

Focus on Youth Work in Ireland

#itscomplicated. #itdepends



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Dortmund 6 Oct 2023

Centre for Youth Research and Development

Population & Migration Estimates

April 2022

5,100,200

Ireland's estimated
Usually Resident
Population

4,396,500

Irish nationals (86.2%)



703,700

Non-Irish nationals (13.8%)



+61,100

Total Net Migration
in the year to April 2022

1,451,000

Population
of Dublin

Uoif

28.4% of the total
population

Migration of Irish nationals

28,900 returned

to live in Ireland



27,600 left

to live abroad



768,900

Persons aged
65 and over an
increase of 139,100
(22.1%) since 2016

Origins of Irish Youth Work



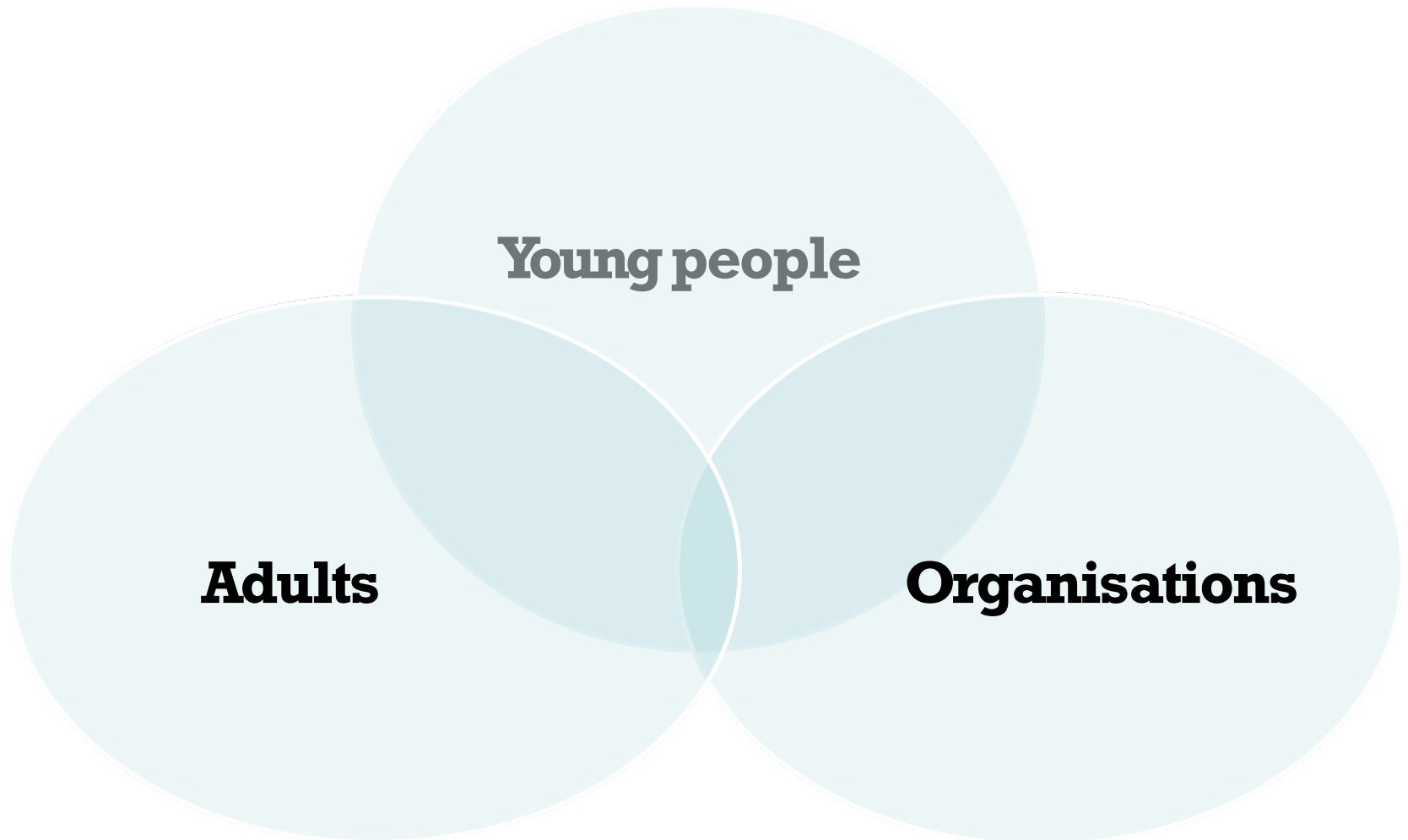
Current USA Logo
since July 2010

APPLIED SOCIAL STUDIES
STADÉAR SÓISIALTA FEIDHMEACH



Maynooth
University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

Voluntary Principle key in Irish Youth Work Practice linked to concept of 'subsidiarity'



