

## STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

### Ethos

Our work with young people is a planned, systematic, non-formal educational process through which we work with voluntarily participating young people and adults.

### Mission

To work with young people and adults in Co. Wexford, to support them in realising their full potential, and to encourage them to take control of their own lives.

### Core Principles

The work of FDYS is:

1. Young person-centred, recognising the rights of young people, and holding as central their active and voluntary participation.
2. Committed to ensuring and promoting the safety and well-being of young people.
3. Educational and developmental.
4. Committed to ensuring and promoting equality and inclusiveness in all its dealings with young people and adults.
5. Dedicated to the provision of quality youth work, and committed to continuous improvement.

### Rationale, aim and strategic objectives

Our work is based on a clear rationale which provides an overview of our aims and objectives, and which informs all of our activities.

- a) We recognise the fundamental importance of volunteerism in underpinning all our work, and in particular it provides an important opportunity to harness goodwill.
- b) We are committed to working with communities, and operate within Community Development Principles.
- c) We promote an informed and critical social and political awareness, and challenge those matters which are detrimental to human development, particularly to the welfare of young people.
- d) We believe in actions based on awareness and participation, giving recognition to both the process and content of Youth Work.
- e) We encourage and facilitate local initiatives and activities in response to locally identified needs, as well as local control over resources and activities.
- f) We promote responsibility, co-operation and decision making at all levels.
- g) We promote the highest possible standards in our youth work practice. We are committed to high standards in the selection and support of our volunteers and employed staff.
- h) We seek to achieve balance in our activities with young people.

## STATEMENT OF YOUTHWORK PRACTICE

### What we do

We work with young people and adults in County Wexford to support them in realising their full potential. We encourage young people to achieve a state of personal holistic well-being by balancing the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual aspects of their life.

Our work is young person centred, encourages well-being, and promotes equality, diversity, and inclusiveness through the provision of quality youth work, taking place in a safe and trusting environment.

Our non-formal education process is delivered through youth work programmes, youth and community support services, childcare, and supports for volunteers.

Details of our current projects are provided in the organisation chart attached.



### Why we do it

As a voluntary organisation we value the role and contribution of adult volunteers in our work. Our young people participate in our programmes and services voluntarily. We also work with other Voluntary Sector organisations, with Government and non-government agencies, and community groups.

We identify the emerging needs of young people, and strive to comprehensively respond to these needs. We identify gaps in support services, and, where possible, try to address them appropriately through FDYS or partner organisations to provide an integrated response to the needs of young people. We are informed by Government policy and research, by the desires of young people and by ongoing needs assessment.

Our work compliments existing educational and social structures, and benefits young people in their holistic development. We also advocate and encourage active and meaningful participation on an individual, project, community and societal level. We always work to be a positive influence in their lives.

### Who is it for?

Our Youth Services and Programmes support people aged 11-24 years old, and those who have a role in supporting the development of these young people. Our childcare services work with children from 4 months to 11 years old; our junior youth clubs from 6 to 13 years old; volunteers (over eighteen) and families. We offer our supports to all young people in County Wexford. In particular, we target our needs based programmes to those at risk, most in need, or with fewer opportunities. In addition, we offer our services to those with a role in supporting the development of young people (mentioned above) including parents/guardians, teachers, schools, youth clubs, volunteers, other agencies, communities and State Agencies, etc.

## STATEMENT OF YOUTHWORK PRACTICE (Cont'd)

### How we do it

Our youthwork is undertaken in a planned, systematic, non-formal educational process, through which we work collaboratively with voluntarily participating young people and adults.

In practice, all FDYS work will:

- Be linked to an identified need in the community;
- Be in accordance with the principles and objectives of FDYS;
- Be evidence based and informed;
- Have defined aims and objectives;
- Have a youth-centred approach;
- Be committed to youth participation in Programme design and delivery;
- Have defined outcomes in a written Programme plan (annually, monthly and session plans) with agreed key performance indicators (KPI's);
- Have a scheduled review of the outcomes relative to the original plan (reflective practice).

We use the following youthwork methodologies – group work, experiential learning, creative mediums (including drama, media, sport, music, visual arts, performance, etc.), role play, skills development through asset based/strengths based youth work, 1:1 work, process orientated programmes and activities.

Our work is based on our commitment to professional quality standards. It takes place in a confidential and respectful manner, while following FDYS policies and procedures, best youthwork practice in line with Government policy/research (e.g. NQSF, IYJS Trial Site Initiative, Sfolta, National Drug Strategy 2009-2016) and legislative exactness.

### Where we do it

Our organisation is County Wexford based, with facilities in Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey, New Ross and Bunclody. Our outreach work services rural (e.g. Courtown, Riverchapel) and urban (e.g. Lee Heights, Bishops Water) areas in the County.

Our organisation is included in various national forums: including Youthwork Ireland; National Youth Council of Ireland; Dáil na Nóg, etc.

We also engage in international work through exchanges and collaborations with youth organisations e.g. EPTO, Learning for Wellbeing, Léargas and Interreg.

