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Irish Youth Work SCENE

Issue 1-Jan/92

National Youth Federation

FEATURES

Crisis in the Youth Service?

Power Sharing in the Youth Club

Youth Services Bill 1990



A magazine for Irish youth workers ...

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or to put forward your point of view.
Send in news, photos (black & white only),
comments, letters or articles to the editor.
Views expressed in this magazine
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CRISIS IN THE YOUTH SERVICE?

The Irish Youth Service is currently facing three related problems whose effects are becoming increasingly dangerous. The origins of these problems are complex but it is vital to try to understand them and to begin to tackle them effectively. Everybody associated with Irish youth work owns part of this responsibility. If we do not do so then we will run the risk of a full-blown crisis in 1992 which might even threaten the very existence of large parts of the Youth Service.

THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM

In 1988 the Youth Affairs section of the Department of Education received a budget of £10 million for youth services. This compared with a budget of about £4 million in 1987.

The new budget was a significant achievement for the Minister of State, Frank Fahey T.D. and the staff of the Youth Affairs Section. It represented a dramatic step towards the goal set by the Costello report in 1984 of an annual youth service budget of £20 million. But it also presented a major challenge - to devise and run new projects which would demonstrate the relevance of youth work as part of an overall education policy.

The Youth Service approached this challenge in a positive and mature fashion. Great consideration was given to the projects which would be most beneficial and so 1988 was a year in which foundations were laid more than projects actually begun. A positive

cashflow at the end of the year made it impossible to argue against the 20% cut imposed by the Government on the 1989 Youth Services Budget (down to £8 million). The Youth Service honoured its commitments and hoped for a restoration of the 1988 funding level in 1990.

In the event the budget for 1990 was just under £9 million and in 1991 it had still not quite reached £10 million. The allocations in these years were clearly not enough to sustain actual levels of expenditure approved in 1988 - but it was difficult to make this case whilst the government could - and did - point to the significant year-on-year increase being awarded taking 1989 as the baseline.

The Department did its best to manage its budget and cashflow as effectively as possible and officials deserve some praise for the way they did so. But the result was inevitable and in 1991 a cash shortfall of almost £1 million led to redundancies and the abolition of a number of projects and services throughout the country.

The Estimates allocation for 1992 suggests further cuts may well be sought this year. Such cuts will be devastating to a service that is already overstretched and underfunded.

THE HUMAN PROBLEM

The effects of the cuts will be more than simply financial. Every voluntary organisation depends upon a sense of vocation and commitment to motivate its volunteers and staff. In 1988 communities across the country responded enthusiastically to the

possibility of developing themselves and their young people. This led directly to a variety of new and imaginative community-based projects which are making a difference to parts of our society that other agencies could not reach.

The current funding problems threaten that achievement at a human level. In many cases it has not been possible to allow staff salaries to keep pace with the cost of living far less the rates of increase being talked about in PESP and special teacher's pay awards. Many staff have found themselves on monthly contracts because of uncertainty about funding levels well into each budgetary year. Volunteers found themselves being forced to fundraise rather than work with young people. Young people and communities which had begun to believe in themselves and society are reverting to despair and alienation.

The effect of the present uncertainties and cutbacks at the level of the individual and the community cannot be overstated. And whilst they may not be immediately significant in economic or financial terms their ultimate consequences for the state and society may prove more telling than the relatively small amounts of money involved.

THE POLICY PROBLEM

The absence of any overall context in which to consider these longer term implications highlights what is emerging as a third key problem for the youth service - the absence of any overall coherent policy framework.

In the recent Dail debate on the Youth Services Bill 1990, a number of government contributors, including the Minister of State, denied the need for a committee to oversee youth related policies. Yet if the need does not exist then why are there at least two ad hoc committees in existence, one chaired by the Minister of State at the Department of Health and one

by a senior official in the Department of Justice? And how can one explain the fact that in 1991, when redundancies were being effected as a result of cuts in the grants from the Department of Education, the Department of Justice was recruiting its own community-based youth workers.

The emergence of a distinction between mainstream and 'disadvantaged' youth work in funding allocations in 1988 echoed a distinction made in the Costello report. A tendency since then to cut mainstream budgets in order to try to preserve disadvantaged projects intact is in principle commendable. But it also implies significant assumptions in regard to the nature of the distinction, the relative merits of the two types of work and, finally, the scope for either type to exist entirely independently of the other.

The problem in this regard is not so much that there is a clear divergence between the Department and a considerable cross section of the youth service on these matters but rather that there has never really been a substantive dialogue between the two sides.

Part of the problem is, of course that youth organisations are reluctant to commit themselves to a dialogue which might appear to imply acceptance of Youth Service cutbacks. But some way out of this dilemma must be found.

