

Supporting Communities : Community Development and Youth Work Offer Holder Day



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What we will look at today

- Why community development?
- Your experiences of supporting people – discussion
- How the degree will facilitate you supporting communities – this follows on from what was covered in the last Offer Holder day regarding placement experience.
- The political, social, economic and environmental challenges facing young people and others in community - discussion

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Why develop our communities?

- **On the Key purpose of community development ESB state;**

community development enables people to work collectively to bring about positive social change. This long term process starts from people's own experience and enables communities to work together to:

- 1) Identify their own needs and actions
- 2) Take collective action using their strengths and resources
- 3) Develop their confidence, skills and knowledge
- 4) Challenge unequal power relationships
- 5) Promote social justice, equality and inclusion in order to improve the quality of their own lives, the communities in which they live and societies of which they are a part.

Why develop our communities?

- **Community development values**

The community development process is underpinned by a set of values on which all practice is based. Community development practitioners need to relate these values to their roles and actions. There are five key values that underpin all community development practice:

- 1) Social justice and equality
- 2) Anti-discrimination
- 3) Community empowerment
- 4) Collective action
- 5) Working and learning together

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Have you any experience of supporting young people and others in communities?

Think about your experiences in life – it may be at home, school, college, work etc where you feel you have supported people achieve what they wanted to. This can be something really simple or complex depending on your experiences.

Think about why you did it? Was there no-one else to help? Did you feel a responsibility? How did you feel after helping? Do you wish you could have done something differently? Were there any social, economic, political or environmental factors that impacted upon the situation? Was there any other help you think was needed?

We can share some of our ideas in discussion.

Why do you want to come on the degree and support people?

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How you will support young people and communities on the degree

- Fieldwork practice is integral to the Community Development and Youth Work, and Youth Studies Programme.
- It is essential that students undertaking the course have the opportunity to develop and refine their competence as youth workers and community development practitioners, and as informal educators and facilitators of group work, in line with the values and principles that underpin community development and youth work.
- The programme provides students with opportunities to relate and develop the connections and relationships between theory and practice through concurrent fieldwork practice experiences: a concept referred to as praxis.

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How you will support young people and communities on the degree

- Fieldwork practice should creatively challenge and stretch students - exposing them to new demands, tasks and roles within an agency environment which provides structured support and is sympathetic to the training and learning needs of students. Students will be expected to demonstrate they have and can work with a range of projects in appropriate community development and youth work settings.
- Advancing as a competent community development and youth work practitioner involves students recognising the crucial importance of developing skills and attributes that inform and are informed by theory, principles, values and ethics that underpin this field. Thus, assessing students competence in practice is not solely based on a checklist of skills but on all the above.

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How you will support young people and communities on the degree

- One reason why BA (Hons) Community Development and Youth Studies students need to complete practical fieldwork is to ensure they also gain an understanding of theory in the context of real world experience.
- It is important that fieldwork practice placement agencies and fieldwork supervisors understand and have commitment to a community development and youth work practice approach underpinned by the following core values:
 - 1. Social justice and equality
 - 2. Anti-discrimination
 - 3. Community empowerment
 - 4. Collective action
 - 5. Informal learning

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How you will support young people and communities on the degree

- The educational ethos and philosophy of the programme places a central emphasis upon recognising the impact of issues of social justice and oppression on the lives of young people, communities and groups.
- It is expected that students on fieldwork practice should develop and demonstrate their skills and strategies to identify, challenge and, where possible, address these issues in relation to both direct work with young people, groups in the community, agency policies and administrative procedures.

Any questions on the degree itself including supporting people on placements?

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Why support young people and communities?

- What issues face young people and communities today? What societal challenges do we all face?
- What do you think the future looks like for young people and communities? Think about current and recent events.
- What can we do collectively to support young people and others in community? Who can help?
- Do you know what financial and other support is currently provided to communities? Is it sufficient?

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Please keep an eye out for communications from the University – they are normally sent by email.

If you have any further questions or queries about the programme you can contact any of the team. The programme leader is Andrea Walker (A.Walker2@bolton.ac.uk)

The university has specialist teams that can deal with queries relating to admissions, finance, support for example so please don't hesitate in contacting the relevant department for help. bolton.ac.uk



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