

Thurston Detached Youth Work

Request for Funding to Thurston Parish Council

Page 2: What is Detached Youth Work?

Page 4: Operation

Page 5: Training

Page 6: What's Next

The full costings have been forwarded in a separate Confidential document.

Thurston Detached Youth Work

What is Detached Youth Work?

“**Youth**” is the developmental phase between childhood and adulthood. Typically this starts around the beginning of puberty and finishes in late teens but for many young people, dependent on personal, social and economic factors, it can start and or finish much later.

Youth work focuses on personal and social development – the skills and attributes of young people – rather than to ‘fix a problem’. It is an educational process that engages with young people in a curriculum that deepens a young person’s understanding of themselves, their community and the world in which they live and supports them to proactively bring about positive changes.

Therefore youth work needs to be (and be seen to be) transformational, harnessing skills of young people not fulfilled by formal education.

- Where youth work provides a safe place to be creative
- Providing and developing a social network and friendships
- With a trusted adult (who knows what is needed)”. (National Youth Agency)

Detached youth work

As with all youth work, detached youth work uses the principles and practice of informal education to engage young people in a constructive dialogue about their needs, interests, concerns and lifestyles to support them in their personal and social development. Unlike centre- based provision, detached youth work takes place in ‘non-institutional’ settings, spaces young people have much more control over. Primarily, but not exclusively, the work takes place in the street, but also in parks, cafés, shopping centres, and other spaces young people have chosen to be.

This makes it accessible to young people who are unlikely to attend building-based provision.

The aims of detached youth work: (Burgess & Burgess, 2006: 76)

- to make contact and be available to young people in the settings of their choosing;
- to work with young people through programmes of personal and social education, which help them gain knowledge and recognise new opportunities in the world around them;
- to build effective and meaningful relationships with young people through regular contact, mutual trust, respect and understanding;
- to identify and respond to the needs and agendas of individuals and groups of young people by developing appropriate strategies for action which are both educational and fun;
- to support and challenge young people's attitudes and action towards issues such as unemployment, drugs, poverty, racism, sexism, disability, health, sexuality, criminality, peer, parental and community pressure;
- to enable young people to take more control over their lives and create experiences with them which enable them to make informed choices;
- to support appropriate action that young people take resulting from their own ideas and suggestions;
- to bridge the gaps in understanding between the local community and young people;
- and to highlight issues affecting young people and act as advocates for and with them within the wider community and world. (National Youth Agency)

Operation

The Senior Youth Worker will be the only paid member of staff and will be responsible for the team.

The first question to address is “why 3 volunteers?” This would give flexibility for the volunteers and would make the work load less onerous. My feeling is that asking a volunteer to go out working 2 evenings each week is perhaps a bit much but if 3 volunteers can share that load then it would be much more manageable for them.

Hopefully we will be lucky and get 3 volunteers but the project would be able to run effectively with 2 if necessary.

The SYW (Senior Youth Worker) and volunteers would all need to undertake their Core Training as soon as possible after they are in post.

I would like the SYW to undertake the Level 2 Training , which is accredited learning, as soon as possible too. This would give the SYW a really good grounding in youth work practice. This in turn would enable the SYW to pass on good practice to the volunteers.

Initially I would be willing to meet with the staff and provide basic training before they begin to go out onto the streets so that they have some understanding of the work and how they may address situations. How to communicate with young people. How to approach young people. Basic information around recording and reporting. I would need to draw up a training programme for this to ensure that I cover all the appropriate information.

Initially I would also be happy to cover regular supervision with the staff team.

Initially I would also be willing to go out onto the streets with them and work with them to help them find their feet. This would also give me the opportunity to observe them working and interacting with young people.

The initial staffing cost would be in the region of £4k. For a full breakdown of all costings please refer to the Confidential Page - TDYW Costings.

Thurston Detached Youth Work

Training

It is very important that all staff, either paid or voluntary, receive the correct level of training appropriate to the role.

The core training includes :-

Safeguarding,
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion,
First Aid

Detached Youth Work

These would need to be completed as soon as possible following appointment.

Following on from that I would like at least the Senior Youth Worker and hopefully any interested volunteer staff undertake their Level 2 Youth Work Training. This is an accredited level of learning.

Following on from the initial core training there are many training sessions available that would be relevant to the post including the following but there will be others that have not immediately come to mind too :-

Risk assessment
Safety in the workplace
Substance misuse
Online safety - cyber bullying
Self harm - suicide
Understanding adolescents
Sexual health
Trans awareness
LGBTQ awareness
Active listening
Building self esteem and assertiveness skills for young people
Critical thinking

There is further accredited learning - Level 3 and Diploma - should the staff wish to further their development. We would need to look for funding for this as and when.

Again following this there is profession development BA (hons) and MA. Again this would be as and when to look for funding.

Thurston Detached Youth Work

What's Next?

Hopefully you will all find the costings agreeable and wish to go ahead with the project.

Thurston Detached Youth Work would report monthly to the Parish Council.

The Project would need to set up the following:-

Policies and Procedures - many of which I have found on the internet as templates and can be tweaked to suit our project including Child Protection; Recruitment and Selection of Volunteers; Volunteer Induction and Ongoing Support; Complaints and Grievances; Code of Conduct; Confidentiality and Data Protection; Bullying, Outings and Residential; Making a Referral; Dealing with Incidents; Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco; Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

Recording and Reporting - alongside this would be data protection and relevant paperwork to complete. We also need to decide where this information will be stored and what exactly will be recorded.

Health and Safety Procedures to protect both young people and the staff. This will be covered within the training but will also require risk assessment when appropriate and forms to record this.

Advertising:

Jobs: Social media. Indeed is free of charge. Linked in - is anyone a member? Flyers at all local shops, notice boards, church, newsletter, Volunteer Suffolk.

To young people: flyers via the school, local shops, social media.

I am sure that there is more to do but this is what immediately comes to mind.

I do realise that this project needs to be set up professionally and robustly.