SOME PROPOSALS

So how, based on the foregoing review, might we begin to address the problems and avert the crisis?

Firstly, and unavoidably, comes the question of finance. The youth service must secure an additional £1 million above what is already budgeted for 1992. I would propose that this amount be taken from the unclaimed prize fund of the National Lottery (currently about £3 million). This would address the financial problem in the short-term.

Youth Work FOCUS

It could be solved in the long-term with no adverse effects for the exchequer if the legislation governing the National Lottery were to be amended to require the Lottery to generate a surplus for the Exchequer equivalent to at least 40% of turnover (as it did in its first year of operation). This would have yielded the Exchequer £12 million extra from the Lottery in 1990 the latest year for which figures are available. Given the fact that during the period 1987 to 1990 - the overall sales of the National Lottery grew by 40%, the amounts paid out in prizes and for administration both increased by 100%, and yield the Exchequer increased by only 27% this does not seem unreasonable. Only a small proportion of the additional Exchequer income would be required to sustain the existing levels of youth service on an ongoing basis.

Solving the financial problem this way would in turn facilitate the creation of multi annual funding cycles for projects and programmes. The level of stability and security thus engendered would go a long way to addressing the human problems identified above.

Finally, it is good to be able to note that the appointment of an assessor to the Department of Education suggests that the policy problem is already being addressed. A national advisory committee drawing together key funding and delivery agencies, is also highly desirable to provide a forum in which a practical policy blueprint could be developed on an ongoing basis. This should be done under the aegis of the Department of Education to ensure that the primacy of the educational aspect of youth work is not lost sight of.

Youth Services Bill 1990

On the 26th November 1991, Mr. J. Deenihan, T.D., moved that the Youth Services Bill 1990 be read a second time. Proposing the Bill Mr. Deenihan said he hoped it might create a stepping stone through which the establishment of a legislative base for the youth service might be moved forward.

The Bill envisaged a new National Advisory Committee on Youth Work: a national register of youth organisations; new initiatives in the area of education and training for youth workers; local advisory committees and tax relief incentives for gifts to the youth service.

National Advisory Committee

Functions:

- Advise the Minister on the development of youth work and youth work practice in Ireland.
- Assist in the co-ordination, provision and evaluation of state expenditure in the youth service.
- Provide an appreciation of the value of youth work.

Composition:

- Five people engaged in youth work provided by voluntary youth organisations.
- Two people engaged in youth services provided by the State.
- Three persons nominated by the Minister.
- Five persons, representative of the Departments of Justice, Education, Labour, Social Welfare and Health.

Chairperson:

- Appointed by the Minister

In the debate Deputies Lawlor, Martin, Coughlan, Wallace, Kitt and Quill spoke about the 'splendid' work youth organisations were doing. They agreed on the need to avoid duplication and fragmentation of services but spoke

against the establishment of the proposed advisory committee.

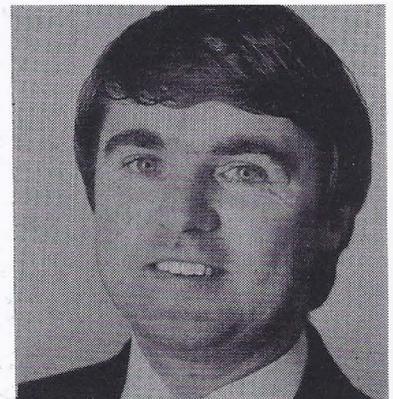
The Minister of State Mr. Frank Fahey, T.D., spoke vehemently against such a concept arguing that when he became Minister in 1987 he had made it clear that he did not intend to have any more "policy documents, reports or committees". The Minister argued that there was an urgent need for politicians, civil servants and the general public to recognise that the best value for Government expenditure comes from the youth services and that what youth organisations wanted was more money and not a statutory basis for the Youth Service. He urged the House to put aside the Bill, to address the issues facing young people, and thus contribute positively to convincing the Government and the Department of Finance of the necessity of providing the youth service with more money whereby it could be made more effective.

The Minister argued that what youth organisations wanted was more money and not a statutory basis

For the most part speakers on Bill used the opportunity to raise and discuss issues facing young people. The substance of the debate indicates that the contributors and the House were aware of the issues facing young people: inequality in educational opportunity; youth unemployment rates that remain 7% higher than for the adult population; the plight of young homeless people; the extent of youth emigration and its impact on rural communities etc. Little attention was given to the Bill itself

or to the practical ways that the youth service might be supported and co-ordinated to respond to the plight of young people.

