

# National Youth Work Awards

Celebrating Excellence

Catergories and Guidance Notes for Nominators





#### National Youth Work Awards 2024



#### **National Youth Work Awards**

The National Youth Work Awards celebrates youth work and the youth workers who make a difference every year in the lives of young people.

The last year has continued to be exceptionally challenging for the sector as youth workers support young people post-pandemic and deal with increasing poverty barriers. The Awards will highlight the life-changing role youth workers play in the lives of young people across the country.

#### The Audience

The National Youth Works Awards is now in its 17th year. The audience includes more than 300 practitioners, managers, volunteers and supporters of youth work from many different sectors as well as Scottish Government Ministers, MSPs, civil servants, other figures from public and civic life in Scotland.

#### **Nomination Forms**

Nominations should be made online via our online form:

#### https://www.youthlink.scot/awards/nominate/

For any further information or queries you may have about the nomination process, including offline forms, please contact:

awards@youthlink.scot

#### National Youth Work Awards 2024



#### **Award Categories**

The National Youth Work Awards are aimed at individual youth workers, managers, projects or groups for work that is delivered in youth work settings or in other settings, using a youth work approach. The awards are a mixture of universal, targeted and specialist youth work provision.

Award categories are listed below in alphabetical order:

- Arts & Creativity
- Community-Based Youth Work
- Digital & STEM
- · Equality & Diversity
- Health & Wellbeing
- Inclusion and Prevention
- Inspirational Leader
- Outdoor Learning & Environment
- Participation & Youth Voice
- Recognising Skills & Achievement
- Team of the Year
- Volunteer Youth Worker
- Youth Worker of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award (Fellowship of YouthLink Scotland)

Note: The Lifetime Achievement Award is in the gift of the Board of YouthLink Scotland. Nominations may be submitted in the normal way or via the YouthLink Scotland Board.



#### National Youth Work Awards 2024



#### **Guidance Notes**

- Read the criteria and eligibility for each category carefully and ensure the information is clear, concise and demonstrates why your nominee should be a finalist.
- Nominations are limited to no more than one nomination per organisation, per category. We would also ask that you limit nominations to no more than two nominations across all categories.
- Information on the nominee must be accurate please ensure contact details (especially email addresses) are correct.
- Entries MUST adhere to the word limit in each section of the nomination form
- Please attach any supporting materials (clearly marked with the nominee's name and category).
- The supporting statement (from either a young person or youth worker) is really important in all the categories, but is not required for Inspirational Leadership or Lifetime Achievement nominations.
- If a nominee submitted by a young person is shortlisted, we will contact the supporting person to assist with additional information and consent forms and getting to and from the awards venue depending on the young person's age.
- It is preferred that nominations and any attachments are submitted using our online form or sent by email to awards@youthlinkscotland.org but hard copies are also accepted.
- Please make sure you attach a high resolution (at least 3MB) head and shoulders image of your nominee which can be used for the dinner programme, presentation and media purposes.



#### **Timeline**

- 12 December 2023
- 26 January 2024
- 1-12 February 2024
- 19 & 22 February 2024
- 11 March 2024
- 12 June 2024

Nominations open Deadline for nominations

Shortlisting

Judging panels

Finalists announced

**Awards Dinner** 



#### **Arts & Creativity**

The Arts & Creativity award recognises individuals or groups who have been highly successful in encouraging young people's participation in the arts.

Award nominees will be using a youth work approach to support young people's learning in the arts or building arts and creativity into a youth work setting.

- Targeting inequality and removing barriers to access the arts.
- Demonstrating effective partnership working between the arts and youth work sector.
- Using innovative approaches to deliver creative opportunities for young people in one or more of the following art forms – drama, dance, film, visual arts, music, literature or digital arts.
- Engaging young people in the arts for the first time or supporting young people to nurture and grow existing talent.



The Judging Panel will assess the nominations for the **Arts & Creativity Award** against the following criteria.

- It targets inequality by removing barriers to accessing the arts.
- It uses innovative approaches to deliver creative opportunities for young people in the arts e.g. drama, dance, film, visual arts, music, literature or digital arts.
- The project supports young people to achieve youth work outcomes & skills.
- Their practice demonstrates the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work.
- The youth worker or project shows passion and dedication to helping young people participate in the arts.
- Their story or practice is inspiring to others.
- The youth worker or project worked effectively with the arts sector to support young people.
- The youth worker or project supported young people to nurture and grow talent at an individual, local or national level.
- Their practice has a lasting legacy for young people in the arts.
- Their contribution is recognised and respected by other practitioners and the arts sector.



