



Youth Work Ireland

Press Release
Youth Work Ireland
09 September 2011

“External Involvement in Job Bridge Internship Scheme maybe needed to ensure full confidence in Initiative for the Future” says Leading Youth Organisation

Youth Work Ireland has today echoed concerns raised about some of the vacancies being advertised on the Job Bridge website and at the number of vacancies that have been taken down from the site. The organisation whose 22 members offer many programmes for early school leavers and the young unemployed has suggested a more robust definition of what an internship is and a closer link to education and training provision as set out by the European Youth Forum. The youth group has also suggested the involvement of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development and the INOU to ensure that there are people from non employer backgrounds looking out for the interests of interns.

“This programme is a key aspect of the Governments Jobs Initiative and it is important that it is delivering for those who participate. There have been many worrying reports on websites and blogs about the type of vacancies being offered. It seems important to have a solid definition of what is and isn’t an internship. Generally speaking the concept has been linked to getting real and practical experience in the field that a person has chosen or is qualified in. There needs to be a strong linkage between career guidance and employment services and positioned offered to people. In reality it is hard to see a role for internships in both very low and very high skilled areas, they should form a crucial piece of work experience for those who have some qualifications but no experience” Said Michael Mc Loughlin from Youth Work Ireland

“There has been some thought on the issue of the role and place of internships. The Chartered Institute of Personnel Development has launched a code of practice which could be of assistance in this area. Similarly the European Youth Forum has produced a paper on the topic with a particular emphasis on the dominance of internships in the labour market choices of young people. These bodies stress the centrality of learning and development to any internship. Some of the reported vacancies do not appear to come up the standards set by these bodies. It therefore seems important that the interests of the interns are somehow represented in the management of the process as opposed to just the employers. Organisations like the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development or the INOU could fulfil such a role” Mr. Mc Loughlin added

ENDS

Contact: Michael Mc Loughlin 087 6677499

418 words