

# BA (Hons) Community Development and Youth Work

## Working with young people today

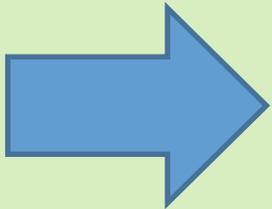


Welcome to #UniAsItShouldBe

# Fieldwork Placements

**Aims for today** - Working with young people today!

- Youth Work
- The concept of 'youth'
- Youth transitions
- Contemporary life for young people ...



Young people's lives in late modernity are complex and the understanding of 'youth' as a stage in life course has provided new opportunities to capture and understand this (France 2009)

# What is Youth Work?



**What does the professional body for youth work say?**

# NYA definition of Youth Work



- NYA is committed to youth work, the science of enabling young people to believe in themselves and build positive futures.
- Youth work takes a holistic approach with young people. It starts where they are at.
- It builds resilience and character and gives young people the confidence and life skills they need to live, learn, work and achieve. This approach is at the heart of all of our work.
- Youth workers usually work with young people aged between 11 and 25 years. Their work seeks to promote young people's personal and social development and enable them to have a voice, influence and place in their communities and society as a whole.
- Youth work offers young people safe spaces to explore their identity, experience decision-making, increase their confidence, develop inter-personal skills and think through the consequences of their actions. This leads to better informed choices, changes in activity and improved outcomes for young people.

<http://www.nya.org.uk/careers-youth-work/what-is-youth-work/>

# What is this concept called 'youth'?

## Lets discuss.....

- The teenage brain
- Biology
- Adolescence
- Society expectations
- The life course
  - these are linked social construction
- Transitions
  - risk
  - personal growth
  - change

What do the academics say ...

## Youth Transitions

- Contemporary society has blurred the boundaries between youth and adulthood and the destandardisation of the life course
- Youth development is complex, non-linear, sophisticated and dynamic; it involves mutually defining interaction between asynchronous biological and psychological changes combined with multidirectional environmental and social influences.
- Castle (1991), Coleman (2011), Furlong and Cartmel (2006), Turnbull and Spence(2011), Cote (2014)

**This moment in life know as 'youth' can be tricky!**

# Contemporary life for young people

Recognising young people have **'identity'** is important in understanding the social lives of young people - **what does this mean – discuss?**

## Youth Culture and Youth Subcultures

- **What is your understanding of culture?**
  - Youth culture evolves out of key moments of cultural activity which define young people as a distinct cultural group.
  - **Can you think of any cultural changes young people have experienced?**
  - 'Subculture' is a term used to describe a group within a group.
  - **The social group 'youth' has been linked to many subcultures over the years - can you think of any?**
    - hippies, teddy boys, mods, rockers, skinheads, punks, soulies, goths, emos, skaters, seapunks, haul girls ...

**Youth culture and subcultures offer young people a sense of identity that is different to that imposed on them by society!**

## Young people in a Risky Society!

'Youth' is marked by a range of social, cultural and economic risks that make contemporary life for young people particularly challenging, and many of these risks are beyond their ability to influence and control (Furlong and Cartmel 2007).

**This makes young peoples live complex and thus the need to explore the experiences of young people further, when studying for your degree.**



# Reference List

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# Any Questions?



The youth and community team look forward to welcoming you on to our programme; see you all soon.

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