

# The Good Youth Group Self-assessment Tool

- + Get a group of 4-8 people (or more) together. Include: young people, committee members, staff and volunteers.
- + Ask someone to organise the discussion – see p7.
- + Take each quality practice area and discuss your group’s response to the questions.
- + Use traffic lights to rate strengths and weaknesses and record your notes.

- We need to work on this as a priority!
- An improvement here would make a big difference.
- This is a strength, but we have ideas to improve it further.
- The ‘gold’ standard – keep doing what you are doing and think about sharing it with others.

A good youth group involves...		Self-assessment questions:	What are our strengths and weaknesses?				Notes
1	Establishing the group’s ethos, purpose and needs	What values guide your group?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
		How do you know there is a need for the group?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
		How do you ensure that young people feel welcome?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
		How do you promote equality and inclusion?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
2	Providing a programme of activities, projects and events for young people	What do you do to ensure that activities and projects are well organised?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
		How does your group deal with problems or complaints such as behaviour at the youth group?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
		Do your facilities and equipment provide a good environment for youth work?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
		How do you involve young people in planning and organising activities and projects?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
		How do you encourage young people to make active choices?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
3	Working with young people	What responsibilities do young people have within the group?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
		How can young people contribute to decision making?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
		Do you have a recognised programme to support young leaders such as <a href="#">Involvement Training</a> ?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
4	Safeguarding children and young people	Do you have a child protection policy?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
		Are youth workers and volunteers checked through the PVG scheme?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
		Are volunteers trained in child protection issues?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	
		Where do you get advice if there is a problem?	<span style="color: red;">■</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	<span style="color: green;">■</span>	<span style="color: gold;">■</span>	

5	Communicating with young people, parents, leaders and others	Do you have a newsletter?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
		When do you consult with young people and parents?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
		How do you encourage people to contribute ideas?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
6	Managing volunteers	What are the group's volunteer policies and procedures?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
		Do you have a volunteer induction programme or pack?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
		What opportunities do volunteers have to develop their skills, knowledge and expertise?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
7	Managing staff	Do staff have a job description, a contract and a named contact or supervisor?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
		Do you have a system to ensure that you comply with employment law?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
		Where do you get advice if there is a problem?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
8	Managing funding and finances	How successful are you at generating new funds for the group?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
		Do you have a suitably experienced treasurer?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
		Where do you get advice if there is a problem?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
9	Maintaining good governance through committees or boards	Do people know how the group is led and who is on the committee?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
		Do new committee members have information about their role and responsibilities?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
		Where do you get advice if there is a problem?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
10	Celebrating successes and recognising achievements	How do you celebrate success and recognise voluntary contributions?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
		Do you offer young people awards or accredited learning programmes?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	
		How do you promote the group in the wider community?	Red	Yellow	Green	Brown	

## What next?

- + Look at your completed self-assessment tool.
- + Discuss and choose ONE practice where you think it would make a big difference to your group if you made some improvements or took some action.
- + You are now ready to make an action plan for achieving this improvement.