Youth Work Act (2001) definition

"a **planned programme of education** designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the **personal and social development** of young persons *(focus on 10-20 years)* through their **voluntary participation**, and which is:

- **complementary** to their **formal**, academic or vocational **education and training**;
- provided primarily by **voluntary youth work organisations**."

Voluntary Developmental Educational Complementary

Values of Youth Work in Ireland (NYCI)

- Empowerment of young people
- Equality and inclusion
- Respect for all young people
- Involvement of young people in decision-making
- Partnership
- Voluntary participation

‘Youth work tackles real social issues, it combats disadvantage, it enhances democratic life’

A snapshot of the Irish Youth Work 'Sector'



Youth Work Ireland



Snapshot of the 'Funders'



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth



léargas



Erasmus+

TÚSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice



Irish Youth Justice Service

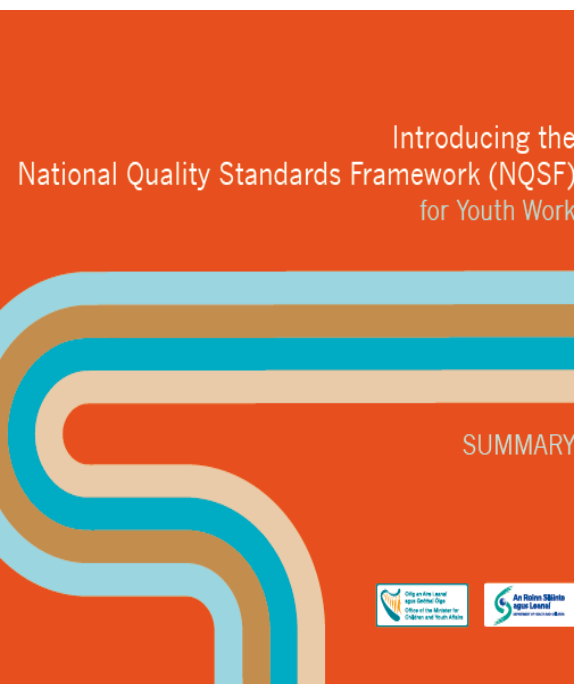
Seirbhís na hÉireann um Cheartas i leith an Aosa Óig

APPLIED SOCIAL STUDIES

STADÉAR SÓISIALTA FEIDHMEACH



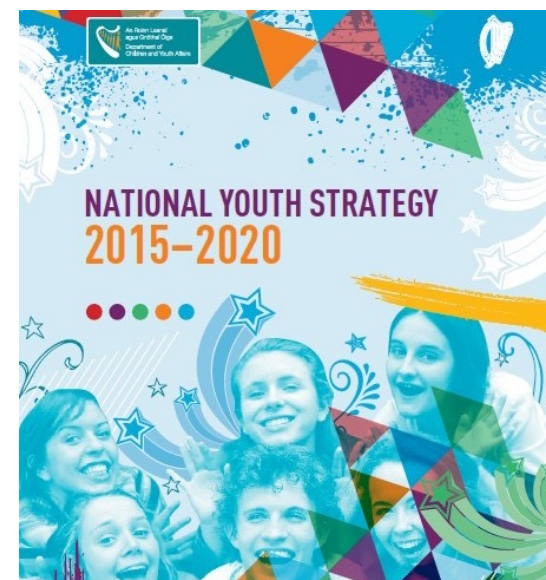
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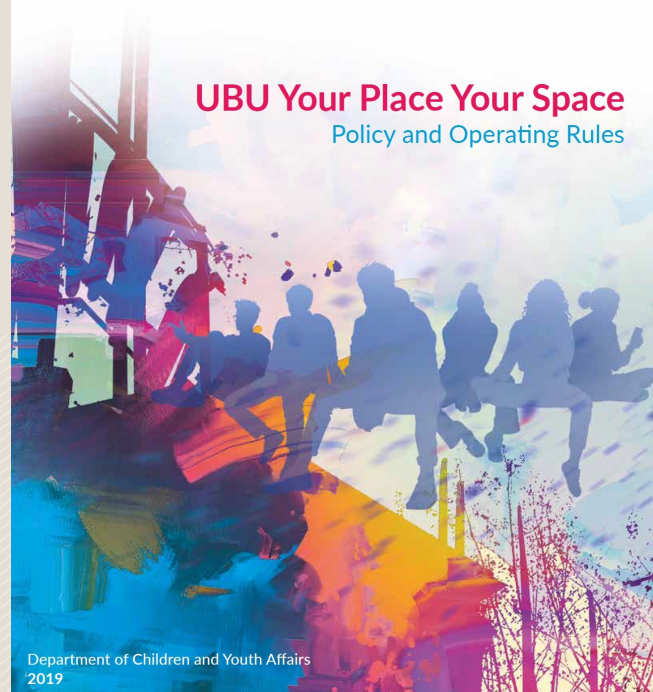
'Policy'



