

NYY leads partnership in North Yorkshire to provide Accredited Youth Work Training to the voluntary sector.

The Youth Development Team at North Yorkshire Youth has successfully delivered accredited training to 40 learners after gaining Recognised Centre Status with OCN. NYY utilised funding from a national program funded by CWDC's Young Peoples Workforce Reform Programme Board, which was coordinated by NCVYS. The purpose of Progress was to build workforce capacity by enhancing the skills and training of those working with young people in the voluntary and community sector.

North Yorkshire Youth used this particular project to develop its status as a training provider. We were one of 30 organisations who were successfully awarded a bursary of £1000. We used this to attend training and progress us through the new member process with OCN. In January 2011 we completed and following a successful quality review visit were awarded a certificate to evidence our status.

Using the brand new youth work qualifications we were able to deliver a bite sized basic unit called Understanding Youth Work Principals and Practice. The unit at level 2 developed significant interest with over 50 individuals and agencies requesting details about the course. In early March 2011 in partnership with Thirsk Clock we delivered the unit to 40 learners in 3 cohorts in Tadcaster, Thirsk and Catterick.

It is with great pleasure that we can report that 38 learners completed and passed the unit with us, that's 38 staff and volunteers in the voluntary sector developing their skills and knowledge to become more effective youth workers.

We are very proud of this achievement and want to continue to deliver additional units to those who wish to progress to a full qualification as well as providing bite sized training for many more aspiring youth workers from a wide range of partners.

We think we have made a great start, but we still have things to develop and learn. Here is what our learners said:

- *"I enjoyed the idea that we were learning things without realising it".*
- *"I enjoyed the chance to find out about what is on offer for young people, also discussing the different ways to approach problems encountered".*
- *"I enjoyed the different approaches to learning, it wasn't all written work, for example group discussion, group work and games".*

We received 35 feedback forms in total. 88% of learners said they enjoyed the course a lot. When asked about their progression, 30 learners said that their knowledge of youth work had improved during the course. With 9 learners who said they knew very little about youth work telling us they thought they had gained a good knowledge. 82% of learners would recommend the course to a friend or colleague.

Despite the positive feedback we are reviewing the delivery of the course and have already identified a number of improvements we can make including:

- Developing a learner handbook with clear information about the course and expectations of a learner.
- Providing clear pre course information and where required assessing learners abilities before the course starts.

- Reviewing our assessment activities and the feedback structure, as we wish to give written feedback throughout the course.
- Developing our teaching and assessment activities and resources.

As a first venture into delivering formal training, all of the feedback from this course is invaluable in developing our training function for the future.

We also asked the learners to circle the most relevant words to them when we asked: “How has the course helped you as an individual?” The larger the words the more people chose them.



One final question on our feedback form asked:

“Do you feel the course has helped you gain some basic youth work knowledge?” 100% of our learners said yes.

If you want to find out more about NYY and the training we can offer please get in contact with Lucy Downes on 01845 587932 or via lucy@nyy.org.uk

We are aiming to deliver more Youth Work units and courses in 2011. If you would like to be added to our training mailing list please contact Lucy.

We can also deliver a wide range of personal development and team building accredited opportunities for adults and young people at our outdoor centre Carlton Lodge. If you would like more information please get in touch.

