

Systems for formal and non-formal education and validation of youth work education and training – the case of Ireland

Presentation to Expert Group meeting
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An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

APRIL 2017

Population & Migration Estimates

Ireland's Usually Resident Population:

4,792,500

♂ 2,420,400

♀ 2,372,100



Increased by 52,900 since 2016

Nationality

Irish nationals:

4,225,900

88.2% of the population

Non-Irish nationals:

566,600

11.8% of the population

Net Migration of Irish Nationals

(net migration = immigrants - emigrants)



2017: -3,400

-30,800 emigrants
+27,400 immigrants

2012: -29,600

-49,700 emigrants
+20,100 immigrants

85.5% decrease in the net outward migration of Irish Nationals in 2017 compared to 2012

Population of Dublin:

1,350,000

28.2% of Ireland's resident population



Net Migration 2017: +19,800

(net migration = immigrants - emigrants)

Highest net inward migration since 2008



+84,600
immigrants

-64,800
emigrants

Level of Education

Immigrants aged 15+

48,600 (64.1%) had a 3rd level qualification

Emigrants aged 15+

24,900 (44.0%) had a 3rd level qualification



An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Central Statistics Office

CENSUS 2016

Average Age of Population



up 1.3 years

Population By Age Group

Children



Pre-school

331,515

↓ down 7.0%

Primary

548,693

↑ up 8.8%

Secondary

371,588

↑ up 7.7%

Adults



19-24 years

331,208

↓ down 6.5%

25-64 years

2,541,294

↑ up 1.9%

Over 65 years

637,567

↑ up 19.1%

The number of young people aged 10-24 will

increase by 11.6%

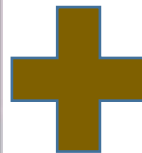
between 2015 and 2025

and will be just over

ONE MILLION

young people by **2025** (1,005,938)

Origins of Irish Youth Work



Current USA Logo
since July 2010

Voluntary Principle Key in Irish Youth Work Practice



Youth Work Act (2001) definition

"a **planned programme of education** designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the **personal and social development** of young persons through their **voluntary participation**, and which is:

- **complementary** to their **formal**, academic or vocational **education and training**;
- provided primarily by **voluntary youth work organisations**." (2001)

The Irish Youth Work 'Sector' - Snapshot



NYCI (2017)



Investment in **YOUTH WORK SERVICES**

from the Department of
Children and Youth Affairs

BELOW LEVELS IN 2008

from
€73.1m
in 2008



to
€54m
in 2017

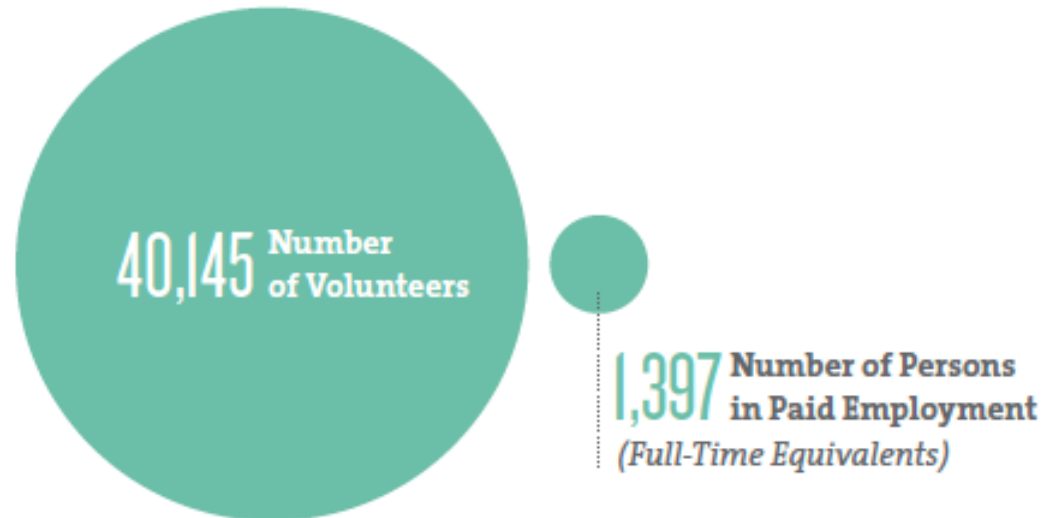
**YOUTH
ORGANISATIONS**
are active in almost
every community
reaching over

