



YOUTH WORK

By Jo Dove



JO DOVE

on the job

HOW DID YOU GET YOUR JOB?

Having worked and volunteered with children and young people, and with experience in coordinating creative workshops, I got a sessional role at Youth Arts Jersey in 2014 (where I still help today!). Being an activity instructor helped me gain a role supporting a Prince's Trust residential in 2015, and then onto becoming a sessional staff member there. Doing this and some sessions at St. Mary's youth club helped me get my foot in the door, and I was successful interviewing for my full-time role in 2018.



WHAT DOES A TYPICAL WORKING DAY INVOLVE FOR YOU?

I co-lead Prince's Trust programmes for young people not in employment, education or training, and no two days are the same! My main role is organising and delivering courses around employability, teamwork and community skills, which involves supporting young people, liaising with different organisations, taking groups on residential to the UK and being actively involved in activities and community projects. On top of this I could also be helping with outdoor activities, updating the JYS social media channels, attending safeguarding meetings, carrying out risk assessments, supporting youth club sessions or doing outreach work in the community.



WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN YOUR PROFESSION?

Volunteer in a youth project to get an idea of how the service works and show your commitment and enthusiasm!

Youth work presents you with varied situations, you should be prepared to work unsociable hours and support young people with a variety of (sometimes complex) issues, but know that youth work also has great job satisfaction.



ARE THERE ANY FUTURE SKILLS YOU WILL NEED TO LEARN FOR YOUR ROLE?

You need to continuously update your skill set in youth work, from safeguarding to mental health first aid. I am currently completing my master's degree in youth work, community learning and development, gaining my professionally qualified youth worker status. After this I am hoping to gain qualifications in water safety and paddle board instructing, as well as develop skills in managing a staff team for when I eventually move projects.



WHAT MOTIVATES YOU IN THIS ROLE?

Listening to young people deliver a presentation at the end of the 12 week 'team' programme always inspires me. It reminds me that, even though the job can be challenging, the programme has great potential to positively transform the lives of young people. Seeing this first-hand keeps me motivated. Having a fantastic, supportive staff team around me helps immensely, as does spending work time being creative, active and outdoors!



WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT SKILLS REQUIRED FOR YOUR ROLE?

Communication skills – both verbal and written, as the role involves communicating effectively with a variety of people.

Empathy – genuinely caring about young people and their needs helps to build trust and rapport.

Pro-activity – it is important to think critically, take initiative and make things happen!

CARING IS KEY