The value of having an Act that would solidify the position of services for young people hardly needs elaboration. Despite policy statements from various parties over the past years which have included the O'Sullivan Report (1977), the Bruton Report (1981), the Costello Report (1984) and the Birmingham Report (1985), little has been done to provide a stable and permanent base from which the youth service can operate. In addition youth service funding continues to be allocated on a year to year basis with no guarantees of maintenance of funds on a long term basis. Despite recommendations by the Costello Committee (1984) on the need for co-operation and co-ordination of youth work and social services for young people, there remains a distinct lack of co-operation between youth organisations themselves and between statutory and voluntary services. The lack of debate on the content of the Bill, and the lack of analysis on its substance is disheartening.



Mr. Frank Fahey, TD, Minister of State

The Minister's assertion that the youth organisations do not want a statutory basis for the youth service poses an important question. Is the possibility of a more secure funding

base worth the risk of undermining the current supremacy of voluntarism in youth work?

The voluntary nature of the youth service is both its weakness and its strength. It is its weakness because voluntarism is often equated with amateurism and lack of professionalism. This is an issue that organisations must face. The provision in the Bill to put in place a structure for accrediting paid and volunteer youth workers may have provided a way to rationalise and standardise good practice in youth work. This is badly needed. The voluntary nature of youth work is also its strength. The very nature of voluntary control of the youth service allows organisations to be the primary actors in establishing goals and determining objectives. There is a danger that this function would be determined by the State if the legislative road were to become a reality.

The Minister of State needs to be confirmed in his view that youth organisations do not want a statutory basis or to be advised to the contrary.

The purpose of youth work defined by the Bill is very narrow

A fact that seems to have eluded many deputies is that the substance of this particular Bill is poor in some respects. The purpose of youth work defined by the Bill is very narrow concerning itself with at best broad educational objectives and at worst a narrow recreational and vocational training focus. The expansiveness and challenge promoted in the Costello Report (1984) and 'In Partnership with Youth' (1985) are sadly absent from the Bill.

Nowhere is the core function of youth work of 'enabling' and 'empowering' "*young people to be active and critical participants in society and social development*" (Costello, 1984) addressed. By implication this omission ignores the fact that the youth service has to

Functions of the Youth Service

- The moral, spiritual and cultural development of young people.
- Supporting the welfare of youth, especially those at risk.
- Physical Education.
- Out-of-school education, personal development.
- The provision of re-creation facilities for youth.
- The encouragement of voluntary service by young people.
- The development of social and vocational skills.
- Involvement in international youth exchanges and international youth representation.

have a social, economic and political centrality if it is to have any impact on the plight of young people.

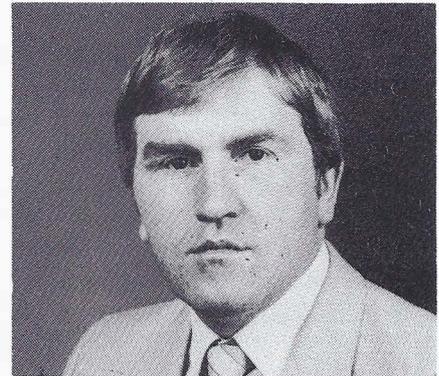
The fact that contributors to the debate did not identify growing social polarisation in Irish society as the underlying cause of the major youth issues is indicative of a lack of commitment to changing structures that might create a more equitable society for our young people and strengthening the youth services within these changes. The Costello Committee by contrast set out the objective of the Youth Service as being: "*to encourage the active contribution of youth as a creative and dynamic social partner and to involve youth in the management of social change*", (Costello, 1984, p.3).

For most deputies it seems to have been enough to agree on the impact the divided society of Ireland has on young people but to leave untouched the structures that are proving to be ineffective in alleviating the plight of the young disadvantaged. Serious analysis of how this legislation might improve the structures and delivery of services for young people was for the most part absent from the debate.

In addition the principle of participation by young people in the management of services for young people seems to have escaped the attention of everybody. Not even the Minister himself noted the absence of representation by young people themselves on the proposed advisory committees as

being a serious flaw in the substance of the Bill.

Finally, the position of Local Voluntary Youth Councils needs to be assessed. It was proposed in the Bill that Local Advisory Committees should be established. What is not clear in the text of the Bill is how they would relate to the current pilot LVYCs. If the intention was to replace LVYCs with structures that have a statutory basis, then it is essential to ensure that the current pilot provision is evaluated and principles of good practice agreed before they are given statutory footing.



Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, TD

The Bill was defeated by a vote of 73 to 67. It could be argued that allowing the Bill to progress to Committee stage and allowing it to be amended and refined at that level might have progressed us on the road to a more stable service. Given the level of debate I doubt this would have been the case. The rhetoric of the politicians on the issues facing young people is hardly a ray of hope that recognition of a commitment to tackling the issues facing young people has finally dawned. The lack of real debate on the role of the youth service in responding to these challenges is probably the real pointer to the actual commitment to the Youth Service by our elected representatives!

