
Overview

This standard is about supporting young people to identify and access the information they need to help them make informed decisions. It also covers providing appropriate and factual information, evaluating the effectiveness of information and using critical thinking for decision making.

Providing support is within the boundaries of the youth worker's role and does not remove the young person's right of empowerment. It is not intended to cover the more formal process of counselling.

This standard is suitable for all youth work practitioners.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. establish and assess the nature of information and support which is sought by young people
2. source up to date and factual information in line with organisational procedures
3. assist young people to source, collect, present to others and retain the information they need in relevant media
4. use critical thinking and analysis methods to review with young people the information obtained
5. help young people to locate additional information sources and to take appropriate action where it may be out of date or misleading
6. assist young people to organise information to generate options for decision making
7. confirm with young people how they intend to use the information they have accessed
8. plan and agree with young people what support they will be provided with
9. offer assistance to young people when they are using new forms of media to ensure they are safe and free from bullying and harassment
10. evaluate the effectiveness of information and support provided and use this to inform future support requirements
11. monitor and take action to maintain the currency of information accessed
12. check that information is obtained and stored in accordance with legislative and organisational requirements and practices
13. provide support in line with your own levels of responsibility
14. meet the values and principles underpinning youth work in relation to the requirements of this standard

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. why it is important for young people to be able to access information for themselves from a wide variety of sources
2. typical information needs of young people
3. your organisation's procedures for supporting young people when accessing reliable and trusted information
4. sources of information relevant to young people
5. the individual's rights to information
6. the principal types of media used by young people for accessing, storing, creating and displaying information
7. factors affecting accessibility of information
8. ways to access and provide information that facilitates effective decision-making and enables action planning towards outcomes
9. how to keep young people safe when accessing new forms of media
10. the importance of maintaining young people's rights to make their own decisions and techniques to support them in doing so
11. the support young people may need to understand information, make decisions and plan actions and outcomes
12. ways to ensure that information is kept up to date
13. legislative and organisational requirements related to data protection, copyright, intellectual property and freedom of information
14. the importance of ensuring that information is obtained and stored in line with your organisation's policy and practice
15. the values and principles underpinning youth work in relation to the requirements of this standard

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Suite Youth Work

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