

**PRACTITIONER TRAINING IN YOUTH WORK  
QUALIFYING COURSE  
LEVEL 4**



**FIELDWORK PRACTICE  
INFORMATION**

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## FIELDWORK PRACTICE at QCA LEVEL 4

### Introduction

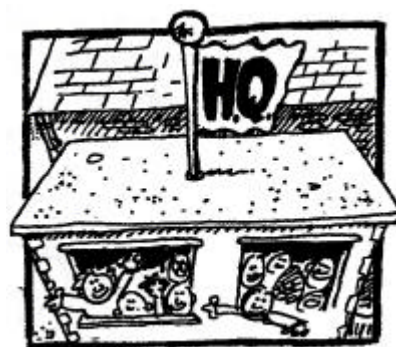
The opportunity to engage in fieldwork experience is central to the training of youth and community workers. As part of the Staff College Practitioner Training in Youth Work Programme, all participants will be supported in working with young people within a placement organisation in a youth work context. This will give the students the opportunity to increase their knowledge, skills and experience of working with young people. It will help them to relate their practice to the theoretical content of the course and promote their professional development as youth workers.



### Fieldwork Practice Requirements

The requirements for the course are that the student will spend up to 45 hours on placement, with a further 45 hours researching and completing assessment tasks. Together these elements account for the 90 hours learning involved in the module.

The practice can be achieved by working in a youth club or other youth organisation for 3 hours a week over a 15 week period. If, due to individual circumstances, this arrangement is not convenient the 45 hours youth work can be carried out over a different period of time eg. in the case of residential programmes. However it is required that the practice does cover a sufficient period of time for the student to develop relationships with the young people and extend and reflect upon their practice and professional development.



The placement organisation should give the student the opportunity to work directly with young people both on an individual and group basis and undertake the tasks related to the course. The total number of hours for this element of the course is 90 hours which covers:-

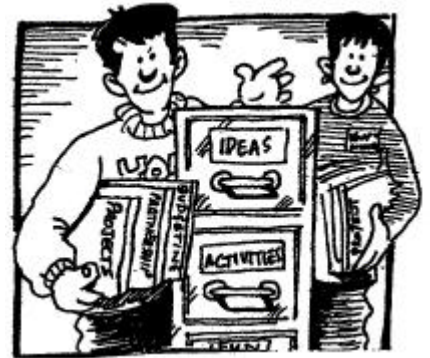
- 45 hours supervised youth work practice and planned activity.
- 45 hours observational visits, researching and completing community context and case study, updating portfolio of evidence and reflective journal, meetings with Fieldwork Supervisor.



## How this will be organised

It is initially the student's responsibility to make contact with a youth organisation and make the necessary arrangements for their placement. The final agreement will be subject to the Staff College being satisfied that the placement will provide opportunities for all learning outcomes to be achieved.

All students taking part in the programme will have experience of working with young people and most will already be working or have contacts with local youth organisations either on a paid or voluntary basis. Students can carry out their fieldwork placement within a known organisation or apply to a different organisation to increase their experience. On the introduction day, students will be given information that they can give to potential placement organisations to set out the rationale, requirements and learning outcomes of the student's fieldwork experience.



If students have difficulties or concerns in arranging their fieldwork placement they will be supported in finding a suitable organisation by the Staff College Placement Co-ordinator.

## Fieldwork Supervision

During the time the student is on placement they should have regular supervision meetings to support their practice. The meetings will be with a **Fieldwork Supervisor** and will give the student the opportunity to share their thoughts and reflection on their youth work experience with a qualified youth worker. The supervision process should help the student to extend their knowledge, increase their skills and develop as professional youth workers.



## Fieldwork Supervisor

When the student is undertaking their fieldwork experience, they will be supported in their learning by a **Fieldwork Supervisor**. The supervisor can be based at the placement organisation or can work outside that organisation but be in a position to meet with the student on a regular basis to provide supervision sessions. These will ideally be on a fortnightly basis.

The student is asked initially to make their own arrangements for finding a Fieldwork Supervisor who can support them during the practice. The supervisor

should have youth work experience, and preferably some experience of providing supervision within a youth and community work or social work setting.

The student will need to negotiate with the supervisor as to the times of meeting and an agreed agenda for the meetings. This will form the supervision contract and be recorded in the students Fieldwork Administration Forms.