Serious analysis of how this legislation might improve the structures and delivery of services for young people was for the most part absent

The participation of young people in decision-making in youth club work has become more an aspiration than widespread practice for many years now. Over the years various policy documents within the Federation have emphasised the need to involve members in decision-making.

In 'Youth Service 2000' the Federation state that:

"it is important to create opportunities for young people to participate with their peers in the exercise of responsibility and real participation in decision-making within the club"

(N.F.Y.C. 1983, p. 33)

The Annual Report of 1986/87 specifies as part of the club development guidelines that:

"the leadership team must be committed to the process of active participation of members in decision-making and the implementations of these decisions"

(N.F.Y.C. 1986/87, p. 5)

However a major research report on youth club practice within N.Y.F. highlights that:

"in areas of minor consequence such as 'running the coffee bar' or 'deciding what records should be bought' 69.7% of adult volunteers and 72% of senior members believe that members make the decision. As decisions become more important, such as 'changing the layout of the club' and 'raising funds' the adult volunteers take more control, with only 47% of adult volunteers giving power to members in the former area and 48% in the latter area. Finally in other areas such as 'deciding on how money is spent' and 'deciding on new equipment' the vast majority of adult volunteers consult members and make the decisions themselves"

(D. Treacy, 1990, p. 25)

POWER SHARING in the Youth Club

The report concludes:

"therefore it may be said that young people have control over areas of little consequence in the running of the club"

(D. Treacy, 1990, p. 26)

This information will come as no surprise to the many people interested in youth club work. Yet it is important to examine the reasons behind the failure of young people to actively contribute to the control of their own youth club.

Two significant areas which need to be examined in detail are:

- Attitudes to power sharing among adult volunteers
- The structures at club level

Attitudes of Adults to Power Sharing

"Value questions run throughout all that youth workers do, yet they are rarely talked about in detail. One of the main reasons for this is the inconsistencies that often emerge between our personal values and our practice"

(Smith 1980, p. 8)

The Federation's research, quoted earlier, looked at this issue and discovered that 93% of adult volunteers agreed with the principle that "members should be involved in club management". However such generalised support does not follow through as 39% of adult volunteers believe that "members are not capable of organising the club activities on their own". This point is further reinforced by 78% of adult volunteers who believe that "adults need to take control in difficult situations".

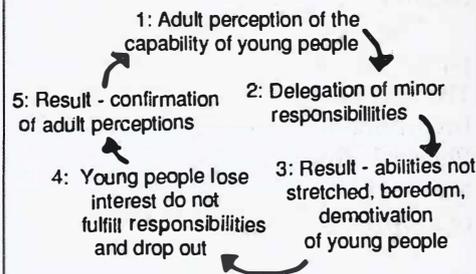
In reality therefore, the good intention of involving young people in decision-making is undermined by the pragmatic need to avoid difficult situations and an underlying belief that young people

are not capable of serious and responsible decision-making. This pragmatic approach is understandable when you consider the pressure on many adult volunteers from parents, clergy, community associations, to manage what they regard as a well run club, which usually means an adult directed club.

The result of both the attitudes of adults and their pragmatic approach is that young people are confined to decision-making in the area of little consequence. This demotivates young people from participating in decision-making as is illustrated below.

CYCLE OF DEMOTIVATION

(D. Treacy, 1989 p.233)



The Club Structures

In spite of the pressures on volunteers to run a well ordered club 61% of volunteers have experimented with varying degrees of self government in clubs by delegating a good deal of responsibility for the management of its affairs within the club to a committee elected by members. Yet as far back as 1967 Batten criticised this approach to participation

"The introduction of a members committee does not necessarily mean an active participation by the membership of the club. Even if such a committee works well its members are only a small minority of the membership"

(Batten 1967, p. 12)

What's inside.....

CLUB PROGRAMMES UPDATE

- Tops of the Clubs Club Community Awards National Youth Club Games Leaders Conference

CROSSWORD

- Win FREE concert tickets of your choice

DATES to remember BOOKSHELF

President Awards NYF Youth Club Members

Members of the Castletown Youth Club in Co. Meath were recently presented with Gold Gaisce Awards by President Mary Robinson at an awards ceremony in Dublin Castle.

Gaisce - The President's Award, is one of the nations most prestigious awards and is presented to young people between the ages of 15 and 25 in recognition of their personal achievements and voluntary service within their own community.

The awards concentrate on four particular sections or challenges. The four challenges are Community Involvement, Personal Skill, Physical Recreation and Venture type projects. There are three types of awards, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

Tony Walsh a member of Castletown Youth Club and one of the Gold Gaisce recipients undertook a two year schedule to achieve his award.

