



Youth Work Ireland

Tipperary

Youth Employment Initiative

Tipperary Town

- Staff
- Volunteers
- Young People



RESOURCES

-YWIT-

A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES!

Our Journey to Getting There!

VALUE BELIEF FAMILY HOPE JOINING in OUR VISION OUR MISSION



VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION

RELATIONSHIPS
★TRUST BONUS!★

ASSOCIATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

EQUALITY and INCLUSION

INTEGRATED YOUTH SERVICES

WHAT UNDERPINS OUR WORK

YOUTH WORK

Youth Employment Initiative- Tipperary town

- Tipperary Town- background and context
- NEETS- furthest from labour market and in receipt of social welfare payment- 18-24 year olds
- Youth work methodology- Holistic, person-centred, non-formal education, personal development
- Supporting young people to remove barriers so that they can fully engage in training, education or employment opportunities
- Current Funding- Dept. Social Protection Activation and Family Support Project Fund

YEI- What it looks like

- Takes place in youth centre
- Rolling enrolment- approx. 15 young people at a time
- Self-referral or referral through other agency- Voluntary Participation
- One to one sessions- Individual Development Plan
- Training / employment opportunities directed by goals of participants

YEI – 4 Phases

- **Phase 1-** One to one meetings- relationship, Individual Development Plan. CV/ Interview skills. Advocacy.

Counselling available to those who identify a need for it.

Links to support services and agencies as required eg. homeless agencies, substance misuse services, domestic violence supports, DSP, mental health services,

‘Warm’ referral eg youth worker goes with the young person to initial appointment

- **Phase 2-** Personal Development- Driver Theory and Lessons, Cookery and Nutrition, Self-Care, Fitness and Recreation, Art, – building skills, confidence and pro-social outlets
- **Phase 3-** Training (short duration/in-house)- Building CV, increasing confidence/ capacity-accessible and achievable
- **Phase 4-** Progression to long term training programme or into employment scheme or job

Case Study

- **Phase 1-** attended counselling sessions through project

Linked to Homeless Prevention Officer- assessed as homeless, supported with housing needs

- **Phase 2-** Driver Theory Test, Beauty Care course (online during lockdown, supplies provided) Cookery and Nutrition course (emphasis on family meals, weaning) Mum and Baby Exercise programme
- **Phase 3-** Gel Nail Application course (supported her to access Training Support Grant through DSP)
- **Phase 4-** set up YESS through links with local employers and DSP Activation Officer - local pharmacy, supported to set up as Gel Nail Technician (part-time : OPF declaring self-employed means) Linked to Local Development Company around Self- Employment Options and Supports

Strengths of the work

- Holistic/ Person centred approach- looks at all factors in young persons life and attempts to build range of supports, resources and resilience - 'future proof' progression
- Links to a broad range of services, both internal including substance misuse projects and external- DSP, ETB, Housing Dept Co Co, Probation services, mental health services, Family Resource Centres, employers
- Young people have a familiarity and are comfortable within the youth work setting, youth workers have the skill set and training to deal with a range of complex issues

Key Challenges

- Housing crisis- this age cohort is badly affected, many young people struggle to progress as are held back due to insecure housing/ homelessness
- Lack of local employment opportunities- high unemployment rate in Tipperary town
- Transport barriers- difficult to afford own transport- Cost of lessons/insurance, public transport is not always a good option for getting to other towns on time for work (*1/3 of households in Tipp town do not own a car*)
- 'Social capital' vital to finding employment, social capital is very important within rural settings, challenging to escape negative reputation/ judgement
- Funding-Short-term in nature, 'Pilot' projects that are not continued, Stop/ Start-detrimental to NEETs, does not demonstrate professionalism to other services

Emerging needs

- Housing- expectation for young people to remain in the family home and be supported up until 25 yrs- particular strain on vulnerable households/ complicated family dynamics
- Family Support/ mediation for households including adult children- intervention to prevent homelessness
- Supports/ funding to enable access to transport- required to realistically get apprenticeships/ employment especially in construction/ trades
- Decreasing face-to-face services along with increase in complexity of forms - further marginalisation of most vulnerable

Key recommendations

- Youth Employment projects need to be consistent and long term- minimum 2 years to fully activate NEET- require ongoing support
- Longevity of projects essential to develop positive reputation/ trust with cohort and also strong working relationships with key services
- More training in the area is needed- youth work methodology is highly effective but different skills and knowledge base required
- More supports for young people around self-employment



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Questions