



“ Nothing gives me more satisfaction than knowing young people choose to work with us – they aren’t there because they have to be, they are there because they want to be – it makes a big difference!
Val Alford, Student Information & Support, Hereford Council ”

YOUTH SERVICE: career

Herefordshire Council are currently searching for people to become involved in Youth Work, whether as a volunteer or as a career path.

If you are still interested in youth work and want to know more please email jobsonline@herefordshire.gov.uk or contact the Recruitment Team on 01432 260028 or alternatively contact one of our youth centres below:-

For further information on youth services and becoming a qualified youth worker can be found at www.nya.org.uk.

Central administration 01432 383 370.

Bromyard & Ledbury
01432 260370

Kington & Weobley
01544 231255

Ross-on-Wye
01989 563611

Hereford City North
01432 341011

Leominster & Wigmore
01432 383076

South Wye & Golden Valley
01432 383376

Duke of Edinburgh Awards
01432 383027

Youth Council
01432 383008

Outdoor Education
01432 260212



What is youth work?

Youth Work seeks to promote young people's personal and social development and enable young people to have a voice, an influence and a place in their communities and society as a whole. Youth work aims to help young people gain control of their own lives.

Youth Workers build relationships of trust with young people and work with young people to provide a range of opportunities, which are designed to release their potential.

In Herefordshire the Youth Service works with young people from the age of 11-25, with particular emphasis on the 13-19 age group.

The Youth Service is a complex network of providers, community groups, voluntary organisations and the local authority working in partnership to deliver services for young people. Partners could also include community safety and drugs, police, town and parish council, teenage pregnancy and many more.

Youth Workers will also provide support and guidance for young people around issues, which are of concern for them individually. They also might act as an advocate on behalf of a young person or provide support to enable a young person to make an informed decision.

What does youth work offer young people?

Youth Work offers young people the opportunity to meet friends, to have fun, take part in specific activities, to build relationships with adults and engage with individuals of their own age within a safe environment. In addition, it offers young people a wide range of activities and other opportunities such as arts-based work, drama, video making, use of ICT and sport and outdoor activities, opportunities to take part in Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme all of which promote young peoples personal development.

The programmes connect with young people's leisure and recreational interests; they complement formal educational processes; engages with social issues such as crime and housing; and reflects the particular needs of young people as they move through adolescence and young adulthood. Youth workers will also address issues such as drugs, sexual health or discrimination.

Through youth work, young people:-

- Gain confidence and self esteem whilst having fun
- Develop new skills and interests through group activities
- Increase their knowledge and understanding of issues affecting their lives
- Gain greater control over their lives through access to education and training tailored to their needs
- Learn how to make use of services and information to make informed choices about their lives

How is youth work carried out?

Youth work is carried out in various locations, using a range of approaches. These include:-

- Building-based: youth centres, village halls, community centres and clubs which are operated directly by the local authority or by voluntary and community organisations.
- Detached work: making contact people in their own environments eg. parks, shopping centres, the street etc.
- Schools and colleges: youth workers are involved in study support programmes outside normal lessons which young people choose to partake in.
- Youth forums and councils: encouraging young people to learn about and engage in democratic processes to ensure their views form part of the development of policies.
- Specialist projects: focussing on action projects ie the arts, photography, sailing etc.

What skills do I need to work in youth work?

Effective youth workers need good listening skills, they need to be able to listen and hear what young people are saying. They need to know when to intervene and when to stand back, they also require a good sense of humour and eternal patience.

Youth Work is a responsible role. Commitment is essential. Youth workers also need to appreciate the differences many young people face such as racial tensions, rural isolation, disabilities and more.

What qualifications do I need.

There are nationally recognised qualifications in youth work and most post holders are required to have one of these qualifications or be working towards one. There are national vocational qualifications (NVQ's), vocationally related qualifications (VRQ's) and range of higher education qualifications. For further information please contact www.nya.org.uk.