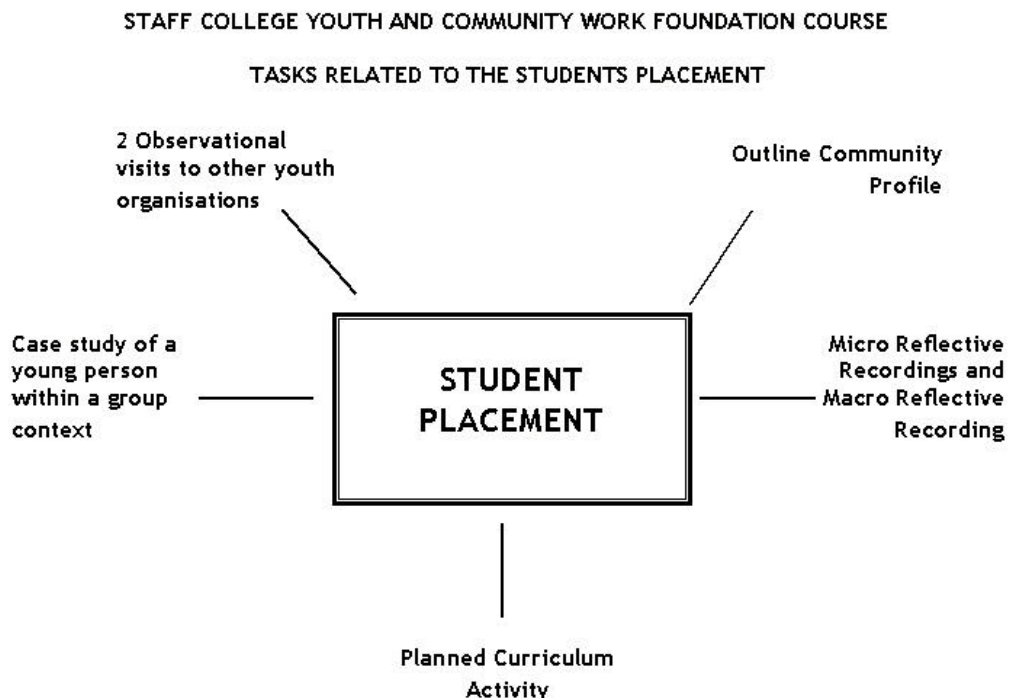
If the student has difficulties in making contact with a suitable Fieldwork Supervisor they will be supported in this process by the Staff College Placements Co-ordinator.

### **Placement Manager**

At the start of the placement, a Placement Manager from the Staff College will meet with the student and Fieldwork Supervisor for a tripartite (three way) meeting to ensure that all parties are clear about the arrangements and that the contract has been signed. Further tripartite meetings can be arranged as necessary.

The student can contact the Staff College Placement Manager or Placements Co-ordinator at any time during the course for information, guidance or any issues regarding their placement or the course generally.

### **Tasks associated with the fieldwork practice**



**The youth work practice should give the student the opportunity to:-**

- work with young people in a youth organisation within a community context. This will involve finding out what life is like for the young people who attend the youth club/organisation and others who live in the area in terms of educational, employment, leisure and youth work opportunities and other services that affect their lives like health, housing, transport, information etc. The student also needs to consider how the youth organisation fits in within the community.

This information needs to be related to a brief overview of the community as a whole (eg. its history and geography) and will form an **Outline Community Profile**.

- increase in understanding of young people's development, the diversity of other people's experience and the ability to relate to young people on a one to one basis. To promote this development the student will produce a **Case Study of a Young Person**.

- work with groups of young people - to increase the student's understanding and skills in working with young people, the Youth Work Curriculum for Wales, group work and programme planning and delivery. Part of this practice will involve **planning a twelve week model youth work programme and planning & delivering a curriculum activity using an agreed model**.



- keep a record of each of their practice sessions (**diary entries**) which can be used to promote discussion during supervision sessions and can be used to record and promote the student's reflection on their practice. This process of practice, reflection, recording and supervision will be used at the end of the placement to produce a **Macro Reflective Recording** which should give an overview of the whole practice time and where the student will reflect on their youth work experience considering:- the youth work skills they have used and developed; how they have related the theory of the course to their practice; and how they have developed as reflective and ethical youth workers.
- Also during this period the student is asked to visit 2 other youth organisations to observe how youth work is delivered in different settings. The purpose of these is for the student to broaden their experience of different types of youth work and reflect on what constitutes good practice. The student will record the visits and give a commentary plus brief evaluation of the work of the organisations – **2 Observational Visits**.

These pieces of work will form the student's **Practice File** which will contain:-

1. **A pen portrait of the student**
2. **An outline community profile including a brief account of the host agency**
3. **A case study of a young person**
4. **A 12 week model youth work programme and a curriculum activity using an agreed model programme**
5. **Diary entries used to inform a Macro Reflective Recording of the placement**
6. **Recordings of 2 observational visits**
7. **An assessment by the Fieldwork Supervisor of the student's practice.**

The student's **Practice File** which will be submitted to the Staff College at the end of the course for assessment.



For any further information or clarification contact:-

**Mary Nicholls,**

**Placement Co-ordinator,**

**Staff College** - tel 029 20 855725

email: [marynicholls@wya.co.org](mailto:marynicholls@wya.co.org)