



Youth Centre Management Course: Youth Work Programmes, Participation and Outcomes



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Introduction:

Youth centre management, covering youth work programmes, participation and outcomes, is a 1-week course for managers of youth centres and youth work services in ministries, municipalities and non-profit organisations, ending with a Youth Centre Programme and Operations Plan for a case centre. Centres lose members when timetables ignore local needs, youth voice stays tokenistic, safeguarding duties are unclear and reports count attendance instead of growth in skills and belonging. Nominees already run centre teams or activity portfolios and learn through case studies built on membership data, timetables and feedback. CoreConcept Training Center delivers this youth centre management course.

Course Objectives:

- Profile the young people a centre serves using needs assessment, asset mapping and membership data
- Design youth work activity strands for life skills, leadership and civic engagement using the Positive Youth Development 5Cs
- Establish youth councils and youth-adult partnerships that move participation above tokenism on Hart's Ladder of Participation
- Operate a youth centre safely through timetabling, space allocation, staff ratios and safeguarding procedures for minors
- Measure youth outcomes with an outcome framework that links reach, engagement and developmental change
- Produce a Youth Centre Programme and Operations Plan ready for sponsor and board approval

Target Audience:

- Managers responsible for running youth centres, youth clubs or youth hubs
 - Coordinators responsible for youth work activity portfolios and youth worker teams
 - Municipal staff responsible for community and neighbourhood youth facilities
 - Non-profit managers responsible for youth development and youth empowerment initiatives
 - Ministry staff responsible for funding, monitoring or quality-assuring youth centre networks
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Course Outline:

Day 1: Youth Work Purpose, Centre Models and Local Youth Needs

- Youth Work Functions Integrative Reflexive and Redistributive Compared
- Centre-Based, Detached and Outreach Youth Work Delivery Models
- Youth Needs Assessment Survey and Focus Group Design
- Community Asset Mapping of Schools, Clubs and Youth Spaces
- Youth Centre Baseline Review Using Membership and Footfall Data

Day 2: Positive Youth Development and Youth Participation Frameworks

- Positive Youth Development 5Cs and Contribution Applied to Centres
- Hart's Ladder of Participation Rung Assessment for Current Practice
- Triangle of Youth Participation and Cycle of Engagement Compared
- Shier's Openings, Opportunities and Obligations Participation Pathway
- Convention on the Rights of the Child Youth Voice Principles

Day 3: Designing Youth Work Activity Strands and Youth Councils

- Life Skills Strand Session Plans Using Non-Formal Learning Cycles
- Youth Leadership Ladder From Peer Helper to Activity Leader
- Civic Engagement Projects Using Youth Social Action Planning
- Youth Council Constitution, Elections and Meeting Rules
- Termly Activity Timetable Built From Age Bands and Interests

Day 4: Centre Operations, Safeguarding of Minors and Outcome Measurement

- Space Allocation and Opening Hours Plan for Multi-Use Rooms
- Youth Worker Ratios, Rotas and Supervision Arrangements
- Safeguarding Code of Conduct, Consent Forms and Disclosure Routes
- Youth Outcome Framework Linking Reach, Engagement and Developmental Change
- Youth Voice Feedback Tools Including Pulse Surveys and Exit Conversations

Day 5: Case Study Work on a Youth Centre Programme and Operations Plan

- Case Youth Centre Briefing With Membership, Timetable and Feedback Data
 - Case Needs and Participation Gap Analysis Against PYD Indicators
 - Case Activity Strand and Youth Council Redesign Proposal
 - Case Operations and Safeguarding Risk Review With Mitigations
 - Youth Centre Programme and Operations Plan Completion and Panel Review
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Skills You Will Gain:

- Youth Needs Profiling
- Community Asset Mapping
- Non-Formal Learning Design
- Youth Council Facilitation
- Youth-Adult Partnership Building
- Centre Timetabling and Space Planning
- Safeguarding of Minors
- Youth Outcome Measurement

Why Attend This Course:

- Deliver a Youth Centre Programme and Operations Plan to the centre sponsor, municipal youth unit or non-profit board for the next activity term
- Decide which activity strands to expand, merge or close based on assessed youth needs and participation evidence
- Avoid falling membership, safeguarding incidents and wasted room capacity caused by unplanned timetables and unclear duties
- Coach youth workers and youth council members on participation rungs, session plans and feedback tools from the case work

Conclusion:

Back at work, the participant presents the Youth Centre Programme and Operations Plan to the centre sponsor, the youth council and the youth worker team. The sponsor uses it to approve activity strands, staffing and opening hours for the coming term, while the youth council uses its participation section to agree which decisions young members will lead. After the first term under the plan, the centre should review membership, retention, safeguarding records and outcome indicators, then rebalance strands and timetables where young people's needs have shifted.

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ:

What should participants know before the youth centre management course?

Participants should already manage a youth centre, youth club or youth work activity portfolio, or oversee such services. No formal youth work qualification is needed. Bringing anonymised membership figures, a current timetable or youth feedback helps them apply the case study exercises to their own centre.

How does youth centre management training differ from a general social services or volunteer management course?

It centres on open-access centres where young people choose to attend: activity strands, youth councils, timetables, safeguarding of minors and developmental outcomes. Individual casework, volunteer recruitment and justice-related supervision appear only where they touch the running of a youth centre.

Why does Positive Youth Development matter in youth centre management and youth work programmes?

Positive Youth Development treats young people as assets to build rather than problems to fix. Its 5Cs and contribution give centre managers a shared language for designing activity strands and for measuring whether competence, confidence, connection, character and caring actually grow.

What do participants take back from the youth centre management course?

Participants take back a Youth Centre Programme and Operations Plan for a case centre, with a needs profile, activity strands, a youth council design, a timetable and staffing plan, safeguarding controls and an outcome framework their centre can adapt.
