

Training Propectus 2026/2027



oxfordshire
youth

Youth Work **Changes** Lives.

“Education is the most powerful weapon, which
you can use to change the world”

Oxfordshire Youth's Training offer to you

Pathways into Youth Work

Designed to support a journey into youth work and progression and growth in the sector.

- L1 Award in Youth Work
- L2 Award in Youth Work Principles
- L3 Certificate in Youth Work Practice

Additional Qualifications to compliment your skills - being developed 2026/27

- L1 Award in Personal Money Management
- L1 Award in Young Person Mentoring
- L2 Award in Counselling Skills

Mandatory Training

- L2 Generalist Safeguarding
- L3 Emergency First Aid at Work
- GDPR Awareness
- EDI Awareness
- Youth Mental Health

Short courses for those new to Youth Work

- Principles and practice of youth work
- Understanding challenging behaviour in young people
- Planning and evaluating youth work sessions
- Having difficult conversations with young people
- Introduction to group work
- Professional boundaries - understanding and maintaining professional boundaries in youth work

Specialist/Bespoke Training

- Suicide Prevention for Young People
- Eating Disorder Training
- Mental health, better sleep & suicide awareness Training
- Knife Crime Awareness
- Psychological Safety Training
- Self Harm Awareness Training
- Trauma Informed Training
- Youth Work & LGBTQ+
- Non-Violent communication - building effective and empathic communication skills
- Wellbeing support
- Restorative Practice
- Appropriate Adult Training

Leadership Support-Offered to support leaders in the sector on some of the typical challenges identified through our mentoring program 2025/26

- People Management
- Finances
- Managing Difficult conversations
- Continuing professional Development
- Managing Performance
- Leading with Emotional Intelligence
- What Makes a good trustee
- Working in Partnership - A collaborative offer

Organisational Support - Offered to our Changemakers to support growth, development and resilience in the organisation

- Set up Support - New or expanding provision
- Recruitment - Safer Recruitment Practice
- Governance & Culture
- Fundraising Support
- Strategy Development
- Advice on systems - eg. Impact, Finance & Safeguarding

"The trainers' personal experience with mental health challenges is invaluable, thank you for sharing this."

"Video links were useful, great discussion amongst the group - space to network and connect to other practitioners."

"The trainer held it all so well - good boundaries, energy, time-keeping, lightness of touch. Amazing momentum!"



"Very informative session, extremely knowledgeable trainer."

"Thank you all for the opportunity. It was great course and very valuable experience"

"Practical strategies and learning how to approach a conversation."



OUR COURSES **EXPAND** YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF YOUTH WORK AND HELP TO EQUIP YOU TO BETTER **UNDERSTAND** AND RESPOND TO THE COMPLEX ISSUES FACING **YOUNG PEOPLE** TODAY.

At Oxfordshire Youth, we recognise the dedication, experience and impact of everyone working with young people. Whether you are a youth worker, volunteer, trustee, educator or part of a wider support team, your role is vital in helping young people navigate the challenges they face today. To continue making a meaningful difference, access to high-quality, relevant and engaging training is essential.

Our training opportunities are designed to build on existing knowledge, strengthen confidence and keep professionals up to date with the evolving issues affecting children and young people. We offer a wide range of learning experiences, from accredited youth work qualifications and mandatory training such as safeguarding and first aid, to topical workshops exploring contemporary challenges and emerging trends within youth work practice.

Whether you are beginning your career, refreshing your skills or developing your team's expertise, our courses provide practical insight, encourage reflection and support professional growth. Alongside our scheduled programmes, we also offer tailored and bespoke training designed around the specific needs of your organisation, ensuring your staff and volunteers receive learning that is relevant, impactful and responsive to today's youth sector.

Get in touch with the team to find out more, email:
sectorsupport@oxfordshireyouth.org

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF YOUTH WORK



Pathways into Youth Work

Youth work has never been more important. Across the UK, young people are navigating increasing challenges linked to mental health, online harm, exploitation, employment uncertainty and social isolation. At the same time, the youth sector is facing growing demand for skilled, compassionate and professionally trained practitioners who can provide trusted support and positive opportunities for young people.

The 2026 National Youth Agency (NYA) Youth Sector Workforce Survey highlights both the urgency and opportunity facing the sector. More than 1,100 youth workers contributed to the report, identifying a pressing need to strengthen the workforce through clearer progression routes, accessible qualifications and sustainable career pathways.

Our Pathways into Youth Work have been developed to support this national need. They have been developed to provide entry into the sector whether you are taking your first steps into Youth Work or looking to build specialist knowledge and leadership skills, our pathways provide a structured route into a rewarding profession that changes the lives of Young People.

Through our programmes, learners gain the knowledge, confidence and real-world skills needed to support young people effectively in today's complex environment. Our approach combines professional standards, reflective practice and hands-on through our Changemaker network of organisations delivering services to young people.

By creating accessible pathways into youth work, we are helping to build a stronger, more skilled and more sustainable workforce that can meet the needs of young people today and into the future.

