

Federation for Detached Youth Work Annual Conference and AGM 2010

Great Expectations: The place of Detached Youth Work in the future?

As detached youth work becomes centre-stage in a variety of social policy agendas, the debate continues as to whether this constitutes real 'opportunity'. Are these tainted by a shift from a history based more on the values of informal education and, particularly, the youth work relationship, to (and perhaps at best) youth work as a 'progressive response to crime'?

Will the rolling out of Integrated Youth Support Services spell the marginalisation of this distinctive form of practice or will detached youth work step forward and lead a more progressive agenda?

Following on from a hugely successful conference last year, the Federation for Detached Youth Work hopes to build upon the positivity of that gathering by inviting participation in a debate framed around the critical question:

'What is the place of detached youth work in the future?'

- How will multi-disciplinary working and the Integrated Services agenda [IYSS] impact on detached youth work? Will detached youth work as a specialism wane? What can detached youth work offer to these other services? Might an 'integrated detached youth work team' be envisioned?
- How will 'The Street' and 'public space' (most often the territory of detached youth work) be envisioned in the future, and what of young people in 'space' and 'place'? An opportunity, perhaps, to consider policing and Community Safety issues.
- What will the future bring for our attitudes to diversity; is unity amongst detached youth workers possible within this?
- What practical skills will we need for the future?
- What will constitute evidence of good practice in the future; and how will this relate to funding and commissioning arrangements?
- What of professional autonomy in the likely 'post bureaucratic state'? Will knowledge-led organisations be where it is at; what of tacit knowledge and knowledge on the ground – can these be valued also?
- What can relationships with detached youth work colleagues in Europe and further afield offer? And what of those with academia and other communities of interest?
- Will detached youth workers have to become a campaigning [political] lot in order secure a progressive future?
- Ultimately, how can we continue to define and promote detached youth work in a positive manner; how can we speak up for our importance as 'privileged witnesses of social reality' and 'practitioners with access'?

We would like to bring together a diverse and challenging group of speakers and workshop facilitators for our delegates and would welcome proposals on the above themes.



**Please send a (maximum) 100
word proposal to
fdyw@nya.org.uk by 31st May
or for information call
0116 242 7490
Thank you for your interest and
support**

**Yarnfield Park
Conference Centre,
Stafford
ST15 0NL
Fri 12th Nov 2010 -
Sun 14th Nov 2010**