

Pathways to Nature Training Session
“The Nature of Youth Work”
Session Plan

10:30 - 10:50 Welcome and Opening Round

- Share your name, where you are from and 1 thing you have enjoyed about Pathways to Nature so far 😊

10:50 - 11:15 “When I Was Young”: Individual Reflective Exercise

- Each participant traces one of their hands
- Reflecting on when they were young, the invitation is to write into each finger one thing that connects them with their memory/experience of being a young person;

Something I needed (Need)

Something I was interested in (Interest)

Something I struggled with (Struggle/Concern)

Something/someone that influenced me (Influence)

Something I wanted to achieve/aim for (Goal)

The completed hands will then be stuck up to form the layered petals of a flower; symbolising youth as a time of growth and change, reflecting on how our journey of growing (up) is shaped by our experiences, relationships, personalities, opportunities, environment. Leading into the next exercise – How does our work (Youth Work) contribute to/shape young people’s lives?

11:15 – 12:00 Putting the Pieces Together – Our Picture of Youth Work

A Picture paints a Thousand Words – art is a universal language

Individuals will be arranged into 4 **Groups** (mix of nationalities in each) with the following **Task**;

- A large pre-prepared jigsaw puzzle piece will be given to the group
- Using whatever art supplies they choose, the group must show us on the page what Youth Work is (pictures, symbols, colours, textures)
- Each person can take their own little corner or the group can work together to create a collective picture – whatever way they do it, they must share with each other what their contribution means
- 1 person will be asked to say a few words about their piece as the Jigsaw is assembled
- The whole group will be invited to stand back from the piece and take a moment to look at it
- What stands out? What do you notice? Common themes?

12 – 12:15 Comfort Break

12:15 – 1:00 Youth Work Works! – Our Tree of Knowledge

- Break the group up into 3 or 4 small groups– different combination from before
- Each group will be asked to consider a different aspect of Youth Work;

Roots – Underpinning principles/values/frameworks for our work – written onto cards

Trunk – Methodologies/Approaches – what we do and how we do it – written on a white sheet with fabric pens

Branches – outcomes and social impact – the difference the work makes for young people and wider society – written on individual paper leaves with string loops for hanging them

With a real tree as our focal point, we put together our Tree of Knowledge – cards placed around the **Roots**, sheet content shared and then wrapped and secured around the **Trunk** and leaves hung on the **Branches**; recognising, validating and sharing what we know; making visible our practice wisdom and drawing out what the tree can tell us about young people/youth work;

Strong roots; independent yet interconnected and interdependent; resilient; adaptable; contributing to community; unique and beautiful; vulnerable to changing environment yet survivors; diversity; universality; living and breathing; fundamental to our human future

1:00 – 1:15 **Thirteen in 13**

Facilitator verbal input on 13 key concepts that inform WSTCYS' Youth Work practice (max 1 minute on each 😊) – linking it with everything people have already identified, shared and created today

1:15 – 1:30 **Closing Round**

- Seated around the tree, each person is asked to share one thing they are taking away from the session 😊

END