Tony's challenges were carefully planned and as part of his achievements he undertook to learn how to swim and participated in a six day cycling and camping trip to the Isle of Man. Probably better known as one of Ireland's most promising young athletes, he is the proud holder of All-Ireland medals in various track events. As part of his Community Involvement challenge Tony has become very involved in organising the local youth club and has now involved other members of the club in the Gaisce Bronze and Silver Awards.

Castletown Youth Club is one of the affiliated youth clubs of the Meath Youth Federation. Based in



Pictured above with President Robinson (from left, back) are: Aidan Finnegan, Olivia Ward, Patrick Monaghan, Karen Ward and Oliver Ward (PAL); (front): Angela Sheerin, Anthony Walsh, Suzanne Hoey and Michael Englishby

the old school Castletown, the club meets every Friday night and has a membership of almost 40.

How to operate Gaisce in your club

Youth Club Members and Leaders are constantly seeking new programmes and challenges for themselves and their fellow members. Gaisce is a programme that will encompass many of your existing activities and plans while presenting you with new challenges elsewhere.

Every Gaisce participant must have a Presidents Award Leader (PAL). A PAL could act as leader for many participants as was the case for Tony Walsh and his

friends. Their PAL was Oliver Ward of O'Carolan's College and he acted as leader for nine participants. A Presidents Award Leader will help and advise you while also directing you towards achieving your aims and one of the Gaisce Awards.

Should you require any further information on Gaisce/The President's Award Scheme, please write to Gaisce, 2nd Floor, 5/7 Upper O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, or telephone their offices at (01) 777011.

Many clubs within the National Youth Federation participate in Gaisce and it is hoped to report in further issues of Club Scene on Gaisce endeavours by NYF clubs in Roscommon, Clare, Limerick, Kerry and Donegal.

CLUB PROGRAMMES

update

With the National and Regional Programmes progressing well after the New Year, Club Scene outline below some news on the various club programmes as they are happening.



Tops of the Clubs

Well it's that time of the year again, time for Tops of The Youth Clubs.

For months now, clubs have been busy rehearsing and preparing their shows for participation in this National Competition which is growing in popularity year after year.

The committee, under the auspices of the N.Y.C.C., are putting the final touches to arrangements for the National Area Finals and National Final. Regions have by now held their own finals to select their representatives to contest the area finals.

Tops is a country wide competition for variety shows devised and presented by youth club members, from towns and villages throughout Ireland.

The national programme involves all members of a club, from backstage to on stage participation, from painting backdrops, faces, making props and costumes, to choosing the routines and production. For young people it helps raise and explore the issues that affect their lives, through music, dance, drama and comedy. It can be one of the most valuable experiences a young person can draw from during their youth club membership.

This year there are three National Area Finals. The first on Friday, 31 January in Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick, features regions from Clare, Limerick and Cashel & Einly.

On the following night, Saturday, 1 February, again in Pallasgreen, regions from Galway, Ossory and Cloyne will participate. Finally on Saturday, 8 February the Monaghan Region will host regions Donegal, North Connaught, Meath and Monaghan.

Participating shows will be marked individually and the three highest scoring clubs nationally will go forward to the National Finals. These will be announced on the night of the final Area final, Saturday, 8 February, 1992.

The National Final of Tops will be held on Saturday, 29 February in the Dun Mhuire hall, Wexford, and the compere for this years final will be R.T.E. personality Barry Lang.

So, as the song says "Let's go on with the Show, let's go on with the show" - best of luck to all participating clubs and we look forward to seeing the performances.

Club Community Awards

As the Club Community Awards are now 3 years in existence, the organising committee now wish to focus the attention of participating clubs and regions on club development and the support services provided for clubs involved in this year's awards.

The format for the 1992 Club Community Awards is that each participating region will nominate one club on behalf of the region to participate in the programme. This club will have agreed a developmental strategy with the

region and support services will have been agreed and provided locally to allow the club achieve these targets.

Following receipt of the nominations, representatives of the Club Development Working Group will visit each nominated club between March and May (on at least two occasions) to evaluate the development that has taken place. The visited club will have retained a portfolio including the club minutes, press cuttings, details of their development plan and community involvement for presentation to the assessors when they visit the club.

It is also hoped to arrange a visit by the assessment team to each participating club after the evaluation has been made. The Club Community Awards will be presented on 27 May, 1992. Has your region entered yet?

GAMES

National Youth Club Games

Most clubs entering this year's National Youth Club Games have by now made their preparations for their local regional finals. The Area Finals - inter regional event - take place on Sunday, 5 April.

The National Finals will be held in Galway on 2/3 May 1992. The games committee are considering using some new venues for the Galway Finals particularly for soccer and uni hoc.

It is also anticipated that the uni hoc entries and the chess and draughts entries will increase this year. Particular interest has been shown in the mini olympic handball exhibition games at the National Finals where four regions will be invited to participate in a special competition at the National Finals.

