



Youth Action Groups

An Introductory Course

Session 1



This course...

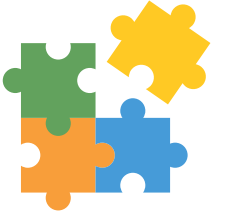


- **Is designed to help YOU get the most out of YAGs.**

- **With the right approach, YAGs really CAN amplify the impact of youth services in an area.**

- **However, it is worth learning about their strengths, their scope and their limitations so that you can get the most out of them and understand what they should and should not be expected to achieve.**

This course...



3 sessions

Session 1: To understand the background, functions and scope of YAGs.



Session 2: To develop an understanding of a yag in relation to wider community and youth services networks.

Session 3: To develop an understanding of the importance of measuring impact and reporting safeguarding issues while protecting the planning and cohesive dynamic of the group.



Today's session - Session 1

Aim:

To understand the background, functions and scope of YAGs.

OBJECTIVES

- 1** To understand the background context of YAGs.
- 2** To learn the key functions of a YAG.
- 3** To understand what a YAG is, but also importantly, what a YAG should not be expected to be.



Objective 1:

The background context of YAGs

Introduction



So what are YAGs?

- Local Strategic Partnerships
- New Labour 1997-2010
- Communities First-
Community Development



Have you ever come across a YAG or attended any other form of partnership group in the past?



Objective 2:

The functions of a YAG

The scope of YAGs and their core functions



Discussion: What do you think are some of the key functions of YAGs and what benefits could these groups bring to services and young people?



Functions of a YAG

- ✓ Support and advice
- ✓ Networking and information exchange
- ✓ Sharing of resources and best practice
- ✓ Avoiding duplication
- ✓ Reflective practice
- ✓ Challenging others and highlight issues of concern in an area
- ✓ Planning activities collectively

The scope and limitations of YAGs

What are YAGs **NOT** and what can they **NOT** be expected to be?

Like youth work, YAGs can form a piece of the overall puzzle, but alone they cannot be expected to 'resolve youth poverty' for example

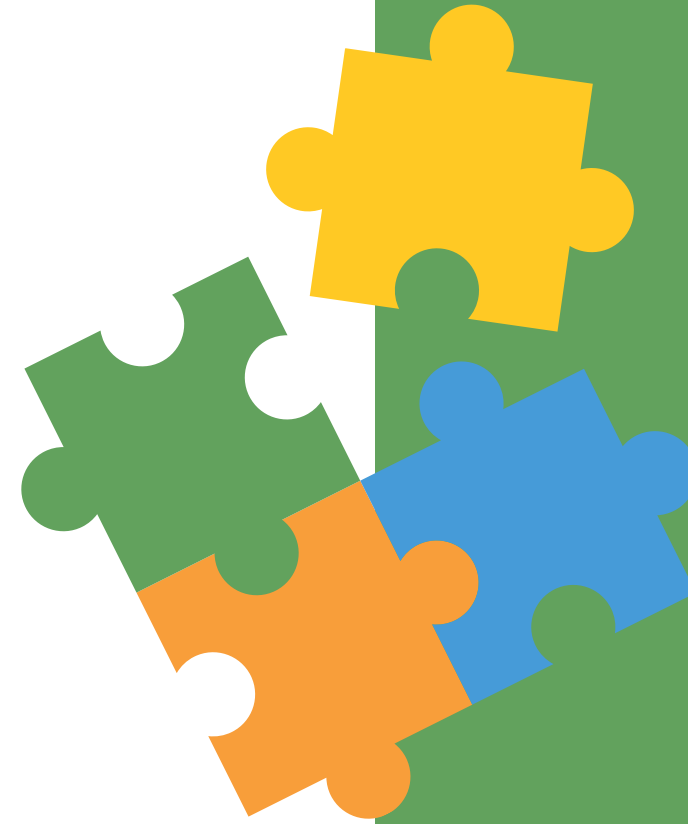
However, YAGs **CAN** amplify the impact of youth services in an area as a result of greater coordination, improved information and greater access to resources for local service providers



The scope and limitations of YAGs

In order for YAGs to reach their potential impact, this is what they should not be expected to do;

- They should not be regarded as a tick box exercise.
- They are not simply a talking shop.
- They are not simply a mechanism for reporting to funders on the achievement of outcomes.
- They are not simply a vessel for power holders to disseminate instruction to community level partners.



Instead they can be regarded as;

- A place for local service providers to plan and discuss the delivery of local youth activities.
- A place for partners to share information related to these issues.

3 core aims of YAGs

Strengthening local services

Creating networks

Challenging social exclusion by promoting equality



Activity 1



- Discuss and jot down your thoughts regarding the different functions of YAGs and how they could meet the needs of services.
- What functions do you think should be prioritised in order to achieve their core objectives? (5 mins)

Activity 2



- Discuss in groups different services in your area that could make up a YAG or that community members are able to access (5mins)
- Give your feedback to the group (5mins)

Activity 3



- Complete a worksheet that shows a network of services that are available in an area.
- Spend some time discussing this with your group and the facilitator. (5mins)

Activity 4



Think about the following:

“What do you think services can offer each other?”



“How do you think a young person can benefit from this network of support?”

Feed back to the group how services could collaborate



THANK YOU

END OF SESSION 1