383,000
YOUNG PEOPLE



Extent of Volunteering and
Paid Employment in the
Youth Work Sector in Ireland - 2012

Report on the Economic Value of Youth Work (NYCI, 2012)



Source: Indecon analysis

National Youth Work Development Plan, NYWDP (2003-07)

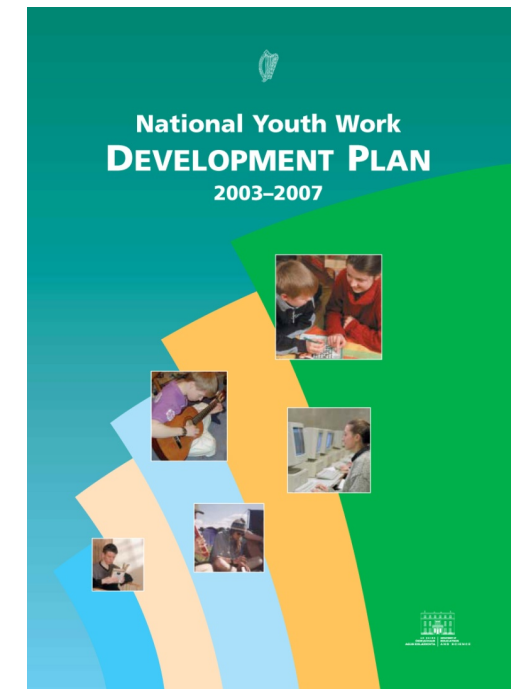
Vision of Plan = Youth workers as **professional educators**

NYWDP principles include

- **enhance & support professionalism** and the highest standards of quality, efficiency and safety

Actions*

1. Endorsement Body (NSETS)
2. Routes to Certification,
3. Registration
4. Youth Research Fund
5. Professional Association



Youth Workers as Educators

Not everyone can or should be a youth worker.... the doing of youth work.... requires a *particular combination of knowledge, skills and personal qualities*.

Youth work is *not just a vocation*, although almost inevitably the people who do it have a particularly strong sense of personal commitment to the work and to the wellbeing of young people.

It is a *profession*, in the sense that all those who do it, both volunteer and paid, are required and obliged, in the interests of young people and of society as a whole, to carry out their work to the highest possible standards and to be accountable for their actions. (NYWDP, 2003:14)

National Quality Standards Framework, 2010

Staff-Led Organisations

- Provide a **support and development** tool to youth work organisations
- Establish **standards** in the practice and provision of youth work.
- Provide an **enhanced evidence base** for youth work
- Ensure **resources are used effectively** in the sector
- Basis for “whole organisational **assessment**”



