

Youth Consultation Action Plan for Youth Services

The Context:

The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth is developing a new Action Plan for Youth Services to support strategic youth service development and to ensure that young people in Ireland are able to benefit from high-quality youth work and related leisure-time youth development opportunities.

It is critical that the new Action Plan for Youth Services is informed by the views of young people. NYCI and ETBI are working together to hear from young people currently involved in youth services to bring your voice to the Department.

The Ask:

We want to hear from young people who are experiencing youth work right now and we would appreciate if youth workers would support us to harvest their views and make sure that their voice comes into this process loud and clear.

The Proposals:

Reality Check! – We know that models and modes of youth work are shifting during the summer months and we absolutely understand that this might represent a challenge in terms of engagement on this.

Option 1: Share the survey link with young people in your network and invite them to answer the questions in their own time. Some will do it, some will not, we get what we get. Click here to access the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APYS>

Option 2: Do a mini session with groups to frame the context of the consultation while supporting them to get in the zone for really contributing. This would involve a short workshop which would prep the group for completing the online survey there and then.

The mini session would involve supporting the young people to really just get in the head space where they are in a position to bring their youth work experience into conscious awareness so that they can talk about its benefits, how it's organised, how it can be improved, how they are involved and what Govt need to focus on in terms of ACTION.

[Check out the survey in advance by clicking here](#), so that you are familiar with the questions.

We also have some suggestions for how you might stimulate the group to get in the zone for answering the questions. Of course you can take them or leave them!

Action Plan for a positive future in Youth Work

Whenever we ask the questions, “what should we do?” or “what is needed?” we should be ready to take the best of what we have, imagine the best of how things could be and then work on how we get there.

To prepare for the key questions within the online survey we would invite groups to consider the following;

An activity to stimulate thoughts & feelings about their experience of this youth work provision which will help them to get into a mindset for completing the online survey.

This is our youth group, youth project, youth service

Let's look at some of the elements that make up a positive youth provision. *Accessible, enjoyable, inclusive, safe and empowering. A youth exclusive space, a place where there are supports and opportunities, where young people thrive, can develop their potential and become active and engaged members of society as they transition to adulthood.*

Consider using the set of question cards on the page below and invite group members to pick a card and share the answer. Or develop your own which will support a group reflection of their experiences.

(This could also be a Podcast, a video, a piece of artwork! If you think your group would be inclined to do any of these please send them on to us and we will include the content!)

This could be a 10/15min session and then provide the link for the survey and people can do it individually while collectively discussing the questions if needs be.

The Survey Link is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/APYS>

Question card options:

<p>Access</p> <p>Who is this for? Who comes here?</p>	<p>Enjoyment</p> <p>What is enjoyable about this?</p>	<p>Inclusion</p> <p>How do young people get involved?</p>	<p>Safety</p> <p>What makes this a safe place?</p>
<p>Growth</p> <p>How do we grow and develop here?</p>	<p>Space</p> <p>What's good about the space/layout?</p>	<p>Support</p> <p>How do you get support here?</p>	<p>Importance</p> <p>How important is this for you?</p>
<p>Influence</p> <p>How do you get to influence what happens here?</p>	<p>Improvement</p> <p>What would make things better here?</p>	<p>People</p> <p>What's good about the staff/volunteers here?</p>	