Finally let us remind ourselves of the various competitions at this years games / English Debating, Basketball, 5 A side Football, Chess, Draughts, Table Tennis, Olympic Handball, Uni Hoc, Disco Dancing, Quiz, Volleyball.

Rules of the games and all relevant information can be obtained at your regional offices.

Workshops on Mini Olympic Handball

Olympic Handball is fast becoming one of the most interesting indoor sports events for youth clubs. The National Youth Federation are very grateful to the Irish Junior Olympic Handball Association for organising a number of workshops for us to date in Monaghan and Carlow. Other regions interested in attending the workshops include Kildare, Limerick and Ferns.

The workshops of two-three hours duration are organised by recognised coaches and players of the Olympic Handball Association. This unique opportunity to avail of qualified coaches should not be overlooked by regions and clubs who wish to promote this new club game. Rules of Mini Olympic Handball are available from your regional office, or the National Youth Federation office in Dublin.

LEADERS CONFERENCE

The long awaited NYF Leaders Conference will now take place from the 19th - 21st June 1992 in Castleknock College, Dublin.

An attendance of 120 people is guaranteed for what promises to be one of the major conferences of the Federation in recent years. Following consultations between the NYF Board and the NYCC Executive it was agreed to change the date of the conference.

While the youth club year may finish by June the various youth club issues do not. The NYCC Executive therefore will forward a detailed mailing to all regions in February outlining the proposed agenda for the Leaders Conference, including the workshop titles, cost per delegate, number of delegates per region, list of speakers etc.

Preliminary discussions would indicate that the conference will discuss the needs of youth clubs and groups today, be given an opportunity to exchange viewpoints on factors both social and educational that affect young people today, gain a knowledge of new club programme ideas and contribute to the long term planning and development of national programmes and a club development strategy.

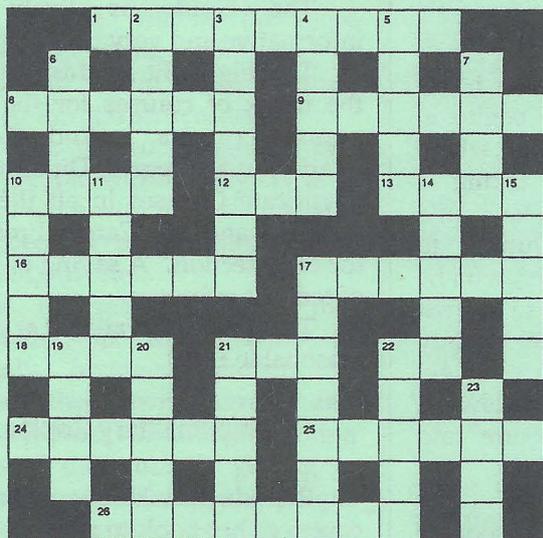
NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Club Scene will feature The Mission Impossible Programme, the Tops of The Clubs Finals, Youth Cares Day in association with Crumlin Hospital and New Club Programme ideas.

CROSSWORD

Two free tickets (compliments of Michael Hogan Consultancy) to a concert in a Dublin venue of your choice, before the end of April 1992, is the prize for the correct entry drawn on Friday, 21 February 1992.

To enter, simply photo-copy or cut out this section and send to Crossword Competition, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.



NAME: _____ age: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CLUB: _____

CONCERT CHOICE: _____

Across

1. City of 1992 Olympic Games
8. To gain possession of
9. Over there
10. God of War or chocolate bar
12. An Irish apple
13. American University
16. To make less
17. Austrian composer died in 1791
18. Once of Clannad fame
21. Also called Patrick
22. For better quality music
24. A May to June star sign
25. To make equal
26. A variety of hawthorn or cement

Down

2. Bryan, Canadian singer
3. Rebuke, criticise
4. Faithful
5. Nursemaid or goat
6. Swedish pop group
7. To make known
10. Curie the inventor or Donny's sister
11. Christian name of 'The Van' Author
14. Gaisce
15. Additional
17. Plural parent
19. To want
20. Vowels
21. Irish Park or Field
22. Calculate or a title
23. A minute element

Dates to remember

JANUARY

- 31 Tops Area Finals
- Pallasgreen

FEBRUARY

- 1 Tops Area Finals
- Pallasgreen
- 7 Games Area Entries from
Regions
- 8 Tops of the Clubs Area
Finals - Clontibret
- 29 Tops of the Clubs Final
- Wexford
- 29 NYCC Meeting
- Wexford

MARCH

- 1 NYCC Meeting
- Wexford

APRIL

- 8 Area Games
- Clare
- Monaghan
- Wexford
- Sligo

MAY

- 2/3 National Youth Club
Games Finals - Galway

BOOKSHELF

Judith and the Traveller by Michael Scott and **Run Donny Run!** by Joe Buckley are two new books recently published by Wolfhound Press.

