



# Time 4 Young People

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# T4YP

Government policies encourage young people to get more actively involved in their communities. They state that young people should be able to take part in positive experiences and be more actively involved in the design and delivery of the services they receive. These policies all see young people as assets to their communities, with a voice and with skills that can be used to improve community life.

## T4YP

Builds on this by valuing the work that young people are willing to do for their community and giving them opportunities both to give and to receive.

## T4YP

Offers youth workers new way of working. It encourages them to explore with young people how they can play an active part in the life of their community.

## T4YP

Helps young people to be able to balance their rights, entitlements and responsibilities. This helps to build active young citizens.

## People are Assets

The most valuable asset in a community are its people - all young people have the potential to make a positive contribution to the community.

## Redefining Work

The time and energy that people give to build and strengthen their communities should be recognised and valued as work. The work that young people are willing to do to help each other and the community should be valued and celebrated.

## Reciprocity

Having a two-way relationship with opportunities to give and receive builds healthy and more equal relationships with each other and professional workers/agencies. Young people need opportunities to give to their communities, to work in partnership with workers and to be recognised for their contribution.

## Social Networks

Healthy communities have strong social networks. Young people should be supported to become an active and integrated part of their wider community.

# HOW TO

## Step 1

How many active hours do young people give to their youth group and community?

- doing projects
- running the youth club
- planning sessions, projects and trips
- giving time to other community groups.

## Step 2

Young people design programme for the next 12 months.

These can be broken down into projects:

- in the youth group
- in the youth community and outgoing activities.

## Step 3

Calculate total hours for next 12 months:

1 hour of active citizenship = 1 time credit

## Step 4

Young people decide on the trips and activities that they will be able to access with their time credits over the next 12 months.

## Step 5

Launch the time banking project and record hours of active citizenship.

Young people log their hours in their record books.

## Step 6

Celebrate Active Citizenship

Young people use their time credit to access agreed trips and activities.

1 time credit = 1 hour on a trip or activity.

## Step 7

Evaluate for success

Agree with young people indicators for success.

These could include:

- number of new places visited
- number of new people they have met

# BENEFITS

## Young People will

Become active citizens in their own community, use existing skills and develop new ones and access new experiences through trips, activities and projects.

## Communities will

Experience improvements in the local environment, see young people making a positive contribution and see relationships between generations improve.

## Youth workers will

Be able to value active citizenship in a transparent way, work as partners with young people in designing and running projects and engage young people in their communities.

## Funders will

Be able to support active young citizenship in communities and be able to measure both the quantity and quality of active young citizenship in communities



# Youth Time Banking in Glyncoch

The Glyncoch youth group has been using Time Banking at the Glyncoch Community Centre since September 2005. By the end of the first year there were 35 members who had increased the number of active citizenship hours from 210 - 1020 hours.

The young people have earned time credits by producing a mural for the local primary school, helping to run the summer festival, environmental projects, running the youth club, putting on concerts for the community and assisting the community centre committee.

With their time credits the young people have been on a 3 day outdoor pursuit weekend, quad-biking and ice-skating, taken part in a survival skills and gorge walking course, seen My Fair Lady in the Wales Millennium centre and attended a karate competition in London.

Through the Time Bank the young people have begun to take more responsibility in the youth club. They have formed their own constituted organisation GYAT (Glyncoch Youth Action Team) and are taking over the decision-Making processes of the Club.