Process

Three year cycle

Self assessment with an external validation process

Process of review, assessment and continuous development

NQSF Core Principles -

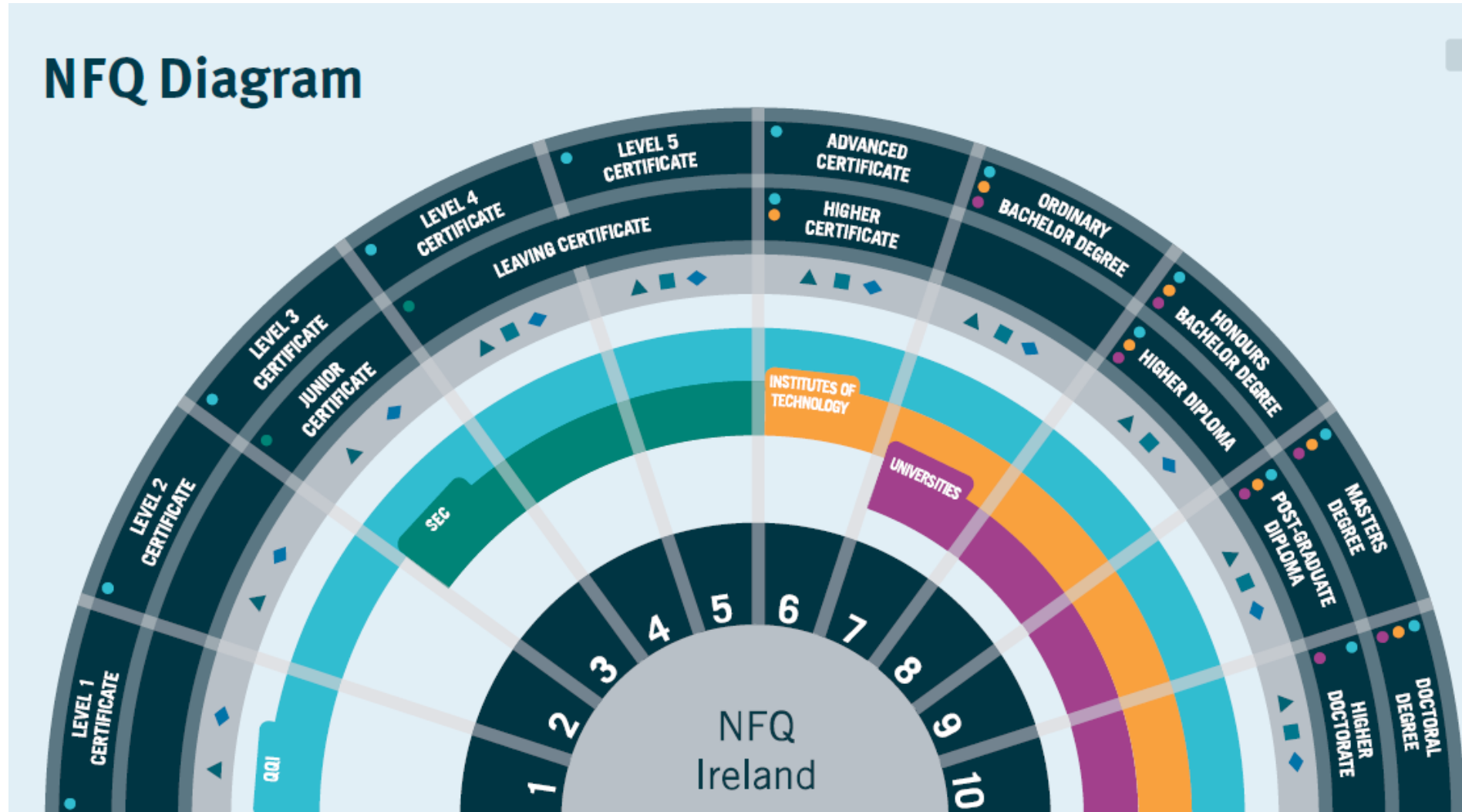
The five core principles are viewed as the essential elements of youth work and fundamental to the application of the NQSF (for staff-led organisations) .

1. Young person-centred: Recognising the rights of young people and holding as central their active and voluntary participation*
2. Committed to ensuring and promoting the safety and well-being of young people*.
3. Educational and developmental*
4. Committed to ensuring and promoting equality and inclusiveness in all its dealings with young people and adults.
5. Dedicated to the provision of quality youth work and committed to continuous improvement

*Volunteer Led Groups (3 principles)

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

Development of *awards standards* for education and training in occupational/sectoral areas



Mapping the Work Force NYCI/Youthnet 2013

Survey of all major youth organisations [Total number of workers 940]

658 or 70% of the total paid work force

Primary Role

Provision of informal and non-formal education services for young people (including direct face-to-face work with young people)

Headlines

Full-time positions 67.%

Part-time 29.8%

Sessional 2.7%

Qualifications

QQI Youth work qualification - Level 5+ 33.1% [231]

Professional qual. in youth work (UG&PG), 28.% [189]

Primary Social care/Health related 41.2% [270+]

Outdoor Ed 9.7% [64]

Implications for the recognition of a professional qualification in youth work = paid work
NB 66% approx. of staff at this level are educated to third level degree standard or above.

North South Education & Training Standards Committee [NSETS] established 2006

All-Ireland framework for the **professional endorsement** of youth work education and training which sets out to:

- ensure *quality standards and fitness-for-purpose*;
- support *best practice*; and
- facilitate professional *mobility, exchange and peer learning*

both on a North/South and East/West basis.

Professional qualification benchmarked at Level 8 on the NFQ



NSETS Vision:

‘A world class workforce for youth work on the island of Ireland’.

Mission

‘To contribute to better outcomes for young people by establishing, promoting and sustaining all island standards of excellence for the provision of education, training and continuous learning and development for the youth work workforce’.

