



Youth Work Ireland

**Press Release**

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**“Secret Millionaire Projects in Doubt due to Government Cuts” Warns Leading Youth Organisation**

Despite convincing prominent business men to donate tens of thousands to their valuable work a number of projects featured in the television series “Secret Millionaire” are in grave danger due to impending cuts by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs according to Youth Work Ireland. The organisation’s local affiliate supports recently featured youth projects in the Dundalk area. Youth Work Ireland has said that the public interest in such projects illustrated in the programme should mean they are bottom of the list for Government cuts.

“Every Monday hundreds of thousands of people tune in to The Secret Millionaire to see local communities working together to improve their situation, a considerable number of the projects featured in the series are youth and children’s projects in the most disadvantaged areas of the country. If we are to believe what we hear many of these projects will face swinging cuts in this year’s budget, particularly the Special Projects for Youth, Youth Service Grant and Youth Information Grant schemes run by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs which are a key support to such work are all believed to be facing major cuts affecting some of the most disadvantaged young people in the country” Said Michael Mc Loughlin from Youth Work Ireland

“It seems ironic that when some of our most successful businessmen can see the value in local youth projects our Government is planning major cuts to them. These projects provide immeasurable value for money by leveraging thousands of volunteer hours every week in local communities. We estimate the value of the preventative work of these projects in terms of youth offending, savings to the care system and building healthy and productive citizens for the future to be in the billions. Perhaps the Government should tune in too” Mc Loughlin added

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