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
 Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth



Rialtas na hÉireann
 Government of Ireland



The outcomes of youth work for young people [VFMPR]

1

7 social and personal outcomes:

Communication skills

Confidence and agency

Planning and problem solving

Relationships

Creativity and imagination

Resilience and determination

Emotional intelligence

State recognition of youth work...



expected to meet national policy priorities → “outcomes” that draw youth work away from its traditional concerns



systems of monitoring, quality assurance and accountability similar to those in place for social work and teaching.



may mean we end up thinking about and practising youth work in different ways (Devlin, 2017)

See also McMahon (2021) What’s the “problem” with Irish youth work?

Youth Work



Social Work

Some common roots in welfare, philanthropy + social movements
in the case of youth work

Share some values and aspirations

Youth 'centred'/association*
Educational and developmental*
Participants, young people, members
Traditionally universal => targeted*
Voluntary/out of school*
Professional Education/Training HE
Not protected title
Not regulated

Individual and family centred
Welfare and risk focus
Clients, patients
Targeted
Statutory
Professional Education/Training HE
Protected title
Regulated profession

Ireland – no occupation of youth social worker

*Some tensions along the justice, welfare, educational intent spectrum

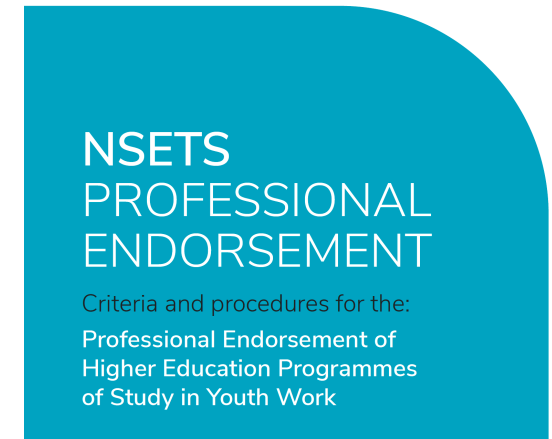
North South Education & Training Standards Committee (NSETS) - 2006



Sets standards for the professional formation of youth workers on the island of Ireland – revised 2021

Relationship with NYA in England

Mutual recognition of qualifications



Endorses programmes at **third level** initially – **Hons. degree**

Made up of voluntary and statutory sector employers, higher education staff, youth work trainers and trade union interests

Criteria for Endorsement in a range professional abilities

<https://www.youth.ie/programmes/projects-initiatives/nsets/>

Five Areas of Professional Ability – Youth Worker

- A.** Facilitate the **personal, social and political education** and development of young people and adults
- B.** Promote **equality and change** in the interests and welfare of young people and communities and **uphold the value base** of youth work and community work
- C.** Work with young people, with communities and with peers and partners, **build and sustain empowering relationships**
- D.** Develop youth work and community **work strategy and practice**
- E.** **Manage** their own work and lead and manage the work of teams and individuals

Sources and Resources

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