

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement Ireland




## Dormant Accounts Fund Youth Cafe Funding Scheme

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*Brief Guide to Recent Youth Cafe Publications*

Facilitated by:

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## Context of Work

- *National Recreation Policy (2007)* - Youth Cafés identified as a key need both **by** and **for** young people.
  - Wish to *hang-out* and *be* with your peers
  - Need for safe place...
- **Office of Minister for Children and Youth Affairs** funded two pieces of research:
  1. **Youth Cafés in Ireland** - *A Best Practice Guide*
  2. **Youth Café Toolkit** - *How to set-up and Run a Youth Café in Ireland*

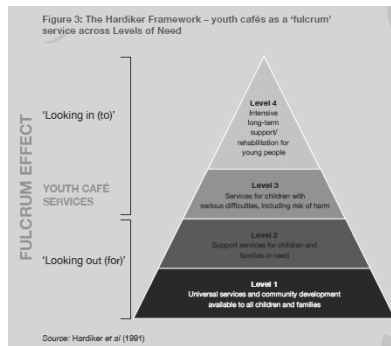
## What is a Youth Café

- **What is a Youth Café?**
  - *It is a safe, dedicated, quality meeting space for young people ranging in age from 10 to 25 years. It is determined by young people for young people, in partnership with adults.*
  - a relaxed meeting space, which is safe, friendly, inclusive and tolerant;
  - a place for both sexes and for young people from all social and cultural backgrounds to engage in social interaction with their peers in a safe and supportive drug- and alcohol-free environment;
  - a location for relaxation, recreation and entertainment, and, where appropriate, as a site for information, advice or even direct care/service provision;
  - a place where young people can develop good quality relationships with their peers and with adults.

## What is a Youth Café

- **No-one model fits all areas and needs.**
- **Youth Cafés should not be seen as panacea for all youth issues**
- Instead, one of a **range of options** available that compliments other provisions

## What does a Youth Café do?



- We developed a **Conceptual Model** – Cafés fits neatly within youth work principles (*informal education, voluntary youth participation, adult involvement, positive youth development and civic engagement*)
- Can work with a range of young people - those **with few or no issues** to those with **more serious issues**

## What does a Youth Café do?

- In addition, we identified four underlying concepts:
  - **Social Support** – Youth Cafés offer both formal support to the young person – and access to new informal networks. Café important hub.
  - **Attachment** – Adolescence can be a challenging time – Youth Cafés offer for example, a secure base to explore talents, interact with peers and develop social skills.

## What does a Youth Café do?

- **Resilience** – Youth Café can act as a protective factor in enabling young person become or stay resilient.
- **Civic Engagement** – Youth Cafés can connect resilience and civic engagement. For example, Young people engaging with their communities

## Recent Publications

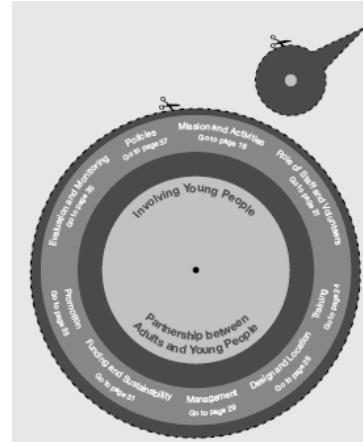
### 1. Youth Cafés in Ireland - *A Best Practice Guide*

- Foundation document
  - Conceptual Model & Outcomes Focussed Framework
  - Guiding Principles for Youth Cafés
  - Operational Issues (*management, funding, location, promotion etc*)
  - Information, Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

## Recent Publications

### 2. Youth Café Toolkit - *How to set-up and Run a Youth Café in Ireland*

- *Designed for:*
  - *Well-established Café – enhance practice*
  - *Just be starting out – get tips*
  - *Just thinking of one – focus approach*
- *The Toolkit offers advice on 11 areas that are core to Youth Cafés (See Youth Café Wheel)*



## Using the Recent Publications

### Essential Eligibility Criteria for Strands 1 and 2

1. Café as a safe, quality space	
<b>Best Practice Guide</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A safe and quality space – p.30</li> <li>• Building design and content – p.52</li> <li>• Location – p.49</li> </ul>	<b>Toolkit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. 6 Design &amp; Location</li> </ul>
2. Café has a clear purpose	
<b>Best Practice Guide</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conceptual model and framework p.17</li> <li>• A clear purpose – p.32</li> </ul>	<b>Toolkit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. 3 Mission</li> </ul>

• Regardless of Strand, check that application has addressed the issues identified as core for Youth Café development as outlined in **Toolkit** and **Best Practice Guide**

## Acknowledgements

- **Participants in the research:**
  - young people,
  - staff in Youth Cafés,
  - representatives of Statutory, Community and Voluntary organisations
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