

The Case for Youth Counsellors

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Youth Access: Our Mission

We believe all young people have a right to locally accessible, free, confidential and impartial information, advice, counselling and support. We work in partnership with our members and others to promote the development of high quality, young people-centred services.

youth
ACCESS

What is Youth Access?

- **National network of Youth Information, Advice and Counselling providers for 35+ years**
- **Over 250 providers – qualified and in training; mix of paid and volunteer staff**
- **A strong voluntary sector driven development: ad hoc and fragile**

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ACCESS

Our work

- **Quality standards for organisations, underpinned by core values and principles**
- **Research and policy work**
- **Service development**
- **Training, including Masters Level CPD**

The purpose of regulation

- **HPC's job: to protect the health and wellbeing of people who use the services of the professionals registered with IT**
- **Register's purpose: regulate fitness to practise – the test of safe and effective practice**

What does this mean for young people?

- **What does safe and effective practice mean re. counselling young people?**
- **Are universal/generic standards of proficiency sufficient to secure the minimum threshold?**

Safe and effective practice

- **How to work with young people**
- **How youth counselling is different from working with adults**
- **Confidentiality – Gillick/Fraser competency**
- **Greater understanding of safeguarding responsibilities and procedures**

Workforce and Training Needs

- **Findings of a YA national study funded by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC)**
- **Findings of a survey to inform the development of an induction resource**

The Training Gap

- **Majority of current training does not equip counsellors to work with yps**
- **Counsellors with no knowledge of how to work with yps and the legal framework**
- **Service induction – more than job orientation process**
- **For some, time spent counselling under 16s does not count towards their diploma**

“For my training only 20% of my clients can be under 18.”
Student Counsellor 2008

“50% of my clients must be over 16.” Student counsellor
2008

Why a separate title?

- **Equal treatment?**
- **Risks to health and wellbeing?**
- **An opportunity to correct the deficits or regulate the faults?**