

Just One Question:

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questions

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insights

A quick guide to two years of youth sector reflection and discovery

Month & year	Question	Key insights or messages	Link to insights
November 2023	What's the best bit of advice you've been given about working with young people?	The most common piece of advice given about working with young people by other practitioners was to listen to young people at 33%. These responses commonly referred to the importance of active and non-judgemental listening. Followed by the importance of empathy and being your genuine and authentic self.	Read the full insight
December 2023	How does your organisation support young people over the festive period?	71% of respondents offer some kind of provision over the festive period (including 'reduced', 'different', and 'same' service).	Read the full insight
January 2024	In this new year, as a youth practitioner, I aim to challenge myself by learning and developing skills in...	57% of youth practitioners expressed interest in developing skills specifically related to working with young people, with a strong focus on mental health support, youth participation, and digital youth work.	Read the full insight
February 2024	The General Election will likely take place in 2024. What would help you to engage young people in it?	Youth political engagement is being actively supported through tailored resources, campaigns, and training opportunities aimed at empowering youth workers to help young people understand and participate in UK politics.	Read the full insight

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March 2024	How do you want to learn/develop skills around supporting young people's mental health?	Youth practitioners overwhelmingly prefer interactive, accessible learning formats, like small online seminars and peer mentoring to build skills in supporting young people's mental health.	Read the full insight
April 2024	Do you consider the organisation you work for to be faith-based? Then, how often do you partner or collaborate with faith based / non-faith based organisations?	The vast majority (83%) of respondents did not consider the organisation they work for to be faith based and 17% did. Organisations that considered themselves to be faith based had strong and frequent collaboration with non-faith-based organisations.	Read the full insight
May 2024	How can the youth sector better work together to support youth voice and advocacy?	Youth practitioners called for stronger sector collaboration across shared practice, regional networks, and unified national advocacy to better embed youth voice in everyday work rather than treat it as a separate initiative.	Read the full insight
September 2024	How confident do you feel in your ability to support young people on the following areas around staying safe online?	Around half of youth workers don't feel confident in their ability to support young people to deal with the impacts of a range of online risks/harms (misinformation, online grooming, sextortion, or accessing inappropriate content).	Read the full insight
October 2024	What should professionals from other sectors supporting young people know about the work you do?	The youth sector emphasises its deep expertise in supporting young people through relational, trauma-informed, and community-embedded approaches, urging other sectors to recognise youth work as a vital, preventive service that fosters wellbeing and development.	Read the full insight

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November 2024	In what ways does your personal identity influence how you approach racial equity in your work with young people?	A very mixed picture with lots of nuance! That's expected, given the focus on identity and behaviour. Approximately the same number of respondents used this as a chance to reflect on their identity, racial equity, and work with young people; as those who disagreed with the premise of the question altogether.	Read the full insight
December 2024	How does your organisation support young people over the festive period?	Support for young people and families became slightly more available and flexible over the 2023–2024 festive period. Despite challenges, many adapted by providing virtual contact, temporary housing, and creative ways to keep essential support accessible.	Read the full insight
January 2025	Based on your experience, what is the one change that would improve working together with the X sector(s) to achieve better outcomes for young people?	Most practitioners emphasised the need for stronger collaboration across sectors to improve outcomes for young people. Sector-specific recommendations included shared budgets, improved data-sharing, and a shift toward preventative approaches.	Read the full insight
February 2025	How often do you collect data on the impact of your work? If users were happy to share, we also asked what tools or methods you use to measure the impact of your work.	Most youth organisations collect impact data regularly primarily for monitoring, evaluation and reporting. However, despite frequent data collection many still struggle to analyse and communicate impact effectively.	Read the full insight

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March 2025	What is the most important message you want us to share with government Ministers as they develop the upcoming National Youth Strategy?	Youth work is a vital, preventative service that must be sustainably funded and locally driven. Practitioners call for urgent government action to reverse cuts, protect current provision, and co-create a long-term national strategy that reflects the real needs of young people and the expertise of grassroots, voluntary sector youth workers.	Read the full insight
April 2025	How important do you think sport is as a tool to engage young people in a youth offer to increase confidence, self-esteem, and sense of achievement?	Nearly 80% of respondents believe sport is a vital tool for engaging young people in youth programmes that build confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of achievement.	Read the full insight
May 2025	Which one action, project or strategy to involve young people's voice in service design and decision making has had the greatest impact or been the most successful?	The most impactful youth voice practices embed young people meaningfully at every level from research and campaigning to governance and service design. When trusted and supported with real power, young people help shape policy, improve services, and tackle complex social issues with authenticity and insight.	Read the full insight
June 2025	How can youth workers best support young people through educational transitions (e.g. primary to secondary school; leaving school; entering post-16 education)?	Young people navigate educational transitions best when youth workers provide consistent, trusted relationships that combine emotional support, practical preparation, and opportunities for peer connection.	Read the full insight

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July 2025	How are you reaching the most marginalised or underserved groups?	Organisations best reach the most marginalised young people when they are rooted in the community, remove barriers to access, give young people real power and voice, and support the whole person, not just immediate needs but also their future aspirations.	Read the full insight
August & September 2025	Is there anyone in the public eye that you think would make a great ambassador for youth work? Let us know who you think would make an engaging spokesperson and why?	The analysis identified potential ambassadors for youth work, the recommendations included sports personalities, musicians, singers, artists, poets, actors as well as young influencers all had links with youth work.	Read the full insight

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