

The Future

Lessons for practice

“Thinking globally has benefited our practice by increasing awareness of issues that affect us on a daily basis... The group were so empowered by their project that they have continued to see the world with global eyes”

Youth worker
Preston

Global Youth Action has provided lessons for youth work practitioners, strategic managers and decision makers about the importance of global youth work. The project has also provided specific lessons for practice to enable others to deliver high quality global youth work. Many of the most relevant learning points for practitioners come directly from the youth workers delivering Global Youth Action.

Top Ten Tips from the Global Youth Action Coordinators

1 There's something for everyone
No matter what young people's interests, concerns, skills or ambitions are, there are ways of exploring and challenging the world and taking positive action.

2 It's all about making connections
Global youth work has got to start with young people's experience and understanding of the world. Make it relevant to them and you're on the way. After a while doing global youth work you'll be seeing local/global connections everywhere.

3 It's what young people want
Young people care about global issues, want to learn more and want to make a positive difference in the world.

4 Trust in the process
Support young people to make connections, challenge them to explore and question, and provide opportunities to make meaningful change. It may not look like much is happening sometimes but lots may be going on under the surface. Let young people lead the way, be flexible and responsive, and keep at it.

5 It can be challenging for everyone
Global youth work can raise all sorts of difficult, complex or controversial issues. Managing expectations and discussing in advance how dialogue will take place is really important.

6 Don't forget that we're working with young people to make the world a fairer place
Be upfront about the values and aims of global youth work. Issues of social justice and equality are relevant to us all and should be integral to all work with young people.

7 Arm young people with facts and stats
Knowledge is power; enable young people to use facts and statistics to add extra weight to their arguments and to take action with confidence.

8 Don't underestimate the importance of preparation and training
Global youth work training can give you the confidence, ideas and networks to make it work and good preparation will set you up for any eventuality.

9 Project work is just the beginning
Global youth work should sow the seed for further thought and action. Young people who have really engaged with the connect, challenge and change process may want to continue their involvement. Make sure there is scope and signposting to continue the journey.

10 It is crucial, NOW!
Global issues are already vital to young people's lives, interests, concerns. Get going with global youth work!

External evaluation by Xchange Consultancy has shown that...¹⁴

"From all the evidence that we have seen, the Global Youth Action version of global youth work has undoubtedly been a big success story. From the beginning, it did not set itself easy targets, but set out to push the boundaries showing that global youth work can forge new youth work partnerships and can be undertaken successfully in any youth work setting and with some of the hardest to reach young people. The approach is an inherently high quality youth work approach, based on a clear value base and responsiveness to young people's needs and interests and desire to have the capacity to take action."

“ Other global issues identified through the process of the project - relationships, peer pressure, bullying, alcohol and drugs awareness, life choices - are all potential issues for future exploration through creative projects.”

Youth Worker
Burnley Youth Theatre

The 3C Framework (Connect, Challenge, Change):

"We feel this has been an innovation. It has re-framed global youth work and made it much more accessible and provided a more young people-centred approach, which has been received positively by many youth workers who find some aspects of global youth work 'too academic'. The 3C framework provides a robust approach to GYA which is worthy of wider use. It is particularly helpful as a GYA learning design and project planning tool because it has a focus on the 'how'."

Contribution to community cohesion:

"Global Youth Action made significant efforts to target young people from a wide range of backgrounds and social contexts, particularly BME, Roma traveller communities, refugees and asylum seekers. Global Youth Action projects have very successfully explored community cohesion themes, normally by taking immigration and asylum themes. This has shown the potential for considerable peer education and youth action in this area."

The contribution of the Development Education Centre (DEC) partners:

"The DECs were successful and valued providers of global youth work content. This was due to their collection of resources/materials and familiarity with content, their particular understanding of current global issues as they affect the local and the global, and the quality of GYA staff recruited for delivering the GYA programme. Without a doubt, the DECs were very successful and valued providers of global youth work content and GYA youth organisations/workers are keen for this local resource to continue. The experiment in Derby seems to provide a potential model - bringing together regional youth work structures, the DEC, residual youth exchange structures and global youth work."

Recommendations and the future of global youth work

Global Youth Action provided the opportunity for practitioners and young people to test out global youth work, learn valuable lessons and develop models for good practice. In turn this learning provides important guidance for developing global youth work at a policy and practice level across the whole of the youth work sector.

This publication aims to disseminate this learning. A number of recommendations for the future of global youth work have been developed as a result of the tried and tested methodology of GYA and out of the external evaluation.

“ I faced the prejudice within myself – I will try to always remind myself that I have it. It has given me more motivation to find out about the issues. ”

Participant at a Harambee Youth Worker training course

From the independent evaluation of GYA: ¹⁵

A qualitatively different youth work.

“GYA informants consistently perceived global youth work, as experienced via GYA, as ‘qualitatively different’ to general youth work and having more benefits in terms of supporting young people to reach their full potential as active global citizens, as evidenced by its

- higher aspirations for young people
- values base
- outcomes achieved, especially helping them to integrate identity, values and actions
- disposition to be more ‘political’, cutting edge and current
- ability to capacity build young people to take action and ‘be the change.”