Pathways into Youth Work

Each level builds directly into the next, ensuring no one is left without a next step, developing knowledge and skills through Volunteer work, into paid employment and onto a degree apprenticeship and leadership roles within the Youth Sector.



Oxfordshire Youth is an Approved Centre of Skills & Education Group Awards, through which we deliver all of our accredited qualifications. We are committed to maintaining the highest quality standards and robust internal processes to ensure excellence in the delivery of our qualifications. Our systems and practices are designed to meet the requirements of awarding organisations and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to quality and continuous improvement.

Level 1 Award in Youth Work

Level 1 is the first Youth Worker qualification on the NYA's Standard Qualification Framework for Youth Work. This qualification is knowledge only and provides learners with an understanding of Youth Work, the role of Youth Workers, and the importance of safe and inclusive practice. Through the four mandatory units it introduces learners to the seven themes of the Standard Qualification Framework. This qualification provides learners with the essential knowledge and understanding required to begin working in the Youth Work sector. It is suitable for anyone interested in exploring Youth Work as a career. Youth Workers who undertake the SEG Awards Level 1 Award in Youth Work must be in supervised Youth Work practice. This Qualification is suitable for ages 16+, and is available from September 2026.

Level 2 Award in Youth Work

Principles is an introductory qualification that has been developed with industry experts including the National Youth Agency, ETS England and Wales. This qualification embraces the National Occupational Standards for youth work. The units within this qualification are all mandatory and the content of the four mandatory units underpin the core skills and knowledge learners need to work towards becoming a competent Assistant Youth Support Worker. Learners will complete this qualification with a concrete understanding of the purpose and role of youth work, safeguarding in a youth work setting and young people's development and how youth work supports young people through adolescence.

This Qualification is suitable for ages 16+. *You may be eligible for funding



Level 3 Certificate in Youth Work Practice

This qualification embraces the National Occupational Standards for youth work and is JNC recognised with endorsement by ETS England and Wales. It supports the skills, knowledge and practical experience learners require to become a competent Youth Support Worker. Learners will complete this qualification with a concrete understanding of the following areas:

- The values, core principles and current policies relating to youth work
- Intervention strategies in youth work settings
- The principles, knowledge and skills needed for work-based practice
- Working with Behaviour that challenges
- Reflective Practice and Work based-Practice

In addition to these we deliver an additional unit covering Anti-Discriminatory Practice in Youth Work. To complete the level 3 learners need to have already completed the Level 2 qualification. This Qualification is suitable for ages 16+. *You may be eligible for funding

Additional Qualifications to compliment your skills - being developed 2026/27

Alongside our core Youth Work pathways, we also offer a range of qualifications designed to strengthen and broaden the skills of those working with young people. These additional courses support youth workers to respond more effectively to the real-life challenges young people face, while enhancing professional confidence and creating opportunities for continued development and specialisation.

Qualifications such as the [Level 1 Award in Personal Money Management](#), and [Level 2 Award in Counselling Skills](#) provide learners with practical knowledge and transferable skills that directly enhance youth work practice. From supporting young people with financial awareness, real life skills and decision-making, to developing mentoring relationships and effective communication skills, these qualifications help practitioners build deeper, more meaningful engagement with the young people they support.

By combining youth work training with specialist accredited qualifications, youth workers are able to expand their professional toolkit, strengthen employability and develop the confidence to work across a wider range of youth, community and support settings.

These Qualifications are in development and will be available later in 2026/2027 depending on demand.

MANDATORY TRAINING



Mandatory training forms an essential part of preparing Youth Workers to work safely, professionally and responsibly with young people. These courses provide the core knowledge and awareness required to meet legal, ethical and organisational responsibilities within youth work and related settings.

Together, these qualifications help ensure that learners understand how to protect and support young people, respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns and emergencies, maintain confidentiality and data protection standards, promote inclusive practice, and recognise the impact of mental health and wellbeing on young people's lives.

By completing this mandatory training, learners develop the foundational competencies expected across the youth sector, helping them to build safe, trusted and supportive environments where young people can thrive.

- L2 Generalist Safeguarding
- L3 Emergency First Aid at Work
- GDPR Awareness
- EDI Awareness
- Youth Mental Health



**WATCH OUT FOR DATES IN OUR MONTHLY
'YOUTH SECTOR INSIDER' UPDATES.**



ACCREDITED COURSES



CL2 Generalist Safeguarding

(For practitioners who have contact with children for three hours or more per month*)

This course is accredited by Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board and gives delegates the opportunity to: consolidate learning covered in the 'An awareness of child abuse and neglect' eLearning course.

The face to face or online session covers the following:

- Raise their awareness of national and local safeguarding themes
- Reflect on how to listen if a child wants to disclose
- Confirm the process of what to do if they are worried about a child and who to talk to.

L3 Emergency First Aid at Work

(This course is a basic requirement for nominated first aiders in low-risk working environments)

All youth work sessions should have two qualified first aiders present.

Our Nuco Training accredited course includes:

- cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- using an automated external defibrillator
- Wounds and bleeding
- Seizures & Burns

We hold regular training sessions. Please contact us to find out when our next session is taking place.

