

A Career In Childcare Youth & Community Worker

What is a Youth & Community Worker?

Youth & community workers are trained to work with people of all ages. This work is concerned with personal, social and educational development of individuals as well as community development and empowerment. Many workers specialise in youth work. In Oldham this is with young people between 13 and 23, with priority given to those aged between 13 and 19. They work in a variety of settings appropriate to young people's changing needs including detached, outreach and centre based. Many youth workers work part time either paid or unpaid.

What does a Youth & Community Worker do?

Many youth workers work in a club or centre organising sports, drama, educational and other activities to provide informal guidance to young people. Projects may be concerned with health education, study support, young offenders, youth volunteering, community regeneration and homelessness. Some workers offer group discussions or individual counselling. There may be managerial and administrative duties, and there is contact with other agencies and professionals such as the police, social workers, teachers and probation officers.



Qualities & Skills

- Be able to establish good relationships and earn the trust of others;
- Be able to communicate with a wide range of people;
- Have good listening skills;
- Be emotionally mature and sensitive, yet resilient;
- Have interests or skills in areas such as health, sport, arts and technology;
- Have initiative and enthusiasm to set up and maintain projects;
- Have good organisation, planning and administrative skills; and
- Be committed to equal opportunities.

How do I become a Youth & Community Worker?

Most employers require candidates to hold, or be willing to work towards, a nationally recognised qualification in youth work. Courses are available to study part-time, full-time, distance learning or as a work-based option and all include a substantial amount of field work. There are a number of qualifications available, which reflects the variety of occupational settings youth and community workers practice in.

The minimum age for this profession is 21 years.

All professionals working with children must be physically fit and hold an enhanced certificate of disclosure issued by the Criminal Records Bureau.

**If you require any further information,
please telephone 0800 731 1518
or visit www.childcarelink.gov.uk/oldham
or www.oldham.gov.uk/childcare**

