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**National Youth Work Conference 2024 - Upstream Solutions: Youth Work’s Role in Prevention** **-Tuesday 5th November in Glasgow**

This year’s Conference will examine how youth work’s early interventions not only mend but prevent fractures in our communities.

We’ll explore how youth work’s ‘upstream’ approach can build resilience, develop skills, promote healthy lifestyles - and ultimately change lives for the better.

In a world where every day seems to be a bad news day, it's time to recognise our role in prevention. Our conference highlights the significance of early intervention, addressing root causes, and empowering young people to navigate life's challenges and build resilience.

At its core, youth work is an empowering educational practice. It supports young people to fulfil their potential and thrive, at the same time youth work is prevention.  Research shows that investing in youth work leads to significant improvements in mental health and wellbeing, reduces youth offending, and boosts educational attainment and equity– making significant cost savings to the public purse. Continued investment in youth work can ease pressure on future budgets and equip young people with the skills and confidence they need for life.

So, join us as we champion "Upstream Solutions" — an approach that empowers young people to identify risks and protective factors in their lives, preventing crises before they occur. By prioritising youth work and prevention, we not only build a resilient generation but also alleviate the strain on our public services and create a brighter future for all.

**WORKSHOP AND LINK MAGAZINE PROPOSALS**

Every year we use our **Link Magazine** **and conference workshops** to promote and share best practice and develop skills.

The call for workshop proposals and Link Magazine articles is now open. Please complete this pro forma and **return by Friday 24th May**.

We are looking for proposals which demonstrate strong practice examples, new initiatives, ground-breaking work, radical approaches, tried and tested, policy change work, pilot projects, peer education, research and examples of partnership working.

From mental health to digital literacy, from education to youth justice, we'll showcase examples of youth work’s effective preventative action and its impact on individual and community well-being.

We welcome insightful discussions, data-driven research, real-life examples, and inspiring stories of partnership working, policy changes, pilot projects, peer education, and established practices within youth work. Let's shed light on the immense impact youth work has on how youth work’s ‘upstream’ approach can build resilience, develop skills, promote healthy lifestyles – and ultimately change lives for the better.

For more information on our National Youth Work Conference please contact Susan Symington – [ssymington@youthlink.scot](mailto:ssymington@youthlink.scot)

For more information on our Link Magazine please contact Sarah Paterson - [spaterson@youthlink.scot](mailto:spaterson@youthlink.scot)

**The deadline for submitting a proposal is Friday 24th May but please submit your ideas as soon as possible.**

**THE SMALL PRINT**

There will be a total of six workshops/mini seminars held three times during the conference day and run for approximately one hour. 

Rooms will be set in a semi-circle of chairs or theatre style depending on the area available.

Each workshop has the capacity for **two facilitators** who will be able to participate in the main conference free of charge. Please note that additional facilitator places will be charged the full conference fee.

Pre-conference information and advertising will include a summary of the workshop and its aims.   

A decision-making group to select workshops and Link Magazine articles will take place in June.  Confirmation that your workshop or Link Magazine proposal has been successful will be emailed to you by middle of July.   

**YOUR PROPOSAL**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title of Workshop or Link Magazine Article** *(this is what will appear in our pre-event information and the conference programme)* |  |
| **Local Authority/Organisation/**  **Partnership** |  |
| **Contact Name** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Phone** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Socials** |  |

**Who will lead this session?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Facilitator** |  |
| **Name of Co-Facilitator** |  |

**Which conference aim does your proposal contribute most towards?**

|  |  |  |
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| **Tell us what your workshop will be about? (no more than 250 words)** |
|  |
| **Tell us what you think the audience will learn from your workshop (no more than 3 bullet points)** |
|  |
| **Tell us how you will present your workshop** |
|  |
| **Tell us what your Link Magazine article will be about? (no more than 500 words)** |
|  |
| **Tell us what you think the sector will learn from this article (no more than 3 bullet points)** |
|  |

**Please save and return** to Susan Symington, Information & Events Officer at YouthLink Scotland - [ssymington@youthlink.scot](mailto:ssymington@youthlinkscotland.org) no later than Friday 24th May.