

# Dimensions and indicators to define youth work

## **Promoting strengths and change**

1. Using a strengths based, solution focussed approach to our work with young people
2. Recognising the worth of all young people and building on their assets and strengths
3. Helping young people make their own choices and learn from their own experiences
4. Showing young people what is possible and helping them achieve their own goals
5. Helping young people who need it to navigate the best possible pathway in life.
6. Being role models ourselves: setting an example in our own community
7. Building young people's belief in the possibility of change and their capacity to contribute to positive social and individual change
8. Helping young people to adjust to change and harness opportunities

## **Culture, place and identity**

1. Supporting positive connections between young people, their families and the broader community
2. Recognising the diversity amongst young people, and listening to and valuing individual young people's needs, ideas and choices
3. Supporting the development of young people's identity as an individual, within their family and as part of broader communities
4. Encouraging and supporting young people to take responsibility as active global, national and local citizens
5. Advocating for young people within their family and community
6. Recognising the integral relationship between young people and their family, community and society
7. Recognising that young people identify with a range of different cultures and supporting them in developing their own identity

## **Working ethically**

1. Being conscious of our structural power as a Youth Worker, and not taking power over young people
2. Particularly recognising the cultural context of marginalised young people and taking responsibility for learning to work in a culturally appropriate way
3. Being responsible for what we do, being able to justify it and remaining careful of how we use our power and influence with young people and their families.
4. Being clear about our ethical responsibilities to ourselves, young people, families, communities etc.
5. Being proud of our identity as a Youth Worker: supporting one another, seeking to ensure new colleagues understand what Youth Work means.

## **Meeting young people's needs**

- 1. Providing proactive and holistic support to young people**
- 2. Providing young people with linkages to other services and supporting them in accessing these**
- 3. Providing practical, useful support to address young people's real situations and needs including being able to provide consistent, longer term services for young people who may require more intensive support.**
- 4. Using an integrated and broad range of models, tools and approaches consistent with providing youth centred, culturally appropriate services and supports.**
- 5. Providing flexible support for young people outside formal systems.**
- 6. Being prepared to offer diverse, flexible services and work in a multi-skilled way.**

## **Providing informal, youth centred support**

- 1. Working at the young person's pace**
- 2. Maintaining young people's confidentiality**
- 3. Remaining open-minded about people's backgrounds and circumstances and treating each situation individually**
- 4. Providing youth centred services and supports in a friendly and informal way**
- 5. Being there for young people**
- 6. Genuinely caring about young people**

## **Promoting youth rights and empowerment**

- 1. Respecting and promoting young people's rights**
- 2. Ensuring young people's voices are heard within their families and the broader community**
- 3. Being solid and proud defenders of "youth culture:" challenging negative assumptions made about young people in our communities.**
- 4. Encouraging and supporting young people to be agents of change at both a personal and social level**
- 5. Helping young people to understand their rights**
- 6. Lobbying the government to improve the situation for young people**
- 7. Promoting the actual and potential contributions of young people to the wider community**