#### **Community-Based Youth Work**

The Community-based Youth Work award recognises recognises an individual or group with a strong focus on delivering universal youth work in their local community. Award nominees will be adopting an approach that is generic and open to all in the local area.

- Building positive relationships with young people.
- Creating opportunities for informal learning for young people in their local community.
- Working with young people to shape opportunities for learning through active participation in activities that are of interest to young people.
- Delivering youth work in their local community and being open to all
- Promoting partnership working and empowering their communities.



The Judging Panel will assess the nominations for the **Community-Based Youth Work Award** against the following criteria.

- The youth worker or project takes a community-based approach to practice that's open to all.
- The youth worker or project creates opportunities for young people to engage in the local community and supports youth-led engagement and participation.
- The youth worker or project builds positive relationships with young people.
- They developed positive group work with young people.
- The youth worker or project supports young people to achieve youth work outcomes & skills.
- Their practice demonstrates the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work.
- The youth worker or project shows outstanding passion and dedication to helping young people participate in their communities.
- Their story or practice is inspiring to others.
- The youth worker or project worked effectively with other practitioners and community organisations to support local young people.
- The youth worker or project delivered change for the community.
- Their practice has a lasting legacy for young people or the community.
- Their contribution is recognised and respected by the community.



#### **Digital & STEM**

The Digital & STEM award recognises an individual or group that has used digital technology, STEM approaches or social media in an innovative way within their youth work practice.

Award nominees will either be using digital or STEM technology within youth work or supporting young people to navigate the online aspects of their lives.

- Making use of innovative approaches and offering new experiences to young people.
- Involving young people in the planning, implementation and evaluation of digital and STEM youth work.
- Using digital media and technology to achieve youth work outcomes.
- Addressing online and social media challenges and opportunities for young people e.g. sexting, cyber-bullying, online campaigning, digital rights.



The Judging Panel will assess the nominations for the **Digital & STEM Award a**gainst the following criteria.

- It is exceptional digital and/or STEM youth work.
- It uses digital technology within youth work or supports young people to navigate the online aspects of their lives.
- The youth worker or project creates new models of practice for digital youth work.
- They are delivering new experiences to young people.
- The youth worker or project uses digital media/technology to support young people to achieve youth work outcomes & skills.
- Their practice demonstrates the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work.
- The youth worker or project shows outstanding passion and dedication to helping young people participate in their communities.
- Their story or practice is inspiring to others.
- The youth worker or project has involved young people in the planning, implementation and evaluation of digital youth work.
- The youth worker has worked effectively with other practitioners or digital organisations to support young people.
- The youth worker or project addressed the digital challenges and opportunities facing young people today e.g. cyber bullying or an online campaign.
- Their contribution is recognised and respected by young people and the sector.



#### **Equality & Diversity**

The Equality & Diversity award recognises individuals or groups who are making a significant difference to the lives of young people facing discrimination, using a youth work approach.

Award nominees will be promoting the Equality Act and be active in supporting young people facing additional barriers. For instance, protected characteristics, care experience, young carers and/or their experience of poverty. They will support young people to understand and challenge, prejudice and discrimination in all its forms.

- Promoting an equalities and human rights best practice approach through their work with young people.
- Supporting young people to understand and challenge prejudice and discrimination in all its forms.
- Supporting young people to understand and overcome barriers caused by inequality.
- Supporting young people to participate in new experiences and thinking.
- Fostering young people's understanding of social justice issues and to consider social action.
- Demonstrating an understanding of intersectionality in their work and fostering partnership working.



The Judging Panel will assess the nominations for the **Equality & Diversity Award** against the following criteria.

- The work actively supports young people to understand and challenge prejudice for one or more of the protected characteristics or inequalities such as poverty, young carers, care experience.
- There is evidence the youth worker or project has helped young people to overcome barriers caused by inequality.
- The youth worker or project is promoting best practice on equalities and human rights.
- The youth worker or project supports young people to achieve youth work outcomes & skill.
- Their practice demonstrates the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work.
- The youth worker or project shows passion and dedication to helping young people understand or challenge prejudice.
- Their story or practice is inspiring to others.
- The youth worker or project demonstrates an understanding of inequalities & intersectionality in their work and the impact this has on young people.
- They have built positive relationships with minority groups, community groups, other equalities organisations or partnerships.
- The youth worker or project has made a significant difference to the lives of young people facing discrimination.
- Their work has raised awareness of prejudice and discrimination at a local, regional or national level.
- Their practice has a lasting legacy for young people or the sector.