Professional qualification benchmarked at Level 8 on the NFQ

NSETS

Sets standards for the professional formation of youth workers on the island of Ireland

Endorses programmes at **third level** initially – **Hons. Degree**

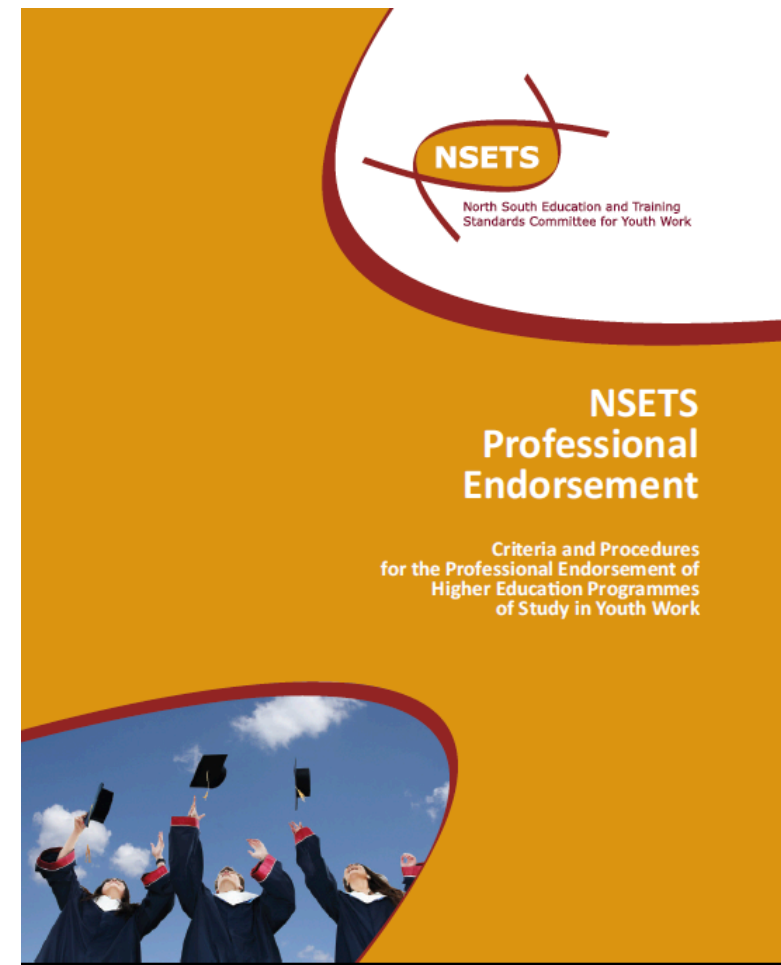
Eighteen members from RoI and NI equally

Made up of voluntary and statutory sector employers, higher education staff, youth work trainers and trade union interests

Criteria for **Endorsement** in a range **professional abilities**

Relationship with National Youth Agency

Mutual recognition of qualifications - England, NI, Scotland & Wales



NSETS view of professional youth work

‘..... engage first and foremost as **educators with a sense of moral purpose and responsibility**.

It is the **interaction between mission, ethical understanding, and professional knowledge** in which the essence of good youth work practice is to be found.

.... never be reduced to a set of discrete skills to be mastered in some mechanical process of assimilation.

(To do so is) ...to deny the **intellectual basis** of youth work and the richness of the on **going dialogue and learning that enhances professional practice** (NSETS, 2013 p 10).

Five Areas of Professional Ability

- A.** Facilitate the **personal, social and political education** and development of young people and adults
- B.** Promote **equality and change** in the interests and welfare of young people and communities and **uphold the value base** of youth work and community work
- C.** Work with young people, with communities and with peers and partners, **build and sustain empowering relationships**
- D.** Develop youth work and community **work strategy and practice**
- E. Manage** their own work and lead and manage the work of teams and individuals

Professional Endorsement

- Professional endorsement **represents a formal recognition by the youth work sector** that specific qualifications, awards or programmes have reached a minimum standard or met prescribed criteria.
- Professional Endorsement is conducted on a five year cycle.
- It is **distinct from academic validation** which is conferred by higher educational institutions themselves or other relevant qualification authorities.

