

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title Summer placement Virtual Schools Youth Worker	
Department Youth Department	Team Youth Team
Reports to (Job Title)	
Responsible for 0	Job Grade
Location Stoke-On-Trent	Contract Type: Summer placement Casual hours but includes every Tuesday and Thursday in August and the 17 th July. With a possible option to extend beyond the summer.

YMCA is a Christian organisation, committed to Equality and Diversity in the Work Place YMCA is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Virtual School Programme

In Stoke-on-Trent, the Virtual School is a dedicated resource for children and young people who are or were previously in care. It focuses on supporting their education and attainment, offering advice and guidance to parents, carers, and schools. The Virtual School also provides training and guidance to professionals, using a restorative approach to improve educational outcomes.

The YMCA North Staffordshire have committed to running every Tuesday and Thursday in August a taster session on the 17th July. Additional training will be provided prior to the start of the contract

Job Purpose (outcome)

To support the Virtual Schools' Summer 2025 programme, working with young people from care (age 14 – 17) who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). The role involves delivering a variety of engaging activities aimed at developing teamwork, resilience, communication, and confidence. This includes a mix of classroom-based sessions, group work, trips, and outdoor adventure experiences. The Youth Worker will play a key role in creating a supportive and inspiring environment that encourages personal growth and skill development.

Duties and Responsibilities

PURPOSE OF JOB:

- To deliver activities / sessions focused on teamwork, resilience communication and confidence-building
- To deliver a mix of classroom-based workshops and outward-bound experiences. To support other external agencies when activities are being led by other teams.
- Build positive, trusting relationships with young people from care backgrounds.
- Provide encouragement and guidance to help them participate fully and positively.
- Support young people in setting and working towards personal goals
- Help them reflect on their experience and build self-awareness and confidence
- Maintain a safe, inclusive environment at all times.
- Supporting SEND (Special Educational Needs and disabilities) and behavioural issues that may occur.
- Follow all safeguarding policies and report any concerns in line with procedures.
- Work closely with other youth workers, Virtual School staff and external providers.
- Communicate effectively to ensure consistency and continuity of support.
- Keep accurate records of attendance, engagement and individual progress
- Help with an evaluation process.
- Adapt activities to meet the diverse needs and abilities of participants.
- Ensure all young people feel valued and included
- Model positive behaviour, communication, and problem-solving.
- Mentoring young people one to one post Summer programme.
- Promote mutual respect, responsibility and a growth mindset.
- Attend regular training and development opportunities to maintain an up-to-date knowledge of safeguarding, health and safety and local policy developments.
- To be fully versed with safeguarding to protect everyone from harm in accordance with current safeguarding legislation.
- Comply fully always with all the YMCA's policies and procedures relating to Safeguarding, Equality and Diversity, Professional Boundaries, Confidentiality & Data Protection and Health and Safety and to undertake training in these areas when required. Undertake such other duties as may reasonably be required.

Draft schedule for summer placement:

July 17th	Taster sessions
August 5th and 7th	Stanley Head Outdoor Education Centre Bake-off (Team building) Aspiration and Goal setting
August 12th and 14th	Wavemaker – Digital inclusion and workshops CV writing activity National careers assessment
August 19th and 20th	Work experience (with the Young People)
August 26th and 28th	Blackpool beach Alton Towers

Person Specification

Essential
Knowledge and Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of young people and what inspires them to get involved • Understanding of the challenges faced by young people in care and the importance of trauma-informed practice. • Experience delivering group-based activities, workshops, or outdoor learning sessions. • Knowledge of safeguarding practices and procedures.
Skills and Ability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to build positive, trusting relationships. • Ability to engage and motivate young people with diverse needs and backgrounds. • Skilled in managing group dynamics and encouraging participation. • Able to work both independently and collaboratively within a team. • Confident in adapting activities to suit different learning styles and abilities. • Good organisational skills • Empathetic, patient, and resilient, with a genuine passion for supporting young people. • Reliable, flexible, and proactive in responding to challenges. • Positive role model with a professional and inclusive approach.
Other Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willing to undertake any training to aid personal development • Willingness to work flexible hours. • Enhanced DBS check (or willingness to obtain one before the start date)

Desirable
Knowledge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working with young people, particularly those who are care-experienced and/or NEET.
Relevant Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous work in the Youth sector • Experience facilitating outdoor or adventure-based learning. • First Aid or other relevant training (e.g., mental health awareness, behaviour management).
Skills and Ability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full driving licence
Other Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake any training to aid personal development.