

Back Bone

Mobile Jugendarbeit 20

**Strengthens
the
backbone
of the
youth!**



Mobile Jugendarbeit 20

Methods, Stance and Offers

History

The supporting association Verein Alte Fleischerei was founded in 1995. Since 1996 Back Bone provides detached youth work for youngsters from 12 to 23 years in the 20th district of Vienna. The work is financed by the Vienna city council.

Who we are

Back Bone is an organisation dedicated to mobile youth work in the 20th district of Vienna. It is our goal to improve the living situation of adolescents in the long term. They shall not only be able to find their place in society, but to shape and thrive in it. We accompany and support adolescents on their individual paths. We offer an accessible approach to social work, applying street work to interact with the youths. Our methods are group- and project work as well as individual casework.



Our Activity Area

Vienna comprises 23 districts – Back Bone operates in the 20th district, which is the area with the lowest average taxable income in the entire city – the index of the average net wage per employee is 84,3. The district's resident population is defined by a high level of diversity – people originating from at least 14 different countries live alongside native Austrians.

Approximately 11.000 of 85.815 inhabitants of the 20th district are aged between 15 and 23 years.

Our network in the 20th district



Youth center BasE 20

children's leisure time animation in parks

district government

urban renewal office

neighbour service for public housing

an a lot more...

Our basic principles

Voluntariness

It is up to the youths to decide when and in which manner they call upon our service.

Anonymity

Youths do not have to reveal their identity in order to profit from Back Bone.

Confidentiality

No data will be handed to third parties without the youths' consent.

Transparency

Staff members will interact with the youths in an open, honest and authentic manner. They will clearly state the intentions, possibilities and limits of their actions. Ideally, staff members and youths will develop social work mechanisms together.

Partisanship

The work always serves the youths' interests. An attorney function against third parties doesn't exist/Staff members obtain the role of advocates when third parties are involved.



Our basic attitudes

Acceptance

The youths' various ways of life are to be accepted and treated with respect.

Holistic Approach

Mobile youth work is determined by the social environment and the individual needs of the target group and thus has a holistic subject-orientation. The subjects and their situations will be viewed in regard to their needs, social benefits, relationships, behavioral expressions, interests, wishes, construction- and attitude-patterns.

Diversity

Accepting the diversity and intercultural dynamics in the lives of adolescents is a staple of mobile youth work. The boundaries refer to various categories such as gender identity, age, economic situation and youth culture affiliation.

Gender Specific Attitude

Actions taken by youths will always be examined in regard to the gender specific conditions of their daily lives. Youths will be encouraged to obtain self-determination and self-reflection. The goal of a gender-based orientation is to support youths in shaping their gender roles deliberately, reduce mutual gender specific discrimination and role-based prejudices.





Our Work Principles

Accessibility

Accessing our service must not be tantamount to crossing borders. We are reached easily and actively remove potential obstacles and barriers. Our most accessible form of approach is streetwork.

Environment orientation

We see people in the context of their environment. The latter is always defined by social and political structures as well as the unequal distribution of resources. Environment orientation amounts to a focus on daily routines and a holistic approach to our work.

Resource Orientation

Our work focuses on the strengths, capabilities and resources of the subjects instead of their problematic situations. Back Bone supports the target group in unravelling personal, social and structural resources and making use of them.

Community Orientation

Mobile youth work does not only focus on the youth target group itself but also on all relevant sources of influence in their environment – which is basically the community the youths are part of. Including persons, institutions and media shaping this environment on the regional level is crucial in creating, maintaining and developing open spaces for the youths.

Needs Orientation

Drawing from its social work expertise, mobile youth work assesses which kind of support subjects may profit from most in a given social and spatial environment. The provided service aligns to this assessment. It requires flexible working hours and immediate response to developments concerning youth culture, society and politics.

Continuity

Mobile youth work requires intensive phases of establishing contact and forming relationships. Contact has to be made available over a long period of time. Trust is the key to long term processes. Continuity is presupposed. Both in the sense of persistent attendance and in regard to reachability. The outlines of the latter have to be defined clearly – it encompasses both a face-to-face-setting as well as communication via telephone and internet.

Our Methods

Streetwork

Streetwork is a method of social work and a contact form by means of outreach within youth work. Mobile youth workers usually have to enter the living environment of their target group. They do not work on their own premises exclusively. The goals are to provide contacts for youths who cannot be reached by other social institutions will achieve, to explore their living environment and to offer easy accessible local counselling.

Group Work

The goal is to conduct or initiate processes of group dynamics in order to spot and support resources within the group. The group itself determines the duration and intensity of the teamwork. Activities and projects are prepared and carried out together. Guided reflection and lessons learned in various processes of group dynamics (for instance in adventure-based learning projects, sport activities) promote future-oriented and responsible actions by the youths within their community.

Clique Work

Cliques are pivotal in youths' socialization and identity formation. Mobile youth work takes individual daily routine and coping mechanisms of cliques seriously and supports and assists them. It works with the structures and strengths of cliques in particular. The cliques are frequently accompanied and mutual grounds established to nurture these strengths and resources.

Project Work

Project work results from contact with the youths and is tied in with their wishes and needs. A project has a clear goal, a beginning and an end. In the course of a project, the youths' skills and interests come into play and new ones can be learned.



Indoor Offers

Open Office

The goal is to provide an open room for the youths to use individually. The staff members serve as contacts. Hence they may access social work assistance. The supply of specific indoor activities also serves to connect various cliques and can contribute to the formation of new groups.

Girls' Day/Boys' Day

The goal of a gender-based setting is to support youths in shaping their gender roles deliberately, reduce mutual gender specific discrimination and role-based prejudices. Group work with open, gender-homogeneous groups allows for (gender-) sensitive topics.

Rehearsal Room

The possibility to write a self composed text, to vocalize it and to be able to play and listen to it again and again after the recording, can serve as way to cope with stress as well as an opportunity for self-reflection. It's often a good starting point for further counselling or consulting.

Individual Case Work

Individual case work consists of needs based and individually coordinated support offers. It aims to broaden freedom of choice, improve everyday life and advocate self-activation, respectively self-organization. The service can be offered in the short, middle or long run. Informal and spontaneous orientation talks, professional psycho-social counselling and provision of secure information, assistance with authorities, re-assignment to specialized institutions and generally fast, available and uncomplicated assistance with every day and life problems are the focus of isolated case work.



