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Network Overview

Welcome to the Dbl Youth Network (DblYN). This new network provides an international platform from which young deafblind people will inspire others, share views, develop ideas and influence policy makers. DbIYN recognises that youth transitioning from childhood to adulthood are at a very important developmental stage of life. The Network will enable young deafblind people to support one another to gain skills and develop their confidence. DbIYN will actively encourage young people to share their achievements and work together to find solutions to the challenges young deafblind people face. They will be able to work together through social media and at Dbl events. This will bring young deafblind people from many countries together to share views that have been shaped by their respective cultural backgrounds. There are serious aspirations for this Network but there will be plenty of opportunities for fun, enjoyment and friendship. We believe that through membership of the DbIYN young deafblind people will bring new perspectives for DbI to consider and benefit from.

Network Membership

Membership is free and open to all young deafblind people between the ages of 15 and 24 years. Associate membership is also free and open to all people that support deafblind youth and / or interested in the issues of importance to deafblind youth.

Activities

The Network has a strong emphasis on developing and sustaining friendships through participation in a range of engaging and fulfilling international activities. This promotes and values the positive contribution that young deafblind people make in their communities and respective countries. Although we are a very new Network our membership has shown a keen interest in developing the following activities ~

Holidays, short breaks and exchange visits hosted by deafblind organisations throughout the world.

Conferences, forums and consultation groups representing the voice of deafblind youth.

Newsletters and social media providing access to information on network events.

Award schemes and ceremonies to champion individual and collective achievements of deafblind youth.

Talks and seminars bringing together deafblind youth, practitioners and specialists in deafblind youth services

Deafblind Youth-a <u>definition</u> – click here

The Aims of the Deafblind International Youth Network - click here

The Outcomes that the DbIYN will strive to achieve - click here

Deafblind Youth – a definition

<u>Deafblind:</u> the network is open to youth who are deafblind, multisensory impaired or have either sight or hearing loss alongside further disabilities.

<u>Youth:</u> is best understood as a period of transition from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community. Youth is a more fluid category than a fixed age-group.

However, age is the easiest way to define this group, particularly in relation to education and employment.

The United Nations (UN), for statistical consistency across regions, defines 'youth', as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States. All UN statistics on youth are based on this definition.

For activities at the national level, for example when implementing a local community youth programme, "youth" may be understood in a more flexible manner.

DbIYN has adopted the UN definition and use of 'youth'.

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The Aims of the Deafblind International Youth Network

To provide a forum for deafblind youth to demonstrate their achievements and what they contribute to their communities.

To empower deafblind youth to be involved in the decisions that affect their lives and future.

To influence Government policy makers on issues that impact on the lives of young deafblind people.

To involve deafblind youth in consultancy on targeted key issues such as employment, transport, health and housing.

To provide opportunities for young deafblind people to experience different cultures in new and exciting environments.

To provide opportunities for peer group friendships within the international community of deafblind young people.

To celebrate the achievements and contribution of deafblind youth.

Raise the awareness and profile of DbI and its associated networks.

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Outcomes: that the DbIYN will strive to achieve

The value and participation of deafblind youth will be fully recognised in the international deafblind community.

To nurture deafblind youth in expressing their views, opinions and aspirations.

Deafblind youth have a sense of ownership and belonging to Dbl.

The breaking down of barriers that isolate deafblind youth, in particular those in rural communities.

The network will be consistent with the overall aims and strategic plan of Dbl

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