These two new books are aimed at the twelve to sixteen age group and form part of the new ACE imprint which hopefully will continue to publish books for what is generally agreed to be an age group in need of their own style and standard of reading. Both of these books will give Irish teenagers a chance to read fiction based in Ireland with Irish characters and settings.

▪ **Judith and the Traveller:**

On running away from home following her widowed father's marriage, Judith meets up with Spider, a young traveller. Together they set off on their journey to Galway pursued by parents and meet with trouble wherever they go. The book portrays for us the way two people from different cultures can learn about life together, respect each others way of life and then they fall in love.

▪ **Run Donny Run!:**

Donny has problems at home and at school. The story begins at Heuston Station in Dublin where Donny is duped into taking a package by his brother in law. In a frantic chase from Dublin to Shannon, Donny and Jacky, who he meets on the way, try to outwit dirty dealers and other shady characters as they attempt to get back on the right side of the law. A good book about adventure and learning and making amends.

Both books retail at the reasonable price of £3.99 each.

Guide To Higher Education Courses in Ireland and Britain

This latest book from Rhonda O'Connor should be a godsend to long-suffering students, parents, teachers and Guidance Counsellors. No longer will you have to trawl through a multiplicity of college brochures to obtain an overview of the Higher Education Courses available. Here for the first time in one book the author has assembled the Third-Level College Courses available in Ireland and Britain. A daunting undertaking indeed.

Included are - the Universities in Britain, the Polytechnics in Britain, the Colleges of Higher Education in Britain, the Scottish Central Institutions, as well of course as the Irish Universities, the Regional Technical Colleges and the Colleges of Education.

There is also a comprehensive and detailed listing of Post Leaving Certificate Courses, Private Colleges, Sections on the Gaeltacht Summer Colleges, Apprenticeships, CERT, Teagasc and most uniquely the Religious Life presented as a Career option.

The Guide is lively and informative and very user-friendly.

The highlight of this Guide is the index of courses for the most popular careers. And this in relation to all Degree, Diploma and Certificate Courses in all the Irish Colleges and the Career Prospects for each section. A saving of hours of tedious reference.

The guide is available at a very reasonable £4.50.

Complimentary Copies

Rhonda has kindly given five copies of her book to pass on to the first five names drawn on Friday, 21 February, 1992. To be entered in the draw, simply send your name and address to: Education Course Guide, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick St., Dublin to reach us before 21 February, 1992.

If you have any suggestions, comments, photos (black & white only) or news on your club activities which you would like to feature in the next issue of Club Scene, please forward to Gearoid O'Maoilmhichil at NYF, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1 before the end of March, 1992.

This criticism seems reasonable, but for many years the Federation has encouraged adult volunteers to use democratically elected member committees without looking at alternatives.

Batten's criticism leaves many adult volunteers with the serious difficulty of how to involve all young people in meaningful decision-making.

An Alternative Approach

In recent years the Federation has attempted to address this issue. It has suggested that leadership teams move away from elected committees and use small working groups of young people, in both the planning and implementation of the club programme. In this way Batten's criticism is addressed and there is the possibility of involving most members at some time in organising and implementing a programme area of interest to themselves.

This approach also recognises that, within a club, there are many different groups of young people, friendship groups and groups of individuals who share a common interest. It recognises too that young people will be far more interested in acting upon issues of concern to them than getting involved in rigid structures.

Finally, it also recognises that young people will initially come to the club to be with their friends and partly because the programme has something to offer.

The Federation suggests that the leadership team needs to gradually involve members in pursuing their own interests and becoming involved in the working groups of the club. By getting to know the individual young people in the club, their interests, likes and dislikes, the leaders can encourage them to contribute to the club through small groups while pursuing their own interests.

It is suggested that new members may move through different stages in the club:

STAGE ONE: PASSIVE CONSUMER

The new member may only know a few friends and may not want to put themselves forward. S/he will likely have little or no personal relationship with adult volunteers and see them as the organisers and supervisors.

STAGE TWO: SETTLING IN

In the next few weeks, s/he will gradually 'find their feet' but will stay with their own friendship group. The adult volunteers need to use this period to get to know the new member well, establishing their interests, likes and dislikes and integrating them into the life of the club.

STAGE THREE: 'TESTING THE WATER'

Having found the new member's interests, the adult volunteer invites them to join the new group made up of other members who share the same interest. In this way they begin to get to know others outside their own friendship group in a safe environment as well as becoming involved in the planning and running of an event.

STAGE FOUR: DECISION-MAKING

Having gotten the first taste of small group activity, the member may now be encouraged to join another small group to actually organise and implement a bigger programme area, either for the club as a whole or for a section of the club. Within this small group members can be encouraged to take responsibility, make decisions and follow through to implementation.