#### Health & Wellbeing

The Health & Wellbeing award recognises individuals or groups that are positively transforming the health and wellbeing of young people.

This takes into account all aspects of health including: mental health, emotional & social, physical health & sports, sexual health & relationships, food & nutrition, substance misuse & addictions and poverty reduction.

- Increasing mental health literacy.
- Helping young people build resilience.
- Creating places and spaces for young people that contribute to positive wellbeing and healthier, active lives.
- Demonstrating effective partnership working with the health sector.
- Using innovative practice locally or nationally to provide consistent skill, knowledge and dedication in delivering quality services to young people.



The Judging Panel will assess the nominations for the **Health & Wellbeing Award** against the following criteria.

- The work has transformed young people's health and wellbeing.
- The youth worker or project has created places and spaces for young people that contribute to their positive wellbeing and help them live healthier, more active lives.
- The youth worker or project has helped young people to build resilience or confidence.
- The youth worker or project is using innovative practice to deliver quality health support/advice/service for young people.
- Their story or practice is inspiring to others.
- The youth worker or project supports young people to achieve youth work outcomes & skills.
- Their practice demonstrates the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work.
- The youth worker or project has worked effectively with the health sector or other partners to support young people.
- The youth worker or project has increased health literacy at an individual, local or national level.
- Their practice has a lasting legacy for young people, the community or the sector.



#### **Inclusion & Prevention**

The Inclusion and Prevention award recognises individuals or groups with a strong focus on rights-respecting work that supports young people to grow up safely in Scotland

Award nominees will be using a youth work approach to work in partnership with young people to address the drivers of youth violence.

- Building positive relationships with young people.
- Supporting young people to define their own solutions and lead community responses to safety.
- Upholding the rights of the most marginalised and excluded young people.
- Works across communities strengthening bonds and support networks.
- Understanding the unmet needs of young people.
- May use one or more of the following approaches: peer education, restorative approaches, trauma-informed approach.
- May focus on one or more of the following issues: positive masculinity, wellbeing, community building.



The Judging Panel will assess the nominations for the **Inclusion & Prevention Award** against the following criteria.

- The youth worker or project supports young people to consider risk, make reasoned decisions and take control of their situation.
- They have supported young people towards positive pathways, based on their skills and interest.
- The youth worker or project provides early intervention which is targeted towards young people at risk of offending behaviour.
- This interaction is effective in reducing/preventing offending in young people.
- The youth worker or project supports young people to achieve youth work outcomes & skills.
- Their practice demonstrates the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work.
- The youth worker or project shows outstanding passion and dedication to helping young people participate in their communities.
- Their story or practice is inspiring to others.
- The youth worker or project has worked effectively with other agencies such as schools, businesses, charities and the local community.
- The youth worker or project has supported young people to gain confidence and skills at an individual, local or national level.
- Their practice has a lasting legacy for young people at risk of offending.
- Their contribution is recognised and respected by the community.



#### **Inspirational Leader**

The Inspirational Leader award recognises the value of quality leadership within a voluntary or local authority youth work setting. The award recognises that leadership within youth work happens at various levels.

Award nominees will be demonstrating their ability to lead and inspire their teams during periods of change or challenging circumstances.

- Inspiring their team and building workforce capacity.
- Promoting a culture of improvement through reflective practice and selfevaluation.
- Providing innovative solutions to meet the challenge of change.



The Judging Panel will assess the nominations for the **Inspirational Leader Award** against the following criteria.

- The nominee provides good quality youth work leadership.
- The nominee has promoted a culture of improvement through reflective practice and self-evaluation.
- The nominee uses innovative solutions to meet the challenge of change.
- The nominee has inspired their team and built workforce capacity.
- The nominee has worked effectively with other practitioners, local communities or national organisations to support their team through change.
- The nominee has successfully led and inspired a team or department through challenging circumstances.
- The nominee has delivered significant change at a local or national level.
- Their contribution is recognised and respected by their team, the youth work sector and senior management.



#### **Outdoor Learning & Environment**

The Outdoor Learning & Environment award recognises an individual, organisation or group that has successfully worked with young people to develop and deliver an outdoor learning and/or environmental project using a youth work approach.

- Providing progressive and creative outdoor learning and/or environmental youth work opportunities for young people.
- Facilitating enjoyable and challenging opportunities for young people to learn outdoors.
- Encouraging young people and their wider community to become interested in outdoor activities and/or environmental issues.
- Promoting a greater awareness and understanding of environmental and/or conservation issues.
- Connecting young people with the great outdoors and nature so that learning in the outdoor environment becomes a reality for all young people.