Professional Programmes in Irish HE Institutions - endorsed by NSETS



QQI Major Award Level 5

The purpose is to enable the learner to acquire the ***knowledge, skills and competence*** to work ***under supervision*** in a youth work context and or to **progress to further and or higher** education & training.

All of the following component(s)

1. Understanding Youth Work
2. Young People and Society
3. Working with Young People

At least **one** of:

1. Personal Effectiveness
2. Communications
3. Team-working
4. Customer Service

either

Work Experience **or** Work Practice

At ***least two*** of the following:

Community Addiction Studies
Understanding Community Development
Community Development Practice
Occupational First Aid
Human Growth & Development
Youth Information Skills
Social Studies/Social Analysis
Criminology
Substance Use - Issues for youth work

Structure

8x15 credit modules or minor awards

contd.

Exercise and Fitness
Social Justice Principle
Peer Education
Safer Sex Negotiation
SkillsAfter School Support
Skills
Adventure Activities
Community Arts Practice

and one other module

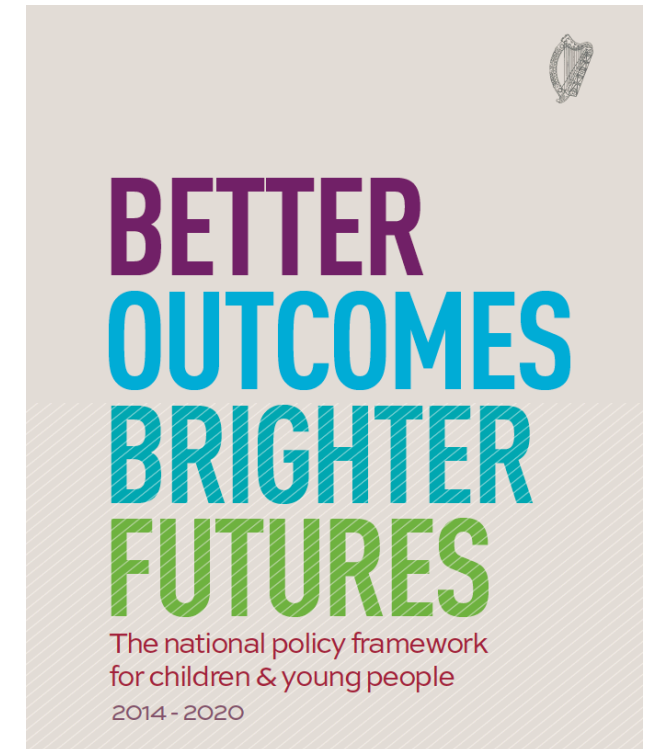
Better Outcomes Brighter Futures BOBF (2014-20)

National Policy Framework for Children and Young People

Whole government policy, cross departmental responsibility designed to make Ireland “**one of the best small countries to grow up in and raise a family**”. (Taoiseach Enda Kenny, 2014)

Framed around **Key Outcomes:**

1. Active and Healthy
2. Achieving in all areas of learning/development
3. Safe and Protected from Harm
4. Economic Security and opportunity
5. Connected, Respected and Contributing



