

## **Outreach youth work in Jyväskylä.**

Outreach youth work offers free counselling and support to young people aged between 15 and 29 who are outside of education, unemployed, have limited options or who would just like to have a helping hand in managing everyday life.

We are available weekdays from 8-16. You can contact us by phone, email or Facebook. Anyone can contact us, whether it is the young person themselves, a parent, a friend, a teacher or social worker.

We can set a meeting wherever best suits young people. It can be for example at home, café, school, our office or any other social offices situated around the city.

We work with young people to help find their strengths and interests and to make plans for their futures.

We aim to find together the most suitable work/study and practice placements and also find ways to help improve everyday life and discuss the best treatment plan. We also offer help filling in application forms and applying for benefits.

All of our work is confidential and voluntary for young people.

## **Outreach youth work in Finland**

The purpose of outreach youth work is to help young people under the age of 29 who are outside of education, unemployed, have limited options and those who are at risk of social exclusion. The purpose is also to help those who need support to reach public sector services and keep them committed.

Outreach youth work is financed by the Ministry of Education and Culture. Outreach youth workers try to find those youngsters who, for example, haven't received help from the social services system. Sometimes they have been in the system for many years but they haven't found the best way to manage their life.

Outreach youth workers are trying to dig deeper into young people's problems and better understand how to help them. Our workers can reach young people in different areas for example cafeterias, schools, young people's homes and also different kinds of offices such as the employment office, social welfare office and mental healthcare offices.

In Jyväskylä we focus on working with young people aged between 15 and 28. Often these young people have a variety of problems; they can range from social problems, economic problems, mental health problems, life-management problems and substance abuse.

Depending on the needs of our clients our services can be long or short term. All of our work is confidential and voluntary for young people. From our point of view every young person deserves the same chance as everybody else in life.