

Part 1

Introduction to the pack



Thanks Sam

YouthWorkWales

people like you make it what it is

Part 1

Introduction to the pack

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this pack is to enable youth workers, teachers, careers advisors and other workers to promote youth work as a career to young people.

The pack is for use with young people age 13 upwards in a range of formal and non formal educational settings, including both the voluntary and maintained sectors, to raise awareness of youth work as a valuable experience for themselves and their communities.

It is hoped that as a result young people will want to be involved and take on, or continue with, responsibilities in youth work settings. The ultimate purpose is that young people will recognise the career prospects offered in youth work, voluntary and statutory,

paid and unpaid, and make informed career choices to continue along this path.

The accompanying booklet for young people 'Could you be the next Sam?' is intended to inform young people and parents/carers about youth work, and serve as a signpost to further information and action.



*Flintshire Wheels To... (FW2)
Flintshire County Council
Youth Service*

“Thanks Sam

FW2 has made me more independant. I'm able to work weekends and I've been going to nightclasses too.”

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1.2 Aim

The aim of this pack is to equip those who work with young people with suitable supportive resources to enable them to raise awareness of the issues and provide additional information and support.

This is achieved through:

- i. Delivering an approximate 45 minute interactive session, suitable for:
 - Young people who know nothing about youth work (Plan 1)
 - Young people who have some experience of youth work and volunteering (Plan 2)
 - Young people who have enjoyed volunteering and, with a little more information or encouragement, might consider youth work as a career (Plan 3)
- ii. Providing information and support to young people about their options, choices and where they can access further information
- iii. The 'Could you be the next Sam?' booklet to reinforce the session message and provide signposting to further sources of information for young people to research and which they can show their families.

“Thanks Sam

We talked about stuff that I hadn't thought about before. No-one else had discussed stuff like that before with me.”



**Love and Relationships
Ceredigion County Council
Youth Service**

1.3 Rationale

'The Youth Service has a real role... by offering young people the sorts of opportunities that motivate them to take positive action and leads to them developing a wide range of skills and enhancing their emotional intelligence'

(National Youth Service Strategy 2007)

Voluntary and maintained sector organisations make up the Youth Service in Wales. Youth work takes place in three main areas:

- the local authority Youth Service;
- in major national voluntary youth organisations;
- in third sector local projects.

It is shaped by the Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales (Appendix 1) which requires youth work to provide opportunities for young people which are: Educative, Expressive, Participative and Empowering with a focus on inclusion and equality of access.

The Youth Service offers voluntary and paid workers opportunities to make a real difference to individual young people and to community life.



**Methodist Youth Conference
Wales Synod of the
Methodist Church, Cardiff**

There can be a lack of knowledge about the Youth Service and how it supports young people, through adolescence into adulthood. Putting it simply, there's a lot more to it than pool and table tennis. Mentoring, coaching, befriending, informing, motivating and tutoring are only a few of the roles performed by a youth worker. More skilled and trained youth workers are needed in this continuously changing and developing sector.

This pack is part of a wider strategic approach to raising the profile of youth work in the Youth Service and increasing the numbers of paid and unpaid staff in this field.

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1.4 The terms youth work and volunteering

As this pack may be used by youth workers and other professionals it is important to be clear about the terms youth work and volunteering.

Youth work is the methodology and activities undertaken in partnership with young people that conform to the values and principles of the Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales (Appendix 1), and which occur in the Youth Service.

The term **volunteering** is defined as described in the Russell Commission Report A National Framework for Youth Action and Engagement (2005) and represents:

'...the many rich and varied ways in which young people voluntarily contribute to their communities locally and nationally and internationally. We have also adopted the broad definition of volunteering used by the United Nations, which covers the full spectrum of volunteering activities and ways in which they are organised, and encompasses ideas of participation and active citizenship.'

Volunteering as it is defined here, therefore, covers all the activities of the Youth Service where young people are active partners and make decisions about what they are doing and how they can be achieved.



Pembrokeshire Youth Film Awards 'Oscar Night'
Pembrokeshire Youth Service

**“Thanks Sam
It’s all been
brilliant. I’ve
loved everything
we’ve done.
It’s great doing
different things.”**



**Mochdre Outreach Project
Conwy Youth Service, Mochdre, Conwy**

1.5 The outcomes of using the pack

The outcomes of the pack for young people are to:

- Raise knowledge and awareness of what youth work really does
- Encourage volunteering by highlighting opportunities within a youth work context
- Consider youth work as a viable career path
- Use the 'Could you be the next Sam?' booklet for further information and action
- Answer queries and questions and signpost young people using the handouts and resources for young people



Summer Programme City and County of Swansea Youth Service

1.6 Who is it for?

The pack is for youth workers, teachers, careers advisors and other workers who have experience of working with young people and running participative activities. The additional resource 'Could you be the next Sam?' is for young people and their families.

1.7 Style of resource

The pack is deliberately simple, and highly participative, reflecting youth work methodology where activities are driven by the young person and supported by adult leadership. Extensive research in a variety of settings, with young people and

youth workers, has shaped and impacted the style of this pack offering accessible, bite-sized chunks of learning, with signposting to further information.

All materials can be reproduced without loss of effectiveness or impact. Session plans are kept simple and are adaptable to meet the needs of the context and young people, within constraints of time, venue and technical facilities available. For example, in a Digi-lab more time could be spent researching the internet or visiting recommended sites, whereas in a youth club more time could be spent on games, quiz elements or discussion.

1.8 Welsh context

This resource has been developed in Wales for Wales. The information contained in this pack is relevant for Wales. The policy areas are different in the rest of the UK and to some extent so are some of the volunteering and training opportunities. However, youth work qualifications are available that are transferable and recognised throughout the UK and Ireland. Appendix 3 contains a list of the main contacts in the other countries of the UK.

“Thanks Sam

**The bands are good,
the atmosphere is
good and it keeps
people off the
streets!”**



**Speakers Corner Project
Conwy Youth Service, Colwyn Bay**

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1.9 Pack contents

This pack has 3 other sections after the introduction.

Part 2 contains three interactive workshop sessions to use with young people. It also provides support and information relevant to the planning and delivery of the sessions in youth work facilities or in a classroom, targeting different groups of young people, depending on their level of contact with youth work.

Part 3 contains more detailed background information for youth workers and other professionals, and for young people. This includes information on volunteering, training routes, accreditation, careers, organisations that can help and additional information that a young person might need to help make a decision about whether or not to take up youth work and which career path to take.

Part 4 contains all the resources and handouts for the sessions including icebreakers and exercise.

The evaluation sheet gives feedback to the tutor and organisation regarding the effectiveness of the session.

The follow-up action plan pro forma and age related next steps and options handout included in session 3, all designed to help the facilitator give future support to young people who have expressed an interest in having more information on career options.

A certificate of attendance for young people has also been included.

The **Appendices** provide summary versions of the Youth Work Curriculum Statement for Wales, and the Youth Work National Occupational Standards, useful contacts and more information on training, pay scales and organisations engaged in training and workforce development. Information on awards for young people and references are also contained in the appendices.

The materials are supported by the booklet 'Could you be the next Sam?', which the young people take away from the session.



Welsh Deaf Youth Forum
Deaf Association Wales