

## **Scottish Youth Work Research Steering Group**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Purpose**

The Scottish Youth Work Research Steering Group (SYWRSG) is an established partnership that brings together key representatives from the youth work sector, universities, related policy areas and government. The group works collaboratively to support the development of evidence-based and data-driven practice across the youth work sector in Scotland. The work of this group contributes to the National Youth Work Strategy and oversees the development of a national programme of youth work research.

#### **Aims**

The aims of the group are to identify and create opportunities:

- To critically examine the long-term impact of youth work on the lives and lifestyles of young people and the wider communities across Scotland.
- To identify how and what young people learn from participating in youth work provision.
- To utilise multi-method research approaches to build an evidence base for the development of innovative and creative youth work practice.

#### **Responsibilities**

The groups responsibilities will include:

- Working with the youth work sector to respond to their research interests and needs.
- Identifying, pursuing and securing appropriate funds to support research activity.
- Generating, collating and disseminating research findings.
- Building capacity around research skills and methods across the youth work sector.
- Promoting and supporting evidence-based and data-driven youth work practice.

#### **Membership**

The Scottish Youth Work Research Steering Group is a collaboration between:

Dona Milne (Chair)	NHS Lothian
Amy Calder (Secretariat)	YouthLink Scotland
Laurene Edgar	LAYC
Jo MacDonald	Youth Scotland
Kelly Ross	Dumfries and Galloway Youth Work Service
Ruth McKenna	Scottish Government
Ian Fyfe	University of Edinburgh
Andrew Williams	University of Edinburgh
Annette Coburn	University West of Scotland
Edward Beggan	University of Glasgow
Martin Purcell	University of Dundee
Alan Mackie	University of Dundee
Bethia McNeil	YMCA George Williams College
Vincent Moore	Education Scotland
David Brown	CLD Standards Council

**Limitations**

The SYWRSG recognises that many youth organisations undertake evaluation and impact assessments; this work is vitally important to the sector and to meeting the needs of individual young people; however due to the diversity of approaches, methods and potential volume of such reports, work of this nature will not be included within the scope of the group.