



YOUTH WORK STATEMENT OF BELIEF AND COMMITMENT

Youth Workers perform their duties to meet the needs of young people therefore Youth Workers must understand that they have a privileged access to young people. They have a professional role, which brings with it ethical and practical responsibilities they must respect and adhere to.

The following principles underpin good practice: -

- 1) Respect for young people as equal members of the community in which they choose to live and the right to be treated as such.
- 2) The right of young people to be listened to and have their views acknowledged and acted upon.
- 3) Advice to young people which, reflects and responds to their relative inexperience but does not compromise their right to independence.
- 4) A respect for young people's right to confidentiality. (See Child Protection guidelines and confidentiality document).
- 5) Working within an Equal Opportunities framework. (See Equal Opportunities document).
- 6) To work in ways, which lead to the empowerment of young people and enhance their rights.

PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS

- 1) Recognize the boundaries between personal and professional life and be aware of the need to balance a caring and supportive relationship with young people with appropriate, professional distance.
- 2) Recognize the need to be accountable to young people, their parents or guardians, colleagues, funders and others with relevant interest in the work, and that these accountabilities may be in conflict.
- 3) Develop and maintain the required skills and competence to do the job.