



Youth Employment Working Group Convener

Purpose: To bring together expertise from within the DOP membership to ensure that OP as a profession makes distinct contributions to issues relating to youth employment and engagement in work, specifically:

- a) Influencing organisations to employ young people and appreciate their contribution
- b) Influencing policy relating to how young people are supported in work and in the transition to work
- c) Helping young people make the best of their skills and to maximise the opportunities available to them.

Term: Appointed on a two-yearly basis

Additional Information:

Many psychologists are unaware that only 25% of organisations in the UK employ young people below the age of 24 years (Carter, 2015). Therefore, a majority of workplaces are unused to working with young people and this lack of age diversity generates few new job roles for young people.

Activities:

The working group aims to increase awareness of the issues young people face transitioning into employment and to help young people maximise their opportunities. The working group undertakes various activities, such as:

- a) Presenting symposia at DOP conferences (see *Research, reflection and employment: Enabling young peoples' transitions into work*, Friday 12 January, 2018)
- b) Speaking at debates (see *The impact of psychology on today's society* event with Local Development and Networking Event and North East Branch on 23 November, 2017) and events (such as Psychology in the Pub at various BPS Branch meetings)
- c) Publishing articles and books available to psychologists, the public and organisations (such *Supporting Young Society: A work psychology perspective*; (Carter, A.J; Ed.) in preparation for Taylor & Francis and *Youth Employment – the missing facts. The Psychologist* (Carter, 2015, June).
- d) Co-creating events with young people (e.g., *Exploring careers in Occupational Psychology* 28 May, 2015 written up and evaluated in *OP Matters* September, 2015 (Murray, de Kort & Carter, 2015); Career's event at Queen Mary's University March, 2017).
- e) Engaging with key stakeholders (organisations, education and Department of Work and Pensions (e.g., *Better work for young people* October, 2015).
- f) Ensuring young people have a voice as part of the working group
- g) Holding regular meetings to co-ordinate events and develop new ideas
- h) Balancing events to synchronise with wider DOP priorities, as well as working with other working groups, Branches and other local groups
- i) Preparing budgets annually, and monitoring this through the year
- j) Liaising with the Division administrator to develop awareness of required procedures
- k) Liaising with the Communications team / press office to ensure promotion of events
- l) Updating the DOP committee on a regular basis.

Personal Attributes

- Participative leadership style with ability to focus on group purpose
- Good interpersonal skills with a supportive approach

- Well-organised and able to co-ordinate numerous activities and events
- Willingness to engage with policy makers to debate issues related to youth employment
- Able to work without close supervision
- Able to set and manage a budget for group activities
- Pro-active and uses own initiative to find resources, speakers and contacts.

Opportunities

- To increase knowledge and understanding within the profession and associated organisations of the issues facing young people transitioning into work
- Engage members of the profession to take active steps to promote the employment of young people
- Build a network of expertise about employment transitions
- Build contacts with prominent experts in government and industry
- Develop experience, for example mentoring new members of the team
- Stay informed of the latest developments in Occupational Psychology
- Opportunity to attend national and local events
- Develop leadership and team working skills and abilities
- Learn more about the processes of the British Psychological Society.

Accountability

The Youth Employment Working Group Convener reports to the Science and Practice Strategy Group Convener who is accountable to the BPS, other members of the DOP Committee and the wider DOP membership.

Relevant Documentation

Find out more about our work on the DOP website and in OP Matters June, 2015 (Gould & Carter, 2015). Research in the area is summarised in Carter (2015). Supporting Young Society: A work psychology perspective should be published in 2018.