Global youth work at a policy level

"The GYA project has illustrated that it is still difficult to get global youth work onto the policy agenda at a local/regional level. More work needs to be done at a higher policy level. Global youth work advocates need to take a strategic look at the policy environment and take advantage of any opportunities that may currently be available. Every Child Matters does not explicitly mention the global dimension, although global youth work makes a very effective contribution to achieving all the ECM outcomes, and in particular Making a Positive Contribution and Enjoying and Achieving."

“Doing a Global Youth Action project is well worth it!”

GYA participant

The new mainstream?

"In the context of a globalised world and the need for a youth work offer which serves young people well by contributing to their social and political development, it is essential to see global youth work as the core and not an add-on extra to the youth work curriculum. More global themes can and should be introduced into generic youth work which in turn should shift towards global youth work, recognising the similarity of values base and the need for a future-facing, transformative new youth work."

Resourcing

"High quality global youth work of the kind delivered by Global Youth Action requires considerable resourcing. At present global youth work continues to operate on the fringes and as a niche form of youth work, dependent on pilot and short term funding. A significant injection of funding is needed to underpin its growth and future development. Funding issues are inextricably linked to youth work policy development – to global youth work being mainstreamed."

“Young people have gained an understanding that they can effect change, and that they are part of the problem, but also part of the solution – they can affect other young people”

Youth Worker

Strategic coordination

"Having a 'Champion Agency' or 'Agencies' for global youth work has been effective. Centrally resourced and coordinated 'global youth work champions' are needed to provide a clear strategic direction and leadership and to drive forward the mainstreaming agenda for policy and practice. This might best be served by DEA taking a lead strategic role nationally."

Global Youth Action has engaged more than 3,000 young people across the UK.

This project has clearly demonstrated that young people are interested in global issues and are keen to take action. Importantly, the project has also demonstrated how global youth work can be instrumental in achieving the five Every Child Matters outcomes and making a significant contribution to community cohesion. The high quality methodology and processes that have developed from the project provide a clear framework for replicating global youth work across the sector. The Connect, Challenge, Change methodology is an innovation that provides a simple framework for the sometimes complex issue of global learning. It also provides a clear structure for communicating the successes and impact of global youth work projects.

"Evidence clearly shows that a Global Youth Action form of global youth work has achieved a great deal in respect of its methodology and processes, and also its qualitative and quantitative outcomes for young people and their wider impact. GYA projects have been able to significantly raise the profile for global youth work locally. We feel that GYA has been a successful pilot project and recommend that efforts are made to explore further funding for the development of global youth work."¹⁰

The challenge now is to translate the learning from Global Youth Action to influence the evolution of global youth work. The aim is to share the successes of GYA across the youth work sector to influence all youth work policy and practice.

Endnotes

¹ Article 12, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, (1990)

² V. (2007) vinformed. Barriers preventing passionate young people acting on their concerns.

³ Lemos G & Crane F (2006) Different World. How young people can work together on human rights, citizenship, equality and creating a better society. Lemos and Crane, City Parochial Foundation.

⁴ Ipsos MORI surveyed 1,955 pupils from 82 middle and secondary state schools in England between 11th January and 28th March 2008 on behalf of DEA. See www.dea.org.uk/research for full details.

⁵ Lemos G & Crane F (2006) Different World. How young people can work together on human rights, citizenship, equality and creating a better society. Lemos and Crane, City Parochial Foundation.

⁶ National Youth Agency (2007) Blackberries from Mexico. Leicester

⁷ Darch S & Jones H (2010) Putting the global into youth work, reflections and learning from Global Youth Action. Xchange Consultancy

⁸ <http://www.dea.org.uk/>

⁹ ibid

¹⁰ Darch S & Jones H (2010) Putting the global into youth work, reflections and learning from Global Youth Action. Xchange Consultancy

¹¹ Sallah M (2009) Conceptual and pedagogical approaches to the global dimension of youth work in British Higher Education institutions. In International journal of development education and global learning. Volume 1, number 3. Edited by Bourne D Trentham Books

¹² Cambridgeshire Constabulary, (2006) The Changing Demography of Cambridgeshire: implications for policing

¹³ EEDA regional report 'Migrant Workers in the East of England, (2005) EEDA <http://www.eeda.org.uk/default.asp>

¹⁴ Darch S & Jones H (2010) Putting the global into youth work, reflections and learning from Global Youth Action. Xchange Consultancy

¹⁵ ibid

¹⁶ ibid

Links, resources, contacts and useful info

About DEA:

DEA is an education charity that promotes global learning. We work to ensure that people in the UK learn about global issues such as poverty and climate change and develop an open-minded, global outlook.

www.dea.org.uk



Global Youth Action website

For more information, resources, projects, latest news and other interesting stuff visit:

www.globalyouthaction.org.uk

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