

The Trusted Adult

- **Advocating for recognition of youth work
along other sectors**

kevinj@nya.org.uk

[@natyouthagency](#) [@NyaKev](#)

History

- Founded 1964, after Albermarle (1960), as an information centre for youth services at the National College for the Training of Youth Leaders in Leicester.
- In the 1970s we became the National Youth Bureau
- In 1991 we became the National Youth Agency

What we do

- PSRB
- Register, Youth Work One
- New Qualifications – L4 and Apprenticeships
- Covid Guidance - <https://youthworksupport.co.uk/>
- Safeguarding Hub - <https://nya.org.uk/skills/safeguarding-and-risk-management-hub/>
- Quality Mark - <https://nya.org.uk/quality/quality-mark/>
- Hear By Right - <https://nya.org.uk/quality/hear-by-right/>
- Academy / training offer

Workforce strategy

Five Themes

- Promotion of youth work as a career, and as a methodology
- Training and Education of practitioners
- Links between training organisations and service providers
- Developing and supporting sector specific youth work
- Developing infrastructure to support growth and standards

The Youth Work Relationship

- The Mental Health Mistake....What are Youth Work's "Engagement Skills"?
- The link between Process and Relationship

The Youth Work Process

- **Who are these young people?**
- **Is some youth work intervention in these young people's lives justified?**
- **How do we personalise this first contact?**
- **Within what 'activity' or on what other 'territory' could the contact be best initiated?**
- **What connections might be made between these young people's starting points and ways of moving on beyond them – for prompting additional developmental opportunities for these young people?**
- **Within all this, how best to tread the delicate line between supporting and increasing, and certainly not undermining, these young people's independence and their control over their own lives?**

Bernard Davies – “Youth Work – A Manifesto for our Times”, *Youth and Policy*, Summer 2005

Some Axioms, and why we have them.....

- Voluntary relationship
- Unconditional positive regard
- Flexibility – programme, location, focus
- Asset based approach

What the relationship brings.....

- Privileged witness of social reality
- Trust and engagement (within the parameters of challenge and learning)
- An expectation of involvement / equality
- A Holistic approach

Why this makes us special, and useful....

- Information – Early and detailed
- Agility of response
- Ability to offer challenge, and have it accepted
- Support in engagement with services
- Vehicle for Service Improvement

The Jay Report - Rotherham

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/279/independent-inquiry-into-child-sexual-exploitation-in-rotherham>

Groups – How can the relationship be utilised?

- Health
- Education
- Criminal Justice
- Social Care

Opportunities and Challenges