



Youth Work (Scotland) Bill - Consultation

Who and what

Martin Whitfeld MSP has proposed a Member's Bill that would ensure every council provides youth work services.

The Bill aims to regect the importance of youth work by introducing a legal obligation for local authorities to deliver youth work services.

The Key **Objectives of the proposed Bill** would include:

- **Universal Access:** Mandating youth work services to be available to all young people aged 11-25, with particular focus on targeted support for disadvantaged groups.
- **Equity and Fairness:** Breaking down systemic barriers to ensure youth work is inclusive and accessible, regardless of geography or background.
- **Sustainability:** Establishing a dedicated Youth Work Fund to ensure consistent, high-quality service delivery across Scotland.





Key Takeaways

- The Youth Work (Scotland) Bill aims to ensure accessible, high-quality, and **well-funded youth work services** across Scotland.
- It will place a **legal duty on local authorities** to provide universal, targeted, and detached youth work.
- The Bill **aligns with UNCRC obligations**, ensuring young people's rights to participation, support, and development.
- A **dedicated Youth Work Fund** is proposed to ensure sustainable financial support, reducing reliance on short-term grants.
- **International models** (e.g., Finland, Germany, Sweden) provide precedents for enshrining youth work in law.
- It emphasises **collaboration between local authorities, voluntary organisations, schools, and health services**.
- A **focus on youth voice and co-design** ensures that young people are directly involved in shaping services.
- **National frameworks, professional development, and evaluation mechanisms** will help maintain service quality and adaptability.

What does it ask?

1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?
2. Do you think legislation is required, or are there other ways in which the Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively?
3. What financial impact do you think this proposal could have if it became law?
4. What impact could this proposal have on particular people in society (e.g., based on age, disability, gender, race, etc.)?
5. Do you think the proposal could impact work on environmental sustainability, economic sustainability, or social justice?
6. Do you have any other additional comments or suggestions on the proposed Bill?

The consultation also includes "About You" questions to gather information on respondents, such as whether they are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation, their background or expertise, and their preferences regarding the publication of their response.





Talking points

The following slides have topics raised by members that might be useful starting points for a group discussion in your youth work setting.

Legal requirements



The proposed Bill suggests that Scotland makes youth work a legal requirement."

Possible talking points:

- Do you think youth work should be a legal requirement?
- What do you think might change, good or bad?
- Do you have any thoughts on current statutory service (education/schools/CLD)?

Training



The proposed Bill suggests training and qualifications for youth workers."

Possible talking points:

- Will there be mandatory training requirements for youth workers? Is that good or bad?
- How volunteer-led youth work will be supported and will volunteers have access to funded training?
- Will youth work will be professionally recognised in the same way as teaching and social work?

Reporting



The Bill outlines reporting requirements for local authorities.”

Possible talking points:

- How should success be measured?
- Do you think it should link to the National Youth Work Outcomes? What oversight do you think it needs?
- How should young people’s voices will be included in evaluation processes?
- Do you think voluntary youth work groups can/should use the same requirements?

Funding



The Youth Work Fund is suggested in the proposal as a solution to address funding uncertainty."

Possible talking points:

- How do you think a single national fund will impact youth work, good or bad?
- What should the balance between core funding and competitive grant-based funding be?
- Who do you think should administer the fund? If that is local authorities, what impact might that have?

Strategy



The Bill proposes local authority Youth Work Strategies."

Possible talking points:

- Do you think local authorities should use a national strategy or individual strategies?
- How do you think a strategy will impact youth work provision in your area?
- Who should be involved in their creation?



How can you respond?

Online

Young person form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/78X9Y9V>

Youth worker form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6BJGNZB>

Email:

martin.whitfield.msp@parliament.scot

Post

Responses are prepared in hard copy can be sent by post to:

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Deadline is 31/3/25