This training normally takes four hours to complete (with break)

GDPR Awareness - Available after August 2026

This is a short course being developed this year to provide an overview of the key principles of GDPR and data protection including - personal data handling, lawful processing, confidentiality, individual rights, data security, and employee responsibilities under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Participants will learn how to recognise and manage data protection risks and apply good practice in day to day work activities.

EDI Awareness - Available after August 2026

This short Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) awareness course introduces the principles of creating respectful, inclusive, and equitable environments within the youth services sector. It covers key topics such as protected characteristics, unconscious bias, inclusive communication, discrimination and harassment, and the responsibilities individuals have in promoting fairness and belonging. The course also explores how EDI principles can be applied in everyday youth work practice to support positive outcomes for young people, colleagues, and communities.

YOUTH MENTAL FIRST AID

ACCREDITED BY MENTAL HEALTH ENGLAND



An in-depth understanding of young people's mental health, and factors that affect wellbeing. Participants are provided with tools to spot the triggers and signs of mental health issues, build up their confidence to reassure and support a young person in distress, and develop enhanced interpersonal skills such as non-judgemental listening.

The course covers:

- depression and anxiety
- suicide and psychosis
- self harm and eating disorders

Short courses for those new to Youth Work

Our unaccredited short courses provide an accessible and flexible introduction to key areas of youth work practice, making them ideal for those who are new to the sector or exploring a future career working with young people. These courses offer the opportunity to build confidence, develop practical knowledge and gain insight into the realities of youth work without the commitment of enrolling onto a fully accredited programme.

They also act as valuable refresher learning for existing practitioners, volunteers or support staff who may wish to revisit specific topics or strengthen areas where they feel less confident. These courses focus on the everyday skills needed to work effectively and safely with young people.

By offering supportive, practical and learner-friendly training, our short courses help individuals take their first steps into youth work, prepare for further qualifications, or continue developing their confidence and professional practice within the sector.

- Principles and practice of youth work
- Understanding challenging behaviour in young people
- Planning and evaluating youth work sessions
- Having difficult conversations with young people
- Introduction to group work
- Professional boundaries - understanding and maintaining professional boundaries in youth work
- Youth Voice Training (in development)



MHFA England

In addition to our introductory short courses, we also offer a wide range of specialist training designed to respond to emerging issues and local challenges affecting young people and communities. These courses enable youth workers, volunteers and professionals to develop targeted knowledge and practical strategies that reflect the realities facing young people today.

- Suicide Prevention for Young People
- Eating Disorder Training
- Mental health, better sleep & suicide awareness Training
- Knife Crime Awareness
- Psychological Safety Training
- Self Harm Awareness Training
- Trauma Informed Training
- Youth Work & LGBTQ+
- Non-Violent communication - building effective and empathic communication skills
- Wellbeing support
- Restorative Practice
- Appropriate Adult Training

These courses are designed to help practitioners build confidence in addressing sensitive and complex issues, strengthen inclusive and trauma-informed approaches, and develop the communication and relationship-building skills needed to support young people effectively. By tailoring training to local needs and current challenges, we help ensure that the workforce is equipped with relevant, responsive and impactful skills that can make a meaningful difference within our communities.



LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

Our new Leadership Support offer has been developed in response to the feedback, insight and common challenges identified through our mentoring programme during 2025/26, alongside wider issues experienced by organisations working with young people locally. Through ongoing engagement with leaders across the sector, it became clear that many professionals would benefit from dedicated spaces to reflect, share experiences and strengthen their leadership skills in a supportive and collaborative environment.

Delivered in small group settings, this programme is designed to encourage peer-to-peer learning, professional discussion and shared problem-solving between leaders facing similar challenges within the youth and community sector. The sessions provide practical guidance, reflective support and opportunities to build confidence in leadership practice while developing stronger professional networks.

- Managing Difficult conversations
- Leading with Emotional Intelligence
- Working in Partnership - A collaborative offer

Together, these sessions aim to strengthen leadership capacity, improve organisational resilience and support sustainable, effective practice across the sector. These workshops are provided free of charge to our members.

ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT



Through our Changemaker Network, we will also offer a programme of organisational support workshops designed to strengthen growth, sustainability and resilience across youth and community organisations. These practical workshops will provide guidance, tools and peer support to help organisations build strong foundations, develop effective governance and respond confidently to operational challenges in the following areas:

- Set up Support - New or expanding provision
- Recruitment - Safer Recruitment Practice
- Governance & Culture
- Fundraising Support
- Strategy Development
- Advice on systems - eg. Impact, Finance & Safeguarding

Additional 121 support may also be available to our Changemaker members to define and structure the areas above as required. This support is provided free of charge to our members. Whilst our training offer is quite vast now, we will provide a core of regular programs that will be advertised on our socials and in the sector insider updates, other courses will run based on funding and demand. Take a look at our website to view more details on courses and upcoming dates.

Please talk to us if there are other training needs you have and we may be able to add these to our bespoke programs.

Please enquire regarding costs if there is no advertised rate, but rest assured we try to keep all of our training accessible and affordable at all times, with a discounted rate offered to our Changemakers.



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