Some BOBF Goals related to professional training & education

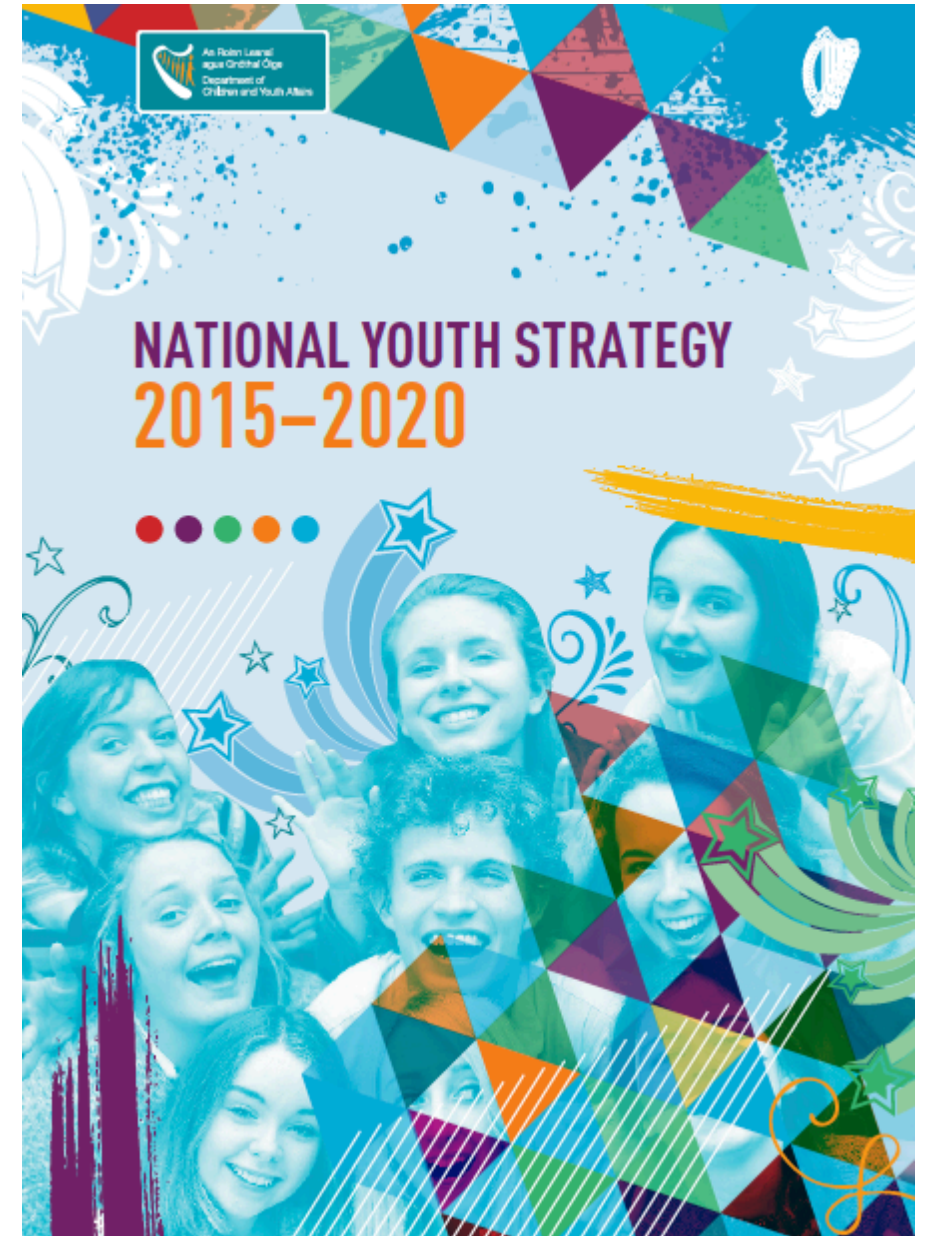
- **Goal 11:** Training and up-skilling of professionals across formal and non-formal educational settings to be in a position to identify potential child welfare and mental health issues, and to provide prevention and early intervention support.
- **Goal 29:** Develop quality standards and training for all professionals working directly with young people, ensuring a highly trained, supported and professionally aligned workforce.
- **Goal 38:** Support the development of interdisciplinary and inter-professional training programmes which encourage leadership and collaboration for professionals working with children and young people across the range of service delivery.
- **Goal 39:** Develop and implement a multidisciplinary workforce development plan on a phased basis for all professionals working with children and families...

National Youth Strategy (2015)

Aims to 'enable all young people to realise their maximum potential, by respecting their rights and hearing their voices, while protecting and supporting them as they transition from childhood to adulthood'.

