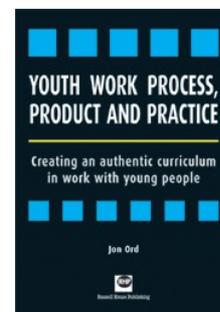


New!

# Youth work process, product and practice

Creating an authentic curriculum in work with young people  
By Jon Ord



At a time of heightened concern about and interest in young people - and about their lives in communities - *Youth Work Process, Product & Practice* is a **significant and important contribution to improving how we conceptualise and articulate youth work**, and work with young people.

How various agencies and professions do such work is under the microscope, and often under attack. Those who seek to shape policy strive to praise their own ideas by undermining others' approaches. In this context, Jon Ord writes in his preface: 'Youth work cannot defend itself against erroneous and rival conceptions of practice unless it can sufficiently articulate its own. Through providing a framework for the creation of authentic curricula for youth work it is hoped that this book offers one of the means by which individual workers, services and the profession as a whole can promote its unique educational practice.' He continues:

*'Buffeted by successive policies which do little to help and much to hinder the development of effective youth work practice, this book is motivated by dismay at the current climate affecting youth work. Importantly, however, this is not a pessimistic book, one which carps from the sidelines... It is critical and points out weaknesses... but its primary purpose is to offer solutions.'*

As Bernard Davies points out in his Foreword, 'this of course does not mean that what Jon Ord has produced is a hints-and-tips manual: far from it. [As] its prescriptions are contextualised in a wider discourse on, in particular, educational theory and practice, it asks its readers also to undertake some of that intellectual work which has not always been fashionable in youth work.' In so doing, it seeks to bridge what the author challengingly calls 'the ever widening gap between youth work theory and youth work practice'.

Ord marshals evidence from within youth work and from a wide and authoritative literature from outside it – philosophy, educational psychology and sociology, management theory, politics. Crucially, he presents and reviews material from curriculum documents produced by local authority Youth Services over the previous two decades, in a way that has not been done before.

In Davies's view the book's important strengths are '...its relentless unpacking of the notion of "curriculum"... its exposition of an extended definition of the concept which articulates convincingly with youth work's core concept of "process"... Jon Ord, head-on, **systematically confronts the historic and current controversies**, not least by engaging critically with some of youth work's academic and policy-making big hitters.'

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**READERSHIP:** Youth work students, practitioners and managers. Anyone working with young people alongside youth workers, including people in education, social work, youth justice. Anyone interested in youth policy.

**CONTENTS:** Preface. Foreword *by Bernard Davies*. Introduction. **Curriculum in Youth Work.** The emergence of the youth work curriculum. The meaning of curriculum in youth work. Objections to curriculum in youth work. **Theory and Practice.** Curriculum as content. Curriculum as product. Curriculum as 'process'. Curriculum as process in youth work practice. **Essential elements.** Essential elements: participation and power. Relationships and group work. Choice. On methods. On experiential learning. **Policy and Practice.** Curriculum and *Transforming Youth Work*. On targets. On outcomes. On progression and time. Curriculum and recent youth policy. **Curriculum in Context.** Use of curriculum. Curriculum and culture. References.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Jon Ord is currently a senior lecturer in youth & community work, at the College of St Mark and St John, Plymouth. He has extensive experience of youth work having worked in a variety of settings, in both voluntary and statutory services since the mid 80's. The majority of this experience has been in face to face work, but he has also worked as both a trainer and youth services manager. He can be contacted on [jord@marjon.ac.uk](mailto:jord@marjon.ac.uk).

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