



This document contains useful things to consider when setting up and running a youth club in Warwickshire.

Key Principles of youth work in Warwickshire

1. Youth Work is always young person centred and focuses on the young persons identified need. This approach is closely aligned to Warwickshire's restorative practice. ***Restorative practice*** is the theory of change that has been adopted by the children and families service in Warwickshire.
2. Support is voluntary, young people can choose to work with a youth worker and are always in control of the support they are receiving.
3. The importance of **safeguarding** in providing a safe environment for young people is recognised and adhered to.
4. Knowledge of how young people **develop** during adolescence and knowing what appropriate support they might need.
5. Understanding how to establish **boundaries**, manage challenging behaviour and de-escalate conflict, as this keeps the young people and the workers safe.

Things to consider when setting up a youth club

Identifying the need

- ✓ Do / will you have enough young people to make a youth club viable?
- ✓ What youth provision already takes place in the in the area and when does this take place?
- ✓ Speak to young people and the local community to see if setting up a youth club would be successful?

Do you have enough support to help run a youth club?

- ✓ Do you have enough volunteers to form a committee to oversee the management, planning and fund-raising of the youth club?
- ✓ Do you have enough volunteers and staff to work directly with young people?
- ✓ Do you have the capacity and funding to pay & manage staff?

Do you have the appropriate safeguarding measures in place?

- ✓ Have DBS checks been arranged for all staff and volunteers before opening the youth club?
- ✓ Have you considered the training that staff and volunteers will need to undertake?
- ✓ Have you arranged a safeguarding lead for the youth club, that has completed the appropriate training?

[You can find the National Youth Agency Safeguarding standards for the youth sector here](#)

Have you considered the logistics of setting up a youth club?

- ✓ Have you considered all aspects such as; Public Liability insurance, finances (see below for further information on WCC youth club grants) bank accounts, constitution, data protection, policy, health and safety (including risk assessments for buildings and activities as well as oversight from a committee of volunteers)?
- ✓ Have you identified an appropriate premises for youth club delivery?

[The National Youth Agency – Youth club in-a-box](#) is a comprehensive toolkit for setting up a new youth club

Have you considered applying for WCC youth work training?

There is opportunities for organisations to have access to free training with aptitude training (either in person or online) for staff and volunteers. The training on offer will includes youth work training and safeguarding courses. Please see WCC TYS webpage for further information and access to;

- ✓ NVQ 2 & NVQ 3 in Youth Work
- ✓ Safeguarding in Youth Work

Warwickshire Youth Club Grants

The Youth Club Grant is aimed at community and voluntary groups that provide youth clubs for 11-18-year-olds within Warwickshire. Its main purpose is to increase and enhance youth club capacity and capability in Warwickshire.

For this fund, we are seeking applications from voluntary and community organisations in Warwickshire who run or would like to commence youth club provision for young people aged between 11-18 for after 6pm week nights with no time restriction at weekends.

Who can apply?

Constituted 'not-for-profit' community and voluntary organisations in Warwickshire who are committed to providing youth club provision for young people aged between 11-18

- individual organisations can make bids between £3000 and £5000
- It will NOT be for capital but will be for revenue costs. The revenue costs will be for staffing costs. In exceptional circumstances, revenue funding will be given for contributions to rental costs (to be agreed with WCC TYS panel at the beginning of the funding term)

[Youth Club Grant Application Form](#)

All projects must follow national legislation, guidance, and good practice in relation to equality and diversity; health and safety; and safeguarding – information can be attained from the National Youth Agency

Contact **louisehargreaves@warwickshire.gov.uk** for more information about grants or training available!