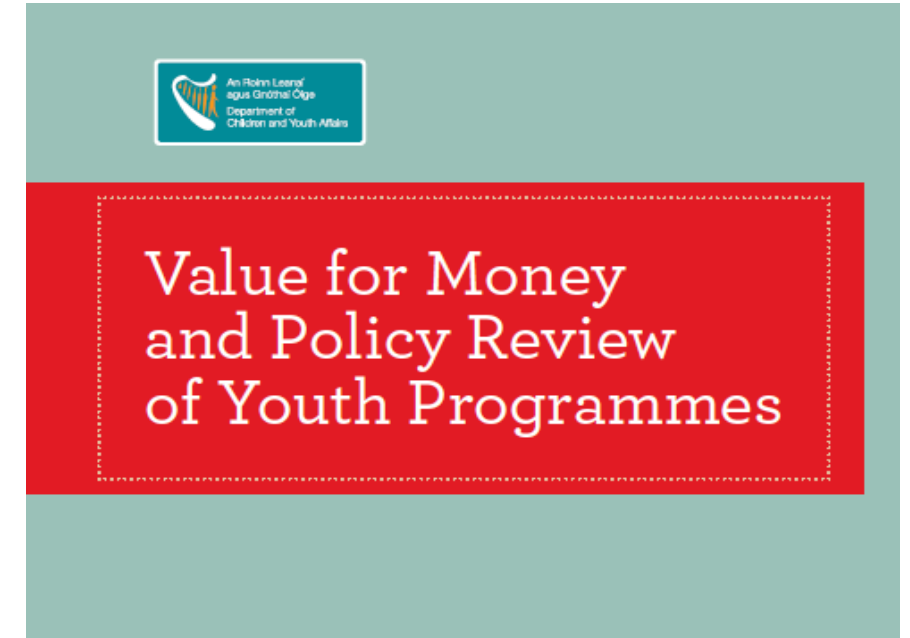
One underpinning principle:

'Professionals and volunteers working with young people are respected, valued and appropriately supported in their work'.
(NYS, 2015:6)



Value for Money Policy Review, VFMPR (2015)

Focused on ‘youth programmes’ (i.e. the **effective and efficient achievement of policy objectives** as they relates to the **intended positive change brought about with and for a young person**) and **not the effectiveness and efficiency of ‘youth work’** *per se*



The outcomes of youth work for young people [VFMPR]

1

*7 social and
personal
outcomes:*

Communication
skills

Confidence and
agency

Planning and
problem
solving

Relationships

Creativity and
imagination

Resilience and
determination

Emotional
intelligence

¹ Department of Children and Youth Affairs (2014) *Value For Money and Policy Review of Youth Programmes*. Dublin: Government Publications.

The Irish Youth Workers Association





Establish a code of ethical practice for the benefit of the profession and young people



Represent members at a national level, providing solidarity and a unified voice to build the status of youth work



Develop strong links with other national representatives and existing national organisations in order for the youth work profession to be recognized as such

Objectives

Youth Worker Recruitment – Recent Advertisements

interests of young people in the local community by engaging young people aged 10-18 years and their families in a range of specialised, educational, and recreational youth programmes.

The successful applicant will have the following essential requirements;

- Education to level 8 Degree standard (note: candidates with exceptional, relevant work experience may also be considered in lieu of degree qualifications)
- A minimum of 1 year relevant work experience
- Access to car and full driving licence
- Ability to engage target group
- Ability to build and maintain effective relationships with young people, volunteers, parents, community members and other professional staff
- Good interpersonal skills, including ability to liaise with a wide range of contacts and build and maintain effective working relationships

Youth Worker

Qualifications / Experience Essential

- A professionally endorsed qualification in Youth Work or Youth and Community Work plus experience of working with young people within a youth work context

We are looking for individuals with enthusiasm, drive who are youth focussed.

Salary is in line with CDYSB Youth Work Scale. This position is funded under Special Projects for Youth (SPY) and channelled through the City of Dublin Youth Service Board.

The successful applicant will be required to work scheduled hours at evenings and weekends to include residential breaks.

Please send a letter of application outlining how you meet the above criteria together with a current CV and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two referees that we may contact to:

Sources and Resources

Documents and Reports

[National Youth Work Development Plan \(2003-07\)](#)
[CDYSB Guidelines for Good Youth Work Practice \(2008\)](#)
[Purpose and Outcomes of Youth Work \(2209\)](#)
[National Quality Standards Framework \(2010\)](#)
[NSETS Criteria for Endorsement \(2013\)](#)
[Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures \(2014\)](#)
[National Youth Strategy \(2015\)](#)
[Value for Money Policy Review of Youth Programmes \(2015\)](#)

Organisational Websites

City of Dublin Youth Service Board [www.cdysb.ie]
Crosscare [www.crosscare.ie]
Department of Children and Youth Affairs [www.dcyu.ie]
Foroige [www.foroige.ie]
National Youth Council [www.youth.ie]
Youth Work Ireland [www.youthworkireland.ie]
Irish Youth Justice System [iyjs.ie]
Tusla [tusla.ie]
Qualifications Quality Ireland [qqi.ie]