The Judging Panel will assess the nominations for the **Outdoor Learning & Environment Award** against the following criteria.

- The youth worker, project or organisation has worked with young people to provide progressive and creative outdoor learning and/or environmental youth work opportunities for young people.
- The youth worker, project or organisation has facilitated enjoyable and challenging opportunities for young people to learn outdoors.
- The youth worker, project or organisation supports young people to achieve youth work outcomes & skills.
- Their practice demonstrates the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work.
- The youth worker, project or organisation shows outstanding passion and dedication to helping and encouraging young people and their wider community to become interested in outdoor activities and/or environmental issues.
- Their story or practice is inspiring to others.
- The youth worker, project or organisation worked effectively with other partners to support the young people and project.
- The youth worker, project or organisation has delivered change for the community.
- Their practice has a lasting legacy for young people.
- Their contribution is recognised and respected by the young people or community.
- The youth worker, project or organisation has promoted a greater awareness & understanding of environmental and/or conservation issues.
- The youth worker, project or organisation connects young people with the great outdoors and nature so that learning in the outdoor environment becomes a reality for all young people.



#### Participation & Youth Voice

The Participation & Youth Voice award recognises individuals or groups that are leading the way in supporting youth-led advocacy and decisionmaking.

Award nominees will be effecting change that benefits young people and the wider community.

- Enabling youth-led structures, such as youth forums, pupil councils, or youth parliaments.
- Supporting young people to play a representative and/or co-design role in charities, businesses, public sector bodies or community planning partnerships.
- Supporting young people in youth-led advocacy and decision making, through unstructured and/or nontraditional routes.



The Judging Panel will assess the nominations for the **Participation & Youth Voice Award** against the following criteria.

- The work enables youth-led structures, such as youth forums, pupil councils or youth parliaments.
- The youth worker or project supports young people in youth-led advocacy and decision making through unstructured and/or non-traditional routes.
- The youth worker or project is building positive relationships with young people to effect change.
- The youth worker or project worked effectively with charities, businesses, public sector bodies or community planning partnerships to support local young people.
- They have supported young people to play a representative role in charities, businesses, public sector bodies or their communities.
- The youth worker or project supports young people to achieve youth work outcomes & skills.
- Their practice demonstrates the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work.
- The youth worker or project shows outstanding passion and dedication to helping young people lead change and decision-making in the wider community.
- The youth worker or project has delivered change for youth-led structures.
- Their practice has a lasting legacy for youth-led advocacy and decision-making.
- Their contribution is recognised and respected by young people, the youth work sector and the wider community.



#### Recognising Skills & Achievement

This award recognises individuals or groups who demonstrate best practice in raising attainment or closing the poverty-related attainment gap, by supporting young people to both develop and recognise their skills and achievements. The work will use a youth work approach and should have been undertaken in collaboration with schools, youth awards, college or other partners.

- Working in partnership with schools, youth awards or other partners.
- Providing tailored opportunities for young people to develop skills and achieve.
- Supporting young people to recognise and articulate their skills and achievements.
- Increasing volunteering, employment and enterprise opportunities for young people.
- Supporting young people to overcome barriers to learning.
- Encouraging young people towards positive pathways.
- Creating meaningful and good quality experiences of work that promote innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Tracking skills and achievements of young people.
- Helping to close the poverty-related attainment gap.
- Creating opportunities for young people to gain accreditation and qualifications.
- Delivering learning experiences and one-to-one support that help young people develop the skills and capacities essential for their learner and career journey.



The Judging Panel will assess the nominations for the **Recognising Skills & Achievement Award** against the following criteria.

- The youth worker or project supports young people to achieve youth work outcomes & skills.
- Their practice demonstrates the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work.
- The youth worker or project shows outstanding passion and dedication to helping young people achieve their potential.
- Their story or practice is inspiring to others.
- Their work is helping to raise attainment or close the poverty-related attainment gap.
- The youth worker or project has worked in collaboration with schools, youth awards, college, employers or other stakeholders.
- The project supports young people to develop and recognise their skills and achievements.
- It delivers best practice in one or more of the following:
- Providing tailored opportunities for young people to develop skills and achieve.
- Increasing volunteering, employment and enterprise opportunities for young people.
- Supporting young people to overcome barriers to learning.
- Encouraging young people towards positive pathways
- Tracking skills and achievements of young people.
- Creating opportunities for young people to gain accreditation and qualifications.
- Delivering learning experiences and one-to-one support that help young people develop the skills and capacities essential for their learner and career journey.



