



National Discussion on Education – Next Steps

Youth work is an integral part of Scottish education¹.

Young people participating in youth work ask Education Reform to ensure that every young person can access youth work as a fundamental element of their education.

This would enable the changes they identified are needed in education²:

- **Skills and achievements through youth work are recognised alongside exam results**
- **Every young person can access youth work where and when they need it**
- **Youth workers and teachers will work better together**
- **All young people can access youth work opportunities as part of their curriculum/timetable**
- **Schools can provide more opportunities for young people to develop life-relevant skills**
- **Young people will feel safe, respected, supported and included by those who support their learning.**

YouthLink Scotland believes all young people should have a right to access youth work. This includes as part of their education. And to have their voice heard.

Key actions

The following key actions are recommended to achieve a transformed education system, with youth work as a fundamental component:

- Formal recognition of the integral role of youth work in Scottish education
- A right for all young people to access youth work opportunities
- Sustained investment in youth work services

Alongside these critical actions, systemic and culture change at all levels is required to ensure an entitlement to youth work in education is realised. This includes:

¹ <https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/media/7735/youthlink-scotland-response-to-national-discussion-on-education.pdf>

² https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/media/7719/views-of-young-people-participating-in-youth-work_web.pdf

- All teacher education programmes at Scottish institutions will include youth work as a core element.
- Scotland's education agency and the national agency for youth work will work together to facilitate inter-professional learning. This should drive improvement through effective collaboration – supporting joint planning and curriculum delivery.
- An expectation that youth work will be embedded in the curriculum offer, across all levels, as a CfE entitlement for all young people.
- Further support for school and education authority leaders in strategic and school planning to ensure the curriculum is designed across school and community.
- A reformed Scottish qualifications and assessment system will demonstrate parity across formal and non-formal learning. This will include a process to capture and celebrate a young person's progress, skills and achievements through youth work.
- The term 'wider achievement' will be phased out of the language of Scottish education. All achievements are achievement.
- Ensure youth work services and organisations have access to school facilities to ensure safe, suitable spaces for youth workers to support and work with young people.
- There should be a coherent (and young person-led) approach to learner profiling that allows every young person to record and value their skills and achievements across all the places they learn.
- Greater recognition of youth work's role in the post-school ecosystem, with strengthened support for youth work and college collaboration, including facilitating transitions.

This supplementary response to the National Discussion reflects the views of over 700 young people (participating in youth work across Scotland) and the youth work practitioners who support their learning. It also takes cognisance of the priorities and actions identified within the National Youth Work Strategy, due to be published by the Scottish Government in Spring 2023.

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