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DETACHED YOUTH WORK POLICY

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The primary purpose of Thurston Parish Council's Detached Youth Work Programme is to provide informal education and information and support which young people voluntarily enter into, and which will enable and empower them.

DEFINITION OF DETACHED YOUTH WORK

Detached work - making contact with young people in and around the village and exploring their social and educational needs with them.

Detached Youth Workers contact young people on their territory and negotiate any further contact or learning and development agenda.

AIMS

Thurston Parish Council through the Detached Youth Work Project aims to:-

- put trained Youth Workers into contact with young people wherever they may gather in the village leading to a wider perception of their needs
- to enable young people to negotiate their role within their wider community.
- to locate and work with young people who may not otherwise have a voice in the community.

OBJECTIVES

Specific Detached Youth Work objectives:

- to enable young people to have a positive voluntary relationship with an adult who has a professional interest in the well-being of young people.
- to enable Youth Workers to gain a greater understanding of young people's situations in order to increase accuracy of intervention.
- to enable the wider community to understand the issues and needs of young people to the benefit of both.

The Detached Youth Work Team will meet the aims and objectives by:

- meeting young people on their territory
- offering information and support when necessary
- enabling young people to take part in a range of positive and fun activities
- enabling young people to have a voice and advocating on their behalf

DETACHED YOUTH WORK GUIDELINES:

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR LINE MANAGERS AND DETACHED YOUTH WORKERS

Good practice is embodied in detached work when:

- reconnaissance of the geographic area has taken place prior to beginning face to face work
- work taking place embraces the equality and diversity of the community
- Detached Youth Work is considered as the most appropriate method to have an effect
- communities are well informed and understand the nature of the project
- all work is documented, and appropriate records kept
- projects embrace regular reviews and evaluation.

GOOD PRACTICE METHODS

Through identification and prioritisation Detached Youth Work would be most effective when Detached Youth Workers have a line manager

- supervision is provided at mutually agreed intervals
- there are regular recordings after each session
- line manager maintains a good understanding of the nature of the project
- where possible, non-managerial (professional) supervision should be encouraged, and it is the responsibility of the line manager for Detached Youth Work to advocate on behalf of and support Detached Youth Workers in the development and understanding of this style of working
- the Detached Team understand why the project was started
- the members of the Detached Team carry Thurston Parish Council identification cards at all times
- the Detached Team have methods of contacting a line manager or a base. A list of emergency contact telephone numbers should always be readily available.

- Consideration is also given to informing local community groups and existing related professionals before the project commences
- Young people are referred to specialist agencies where appropriate

RECORDINGS

- Every session of work delivered by the Detached Team must be recorded on sessional sheets for Detached Youth Work thus facilitating a uniform response. In doing so, the Team should analyse their practice, identify quantitative and qualitative methods of performance and additionally show any further actions required.
- These recordings should be forwarded to the line manager on an agreed regular basis.

PERSONAL SAFETY

Detached Youth Workers should always be aware of their own personal safety and that of their colleagues. The following Safety measures should be followed:-

- always carry I.D. cards
- carry appropriate equipment i.e.. mobile phone, torch, personal alarm.
- know and be familiar with the adult community.
- always work in pairs - no worker should ever work alone and must always be within in sight of their partner when working. Also, never work facing back-to-back.
- in all but the most pressing of circumstances it is ill advised for all male teams to work together and mixed gender teams are preferred.

FAMILIARISATION

During reconnaissance, the area should be thoroughly explored during both daylight and night time hours. At no time should workers feel pressurized to stay in situations where they may be at risk.

SUBSTANCE USE AND DETACHED YOUTH WORK

- Workers meet young people on their territory and are not, therefore, in a position to exclude substance use in the same way as club-based workers. It is not illegal for young people to take drugs, only to possess or supply them and there is no legal obligation to report use to the police. Detached workers should distance themselves from the situation and not condone their use or use themselves.
- Dealing drugs is illegal. Whilst there is no legal requirement to report a dealer to the police, workers should distance themselves from the situation if they know or suspect dealing to be taking place.

Detached Youth Workers must always present themselves as positive role models. They should not smoke, drink or use any illegal substance whilst on duty, nor condone their use.

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

The safety of the young person and the Detached Youth Work Team is paramount. All Detached Youth Workers must familiarise themselves with the Thurston Parish Council Child Protection Protocol.

- If you have any reasons, in any situation, during your work to suspect an issue of Child Protection you **MUST** inform your line manager and/or the designated child protection person.
- Do not discuss your concerns at this stage with anyone else.
- Make a brief note of your concerns. This may be used in the future.
- Young people cannot be promised total confidentiality.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- Detached Youth Workers will take every measure to ensure that information obtained from and about young people is treated with respect.
- Detached Youth Workers should protect individual identity where appropriate.
- No confidential issue will be discussed or revealed to any other person or organisation without the expressed permission of the person/s seeking council/help.
- Confidentiality, however, cannot be maintained if the team believe that a young person or persons are imminently intent on an act of self-harm or of significant harm to another.
- Line manager should discuss child protection within the Team setting.

THE PROCESS OF DETACHED YOUTH WORK

As with all good Youth and Community Practice, Detached Youth Work must have a process which needs to be undertaken to ensure good practice.

- Assessment should include:
 - preparation
 - observation/reconnaissance - recording
 - analysis of previous work
- Planning should include:-
 - identifying priorities
 - developing wider community contacts - timescales
- Implementation should include:-
 - constructive conversation with young people - building relationships with young people
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- planned intervention
- advocacy role for young people
- Evaluation should include:-
 - examine quality, quantity and effectiveness
 - examine continuation or re-orientation of work - examine success/unsuccessful indicators
 - written reports, interim and final.
- Exit/Sustainability can include:-
 - withdrawal when the projects clearly defined aims and objectives have been met
 - an agreed process where Detached Youth Work moves on to another type of social intervention.

TRAINING

As for all youth workers, training is required. Some specific courses would be highly recommended, e.g. safeguarding, first aid, equality and diversity, detached youth work.

The minimum qualification for a youth worker in charge of a session should be NVQ Level 2 in Youth Work or Children and Young People.