#### Team of the Year

The Team of the Year award recognises effective and high performing team work, leading to positive youth work outcomes.

Award nominees will be evidencing sector-leading practice through collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders.

- Supporting and empowering staff and volunteers to deliver high quality services.
- Demonstrating the impact of its work with young people through evaluation and evidence-based practice.
- Partnership working with young people, partners and stakeholders to design and deliver significant outcomes for the young people who have participated in youth work activities.



The Judging Panel will assess the nominations for the **Team of the Year Award** against the following criteria.

- That through this good teamwork young people are supported to achieve youth work outcomes & skills.
- Their practice demonstrates the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work.
- The team are developing and delivering sector-leading practice.
- They are delivering youth work which is unique or above-and-beyond everyday practice.
- The team has shown outstanding passion and dedication to improving the lives of young people.
- They are supporting and empowering all staff and volunteers to deliver high quality services.
- The team has worked effectively with young people, partners and stakeholders to design and deliver significant outcomes for young people who participate in youth work activities.
- The team's practice has a lasting legacy for young people or the sector.
- The team are demonstrating the impact of their work with young people through evaluation and evidence-based practice.
- The team has delivered change at a local or national level.



#### Volunteer Youth Worker

The Volunteer Youth Worker award will go to a volunteer youth worker who has consistently demonstrated their commitment to delivering quality youth work opportunities for young people.

Award nominees, will be involved in face-to-face work with young people in a youth work setting.

- Supporting young people to achieve youth work outcomes.
- Creating opportunities for young people to realise their potential.
- Raising the profile of young people's achievements through youth work.



The Judging Panel will assess the nominations for the **Volunteer Youth Worker Award** against the following criteria.

- The volunteer youth worker supports young people to achieve youth work outcomes & skills.
- Their practice demonstrates the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work.
- The volunteer youth worker consistently demonstrates their commitment to delivering quality youth work opportunities for young people.
- The volunteer youth worker shows outstanding passion and dedication to improving the lives of young people.
- The volunteer youth worker creates opportunities for young people to realise their potential.
- Their story or practice is inspiring to others.
- The volunteer youth worker works effectively with other practitioners and volunteers to support young people or raise the profile of youth work.
- The volunteer youth worker raised the profile of young people's achievements through youth work at a local or national level.
- Their volunteering has a lasting legacy for young people or the voluntary youth work sector.



#### Youth Worker of the Year

The Youth Worker of the Year award recognises a youth worker with a passion and dedication to improving the lives of young people through youth work.

Award nominees will be delivering quality services, which are having a positive impact on young people. Their contribution is recognised and respected by young people, youth workers and partners.

- Consistently demonstrating the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work
- Delivering youth work outcomes with young people
- Innovating and sustaining new models of practice
- Demonstrating an evidence-based approach to practice
- Working effectively in partnership with others



The Judging Panel will assess nominations for the **Youth Worker of the Year Award** against the following criteria.

- The youth worker supports young people to achieve youth work outcomes & skills.
- Their practice demonstrates the skills, knowledge and value base of youth work.
- The youth worker is creating and sustaining new models of practice.
- They are delivering youth work which is unique or above-and-beyond everyday practice.
- The youth worker shows outstanding passion and dedication to improving the lives of young people.
- Their story or practice is inspiring to others.
- The youth worker has worked effectively with other practitioners and organisations to support young people or raise the profile of youth work.
- The youth worker has delivered change at an individual, local or national level.
- Their practice has a lasting legacy for young people or the sector.
- Their contribution is recognised and respected by young people, youth workers and partners.



# Lifetime Achievement (Fellowship of YouthLink Scotland)

The Lifetime Achievement award recognises an individual who has made a consistent and outstanding contribution to youth work, impacting significantly on the lives of young people. The award nominee's contribution will be evident at a local and/or national level in a youth work setting. They will be held in high regard by young people, youth workers, managers and partner organisations.

Their contribution will have left a lasting legacy in the youth work sector.

Nominations may be submitted by organisations or individuals from the field of youth work and must be supported by a positive endorsement from a senior member of management.

The Lifetime Award is in the gift of the board of YouthLink Scotland.



YouthLink Scotland, Caledonian Exchange, 19A Canning St. Edinburgh, EH3 8EG

T: 0131 202 8050 E: info@youthlink.scot W: www.youthlink.scot YouthLink Scotland is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in Scotland No: 164547. Charity Ref: SC003923















