

“Improvements to Jobs Initiative Needed to Impact on Return to Growth in Youth Unemployment” says Leading Youth Organisation

Reacting to figures today from the CSO showing a 1,552 growth in under 25’s on the Live Register, Youth Work Ireland has warned that ignoring the need for a dedicated approach to these young people could do enormous long term damage to Ireland and its economy. The group has urged the Government to improve elements of the jobs initiative dealing with youth unemployment. Youth Work Ireland has published its own plan focused on education and training measures along with assisting young entrepreneurs. The youth organisation, several of whose members operate education and labour market programmes, says it is particularly relevant to target young unemployed people to prevent their drift into long term unemployment and exclusion.

“We all know unemployment is the number one issue in Irish society today but youth unemployment needs special attention as nobody wants to see a whole generation cast aside during this recession. If young people drift into long term unemployment in substantial numbers it may be hard to rescue that situation when any recovery occurs. It is also relatively easier to target young people for education and training measures during the recession as they are closer to the education and training system. We also need to see young people as a resource for example in starting new smart tech companies in new economic areas. These measures can generally be achieved quite cheaply if social welfare savings area applied in keeping these young people off the dole queues” Said Michael Mc Loughlin of Youth Work Ireland

Youth Work Ireland’s 10 Point Youth Jobs Plan

1. Remove age restrictions to open up all labour market schemes to all those over 18
2. Revive the Student Summer Jobs Scheme which gives valuable labour market experience to young people and helps the voluntary and community sector
3. Reverse the PLC places freeze
4. Maintain apprenticeship numbers as was done with the ESB scheme,
5. Foster and support young entrepreneurs – Facebook, the multimillion dollar site, was started by young people
6. Establish a process to commercialise young people’s ideas e.g. transition year & young scientist entries
7. Work with young people on new areas of economic potential in music, arts and technology
8. Capitalise elements of the pension reserve fund on a commercial basis to support job creation for young people – after all it’s their future pension!
9. Ensure every young person has an offer of work, education, training or quality work experience to prevent the drift into a culture of long term unemployment
10. Develop work placements and public works for the most hard to reach

ENDS

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