

Proposed Youth Work (Scotland) Bill

Session plan ideas for Youth Workers & Youth Work Volunteers supporting young people's engagement in the consultation process.

Introduction/Overview

What is a Bill?

A bill is a proposed law which is introduced into Parliament. Once a bill has been debated and then approved by Parliament, it becomes law. You can find out more about Bills on the Scottish Parliament website at: <https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/about-bills/about-bills-and-laws/what-is-a-bill>

What is Youth Work?

Youth work provides young people with opportunities to learn, grow, and have their voices heard. Young people choose to be involved, not least because they want to relax, meet friends and have fun.

Youth work happens in lots of places including youth clubs and youth centres, youth cafes, community groups, uniformed and voluntary organisations.

You can find out more about Youth Work on the YouthLink Scotland website at: <https://www.youthlink.scot/what-is-youth-work/>

What's this Bill all about?

The Youth Work (Scotland) Bill aims to guarantee that all young people aged 11 to 25 in Scotland have access youth groups and the support of a youth worker, no matter where they live or what's going on in their lives.

Why your voice matters?

You've got the power to shape this Bill—so speak up and let your voice be heard!

By sharing your views, you will contribute to this Bill becoming Law for all young people.

Your Views on the Bill

Question 1: Do you support the idea of this Bill?

Answer options.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Why? [Text Box]

Discussion Prompts

- This Bill would make sure youth work is protected and properly funded so every young person can benefit from it.
- Youth work helps young people grow in confidence, learn new skills, and feel supported. Making it a law would mean it's treated as an important part of young people's lives—just like schools and health services.

Possible activities to support young people to reflect on their own youth work experience.

Option 1: My Youth Work Journey

Give everyone a piece of A4 paper and ask them to be creative – they're going to draw a road map showing their youth work journey up to today. This could include:

- Your earliest memory of youth work.
- Trips or opportunities you've taken part in.
- People you've met along the way.
- Your favourite memories of youth work.
- Anything else you'd like to share!

Facilitators to take notes of presentation key points to include in the 'Why' response.

Option 2: Facilitated group discussion.

- Think about the youth work you've been involved in, what did you get out of it?
- If you hadn't had the opportunity to get involved in youth work, what would you have done instead?

Facilitator to take notes of key points raised to include in the 'Why' response.

Option 3: In small groups, imagine you are making a movie about youth work - design the movie poster and then present it to the rest of the group.

Facilitator to take notes of their presentations to include in the 'Why' response.

Option 4: In small groups, create a collage from old magazines and newspapers showing words and pictures that represent what youth work means to you. Present to the group

Facilitators to take notes of presentation key points to include in the 'Why' response.

Option 5: Silent discussion

Have three pieces of flipchart paper around the room - one with 'yes', one with 'no' and one with 'don't know'.

Ask young people to go to the flipchart that best reflects their view and to write why they think that on the flipchart. To take it further, they could respond to other peoples' responses and put sticky dots by the points they think are most important.

Question 2: Do we need a law or is there another way to make this happen?

Answer options.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

Why? [Text Box]

Discussion Prompts

- This law would make sure youth work is protected and properly funded so every young person can benefit from it, no matter where they live.
- Without a law, some communities might not offer as much youth work, resulting in some young people missing out on important opportunities.

Possible activities to support young people to reflect on their own youth work experience.

Option 1: Facilitated group discussion:

- What do you think needs to happen to ensure you and other young people can access youth work opportunities now and in the future?

Facilitator to take notes of key points raised to include in the 'Why' response.

Question 3: Would this law save money or cost more money?

Answer options.

- Save the Government money.
- Cost the Government more money.
- Don't Know

Why? [Text Box]

Discussion Prompts

- An independent report by Hall Aitken on the social and economic value of youth work in Scotland (2016) found that for every £1 spent on youth work, it saves £7 by helping prevent bigger problems like poor mental health, unemployment, or even crime. [Microsoft Word - 5074 YouthLink final report.docx](#).
- Learning: For All. For Life. A report from the Independent Review of Community Learning and Development (CLD) recommended that the Scottish Government should undertake an urgent and overdue reassessment of the current balance of spending across all dimensions of learning in Scotland. It should include a commitment to an entitlement to Youth Work <https://www.gov.scot/publications/learning-life-report-independent-review-community-learning-development-cld/pages/3/>
- Youth work supports young people to succeed in school, find jobs, and stay healthy. That means less money needs to be spent on things like health services or other support later on.

Possible activities to support young people to reflect on their own youth work experience.

Option 1: Facilitated group discussion.

- Are there any youth work activities in your area on Friday or Saturday nights? If these weren't happening what else might young people do?
- Have you been involved in youth work activities which have introduced you to new things?
- What were the activities, and what did/do you get out of taking part in these?

Facilitator to take notes of key points raised to include in the 'Why' response.

Option 2: Group debate

- Split into two groups and run a debate, with each group putting forward one of the following options:
 - How might this law save the Government money?

- How might this law cost the Government more money?
- Give time for each team to prepare their arguments (e.g. 20 mins) - have each group create a poster or notes with their arguments, so there is a record of points raised.
- At the end of the debate, ask participants to vote whether they think the law would save or cost more money.

Facilitators to take notes of presentation key points to include in the 'Why' response.

Question 4: Could this law help different groups of young people get the support they need?

Answer options.

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

How? [Text Box]

Discussion Prompts

- Youth work helps make sure every young person gets a fair chance, no matter where they come from, what their background is, or what they're going through.
- For young people living in poverty, youth work gives them opportunities they might not otherwise have, like fun activities, learning new skills, or getting support with things like school or mental health.
- Youth Work helps young people who face extra challenges, like those with disabilities or from minority backgrounds, by creating a safe and welcoming space for everyone.

