

COMPONENT

01

Who are we?

Who are we?

Component 1 introduces volunteers to the youth organisation in which they are volunteering.



Learning Outcomes

Participants:

- Are are aware of the vision/ mission/values of the organisation (as is relevant) and how these support the work with young people
- Know what a Statement of Purpose is with regard to their youth club/ group



Factsheet 1.1

Definitions of Vision, Mission, Values & Statement of Purpose

Vision

A statement of the desired or preferred future of the organisation, where the organisation is going.

Mission

A general statement of the overall purpose of the organisation – the organisation's raison d'être, what it is doing right now.

Values

Values statements reflect the organisation's core principles and ethics and signal what the organisation cares about.

National Quality Standards for Volunteer – led Youth Groups (NQSVYG)

The NQSVYG was developed by the then Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), now the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) in 2013.

The overall aim of these National Quality Standards is to support volunteer-led youth groups in creating and providing quality, developmental/educational programmes and activities for young people in safe and supportive environments.

The National Quality Standards aim to:

- improve the quality of the programmes and activities provided



- improve the way programmes and activities are planned and delivered
- provide young people with the opportunity to have a say in the development and review of the group and its activities.

Statement of Purpose: (What Youth Clubs/Groups do)

General Statement of Purpose (what youth clubs/ groups do)

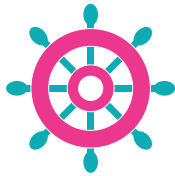
The statement below was developed by DCYA and outlines what it expects youth groups and clubs to deliver for young people.

‘The purpose of a youth club/group is to provide a safe, supportive and enjoyable environment where young people voluntarily participate and progress in a range of activities that are recreational and developmental/educational’.

Specific Statement of Purpose (the what, why and who)

This is an opportunity for each youth group to state what it does, why it does it and who is it for. This Statement of Purpose should be clear and concise. It should endorse the General Statement of Purpose (above) and support the Core Principles and related Standards.

EXERCISE 1A



Exercise

Vision, Mission, Values & Statement of Purpose

Aims of the Exercise

- To introduce participants to the vision, mission and values of the organisation
- To introduce participants to the Specific Statement of Purpose for the youth club/group

Instructions

The trainer begins with a round of introductions and asks participants to share with the group why they decided to volunteer with this organisation. The trainer provides a handout or PowerPoint presentation with the organisation's vision, mission and values statements to the group (drawing on Factsheet 1.1).

In small groups, the participants are asked to reflect on and discuss the following:

1. What is your initial reaction to these statements?
2. What key words/phrases stand out for you?
3. How does the organisation's vision/mission/values relate to your own motivation for working with young people?

After some feedback, the trainer facilitates some further discussion on how the vision, mission and values support the work of the organisation,



Instructions (continued)

giving some practical examples and then discussing how these statements might impact their work.

The trainer then introduces the General and Specific Statements of Purpose, explaining what they are, as per the factsheet. If the participants are going to volunteer with an existing club/group, then the trainer can present the existing specific Statement of Purpose. If participants are volunteering with a new club/group, then the trainer explains that the specific Statement of Purpose will be developed at the end of the induction programme, when participants have a greater understanding of what their youth club/group does, why it does it and who it is for.



Useful Resource

National Quality
Standards for Volunteer led Youth Groups.
<https://www.youth.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/NQSF-Guidance.pdf>