with the adult community.
- When working in an enclosed environment e.g. youth club meetings, there should be a ratio of one youth worker to 12 young people with a minimum of 2 youth workers present at all times.
- logging all details of the session.

## 2.2 FAMILIARISATION

During reconnaissance, the area should be thoroughly explored during both daylight and nighttime hours. At no time should workers feel pressurised to stay in situations where they may be at risk.

## 2.3. SUBSTANCE USE AND DETACHED YOUTH WORK

- Workers meet young people on their territory and are not, therefore, in a position to exclude substance use in the same way as club-based workers. It is not illegal for young people to take drugs, only to possess or supply them and there is no legal obligation to report use to the police. Detached workers may, therefore, choose to work with young people who are using drugs but must not condone their use nor use them themselves.
- Dealing drugs is illegal. Whilst there is no legal requirement to report a dealer to the police, workers should distance themselves from the situation if they know or suspect dealing to be taking place.

- If a mini-bus is hired for a specific project then all drivers must have a valid driving licence and be competent in driving a mini-bus. The driver should be accompanied by another youth worker/adult to avoid fatigue and distraction.

2.3.1 Youth Workers should be aware that their own substance use might be seen as a green light by young people. They must, therefore, present themselves as positive role models. They should not smoke, drink or use any illegal substance whilst on duty, nor condone their use.

## 2.4 CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

The safety of the young person and the Detached Youth Work Team is paramount. All Detached Youth Workers must familiarise themselves with the Youth Service Child Protection Protocol.

- If you have any reasons, in any situation, during your work to suspect an issue of Child Protection you **MUST** inform your line manager and/or the designated child protection person.
- Do not discuss your concerns at this stage with anyone else
- Make a brief note of your concerns. This may be used in the future.
- Young people cannot be promised total confidentiality.
- Line managers should discuss child protection within the Team setting.

## 2.5 CONFIDENTIALITY

- Detached Youth Workers will take every measure to ensure that information obtained from and about young people is treated with respect.
- Detached Youth Workers should protect individual identity where appropriate.
- No confidential issue will be discussed or revealed to any other person or organisation without the expressed permission of the person/s seeking council/help.
- Confidentiality, however, cannot be maintained if the team believe that a young person or persons are imminently intent on an act of self-harm or of significant harm to another.
- Line managers should discuss child protection within the Team setting.

### **3.0 THE PROCESS OF DETACHED YOUTH WORK**

As with all good Youth and Community Practice, Detached Youth Work must have a process which needs to be undertaken to ensure good practice.

- Assessment should include:
  - preparation
  - observation/reconnaissance
  - recording
  - analysis of previous work.
- Planning should include:-
  - identifying priorities
  - developing wider community contacts
  - timescales
- Implementation should include:-
  - constructive conversation with young people
  - building relationships with young people
  - planned intervention
  - advocacy role for young people.
- Evaluation should include:-
  - examine quality, quantity and effectiveness
  - examine continuation or re-orientation of work
  - examine success/unsuccessful indicators
  - written reports, interim and final.
- Exit/Sustainability can include:-
  - withdrawal when the projects clearly defined aims and objectives have been met
  - an agreed process where Detached Youth Work moves on to another type of social intervention.

### **4.0 TRAINING**

As for all youth workers, training is required. Some specific courses would be highly recommended, e.g. child protection, first aid.

The minimum qualification for a youth worker in charge of a meeting should be NVQ Level 3 in Youth Work or Children and Young People.

Useful Documents for further information

Youth Work Policy Guidelines

Equally Safe

Equality and Diversity Policy

Sex Education Policy Guidelines

Child Protection Protocol

Health and Safety Policy

Educational Visits and Journeys (Minibus - Regulations and Operational Guidelines

Insurance and Risk Control

Youth Work Curriculum framework and Assessment Tools

Staff Development Policy

Single Workers Policy Guidelines

Substance Use Policy Guidelines.

Corporate Statement of Equal Opportunities