Possible activities to support young people to reflect on their own youth work experience.

Option 1: Facilitated group discussion.

- What are the barriers to young people from particular communities being able to take part in the youth work activities that interest/suit them?

Facilitator to take notes of key points raised to include in the 'Why' response.

Option 2: How does youth work help young people.

- Give each participant a piece of paper with the outline of a person in the centre.
- First ask them to draw or write inside the outline of the person 'how youth work helps young people'.

- Then ask them to draw or write outside the outline of the person ‘what young people need to help them take part in youth work activities’.
- This activity will help to identify the benefits of youth work AND the things that might act as barriers or challenges to prevent them from accessing youth work.
- To link this activity to Question 5 below, draw a circle around the outside of the person outline, and ask young people to draw or write on the outside of the circle how youth work can help the planet.

Facilitators to take notes of presentation key points to include in the ‘Why’ response.

Question 5: Could this law help the planet and the future?

Answer options.

- Yes
- No
- Don’t Know

How? [Text Box]

Discussion Prompts

- Youth work activities can help young people to learn about the environment, like how to look after nature, tackle climate change, and build stronger, greener communities.
- Youth Work helps create a better future by supporting young people to grow into confident, skilled adults who can make a difference in their communities.

Possible activities to support young people to reflect on their own youth work experience.

Option 1: Facilitated group discussion.

- Have you been involved in youth work activities which have helped you learn about the environment?
- What were the activities, and what did / do you get out of taking part in these?

Facilitator to take notes of key points raised to include in the ‘Why’ response.

Option 2: How does youth work help young people.

(See Question 4 proposed activities Option 2 above)

Facilitators to take notes of presentation key points to include in the ‘Why’ response.

Question 6: Is there anything else you want to add?

Answer options.

[Text Box]

Discussion Prompts

- This law could make a big difference for young people across Scotland. It's not just about protecting youth work, it's about making sure all young people have the chance to thrive, learn, and feel supported.
- The Bill should work closely with young people to make sure it really meets their needs.

Possible activities to support young people to reflect on their own youth work experience.

Option 1: One more thing

Young people could be asked to draw or write the one thing they think is most important about youth work (and or to reflect on any of the other activities they've done during this session)

Facilitator to take notes of key points raised to include in the 'Why' response.

How to respond to this consultation

You are invited to respond to this consultation by answering the questions in the consultation using the word template circulated with this guidance and by adding any other comments that you consider appropriate. Electronic or hard copy submissions Responses should, if possible, be prepared electronically (preferably in MS Word). Please keep formatting of this document to a minimum. Please send the document by e-mail (as an attachment, rather than in the body of the e-mail) to:

Martin.Whitfield.msp@parliament.scot

Responses are prepared in hard copy should either be scanned and sent as an attachment to the above e-mail address or sent by post to:

Martin Whitfield MSP
Room M1.07
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

If submitting a response by e-mail or hard copy, please include written confirmation that you have read and understood the Privacy Notice which is available on my [website](#) at the bottom of the page. You may also contact my office by telephone on (0131) 348 5827

Deadline for responses

All responses should be received no later than **21st February 2025**.

Please let me know in advance of this deadline if you anticipate difficulties meeting it. Responses received after the consultation has closed will not be included in any summary of responses that is prepared.

How responses are handled

To help inform debate on the matters covered by this consultation and in the interests of openness, please be aware that I would normally expect to publish all responses received (other than “not for publication” responses) on my website available here [Martin Whitfield MSP - MSP for South Scotland Region 22](#)

Published responses (other than anonymous responses) will include the name of the respondent, but other personal data sent with the response (including signatures, addresses and contact details) will not be published.

Where responses include content considered to be offensive, defamatory or irrelevant, my office may contact you to agree changes to the content, or may edit the content itself and publish a redacted version.

If I lodge a final proposal, I will be obliged to provide copies of responses (other than “not for publication” responses) to the Scottish Parliament’s Information Centre (SPICe). SPICe may make responses available to MSPs or staff on request.

Requests for anonymity or for responses not to be published

If you wish your response to be treated as anonymous or “not for publication”, please indicate this clearly. The Privacy Notice available on my [website](#) at the bottom of the page explains how such responses will be handled.

Other exceptions to publication

Where a large number of submissions is received, particularly if they are in very similar terms, it may not be practical or appropriate to publish them all individually. One option may be to publish the text only once, together with a list of the names of those making that response.

There may also be legal reasons for not publishing some or all of a response – for example, if it contains irrelevant, offensive or defamatory content. If I think your response contains such content, it may be returned to you with an invitation to provide a justification for the content or to edit or remove it. Alternatively, I may publish it with the content edited or removed, or I may disregard the response and destroy it.

Data Protection

As an MSP, I must comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other data protection legislation which places certain obligations on me when I process personal data. As stated above, I will normally publish your response in full,

together with your name, unless you request anonymity or ask for it not to be published. I will not publish your signature or personal contact information. The Privacy Notice on my website [add link to website] sets out in more detail what this means.

I may also edit any part of your response which I think could identify a third party, unless that person has provided consent for me to publish it. If you wish me to publish information that could identify a third party, you should obtain that person's consent in writing and include it with your submission. 23 If you consider that your response may raise any other issues under the GDPR or other data protection legislation and wish to discuss this further, please contact me before you submit your response. Further information about data protection can be found at: www.ico.gov.uk