The time scale for individuals to move through such steps will be determined by the motivation and the ability of the individual. The young person has at all times the choice to stay at any one stage or to withdraw from the process. It is important to recognise that, as the majority of members get real experience of thinking, discussing, deciding and implementing their own decisions in small groups and are helped to learn from their mistakes, some of them will want

to, and be skilled enough to, take on more responsibilities in the overall management of the club. This will require the leadership team find a meaningful way of involving these members in the management of the club. It is important that the leadership team are clear about the boundaries of authority being given to young people and avoid vetoing decisions made by them.

Finally, the members are more likely to learn by 'doing' if the decisions which small groups are allowed to make are seen by members to be important.

Some leaders will write this approach off as 'too theoretical' or 'couldn't work in our club'. This approach works in many clubs around the country but will only do so where the following guide-lines operate in the club.

- The age structure is divided into younger and older adolescent groups
- The maximum attendance is not more than 60 members
- There are at least one leader for every 10 members.
- The leadership team are clear about what they are trying to achieve and are consistent in their approach.
- The leadership team meet regularly to plan and review
- The facilities are warm and can comfortably cater for the numbers involved.

Clubs that currently are unable to operate to these basic guide-lines should concentrate their efforts to addressing the problems that prevent them from doing so. Involvement of all of the young people in the decision-making will significantly enhance the quality of the club's programme and atmosphere for both the young people and the leaders involved. More detailed description of how clubs operate this approach is presented in the NYF video and booklet 'Clubtalk'.

This article was written by David Treacy in September 1991 whilst working as Assistant Chief Executive of NYF. David has since left the Federation in November, 1991.

Youth Work RESOURCES

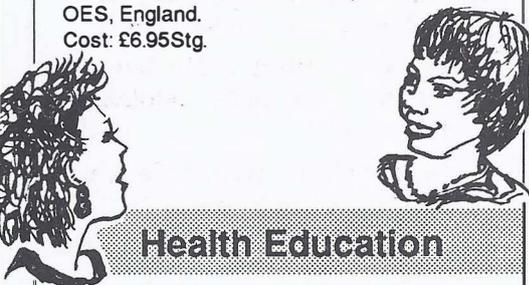
Youth Work

Years and Years of Youth

Bunt, Sidney

- Biographical account of a long distinguished career in the youth service. Concentrating on the issues and practices relevant to youth workers in the 1990's.

Available from: Pro Juventus Publishing Consortium, P.O. Box 172, Croyden CR9 0ES, England.
Cost: £6.95Stg.



Health Education

Boys will be ...?

Sex Education and Young Men

Davidson, Neil

- This book is divided into two broad sections. The first deals with issues such as sex education, gender and young men. The second is a detailed account of sessions involving role plays, questions and surveys.

Available from: Plymbridge Distribution Ltd., Estover, Plymouth PL6 7PZ, England.
Cost: £7.95Stg.

Health Education in Youth Work: A Training Guide

Lyford, Julia

- A practical guide for trainers promoting health education in youth work. Consists of four sections - (1) Context (2) Content (3) Processes (4) Information on Resources and Training.

Available from: Youth Work Press, 17 - 23 Albion Street, Leicester LE1 6GD, England.
Cost: £8.95Stg.

Health Work that Works: A Selection of Current Work in Youth Clubs

Youth Clubs U.K.

- A self explanatory title comprising a collection of ideas from youth workers, young people and health workers on how to approach health education.

Available from: Youth Clubs U.K., Keswick House, Peacock Lane, Leicester LE1 5NY, England.
Cost: £4.95Stg.

Evaluation

*National Community Health
Resource*

- A detailed bibliography of resources for people working in community health, particularly voluntary organisations and community self-help groups.

Available from: National Community Health Resource, 57 Charlton Street, London NW1 1KU, England.
Cost: £3.95Stg.

Anti-Sexist Youth Work

The Equaliser 1

*Bristol Education for Action and
Development*

- A collection of activities such as card games, quizzes etc. aimed at part-time youth workers working on sexist issues. Themes include personal relationships and stereotypes.

Available from: BREAD, 84 Colston Street, Bristol BS1, England.
Cost: £6.50Stg.

Youth Arts

Working with the ArtsCase Studies of Six Youth Arts Projects

Whitfield, Wendy

- Study of six youth arts projects in England, looking at their aims, target groups, staffing and work methods. Also includes contributions from the workers and young people involved relating their experiences (available on loan from the Resource Centre).

Available from: Youth Work Press, 17 - 23 Albion Street, Leicester LE1 6GD, England.
Cost: £2.95Stg.

Youth Service Management

Youth Service Management: Aspects of Structure, Organisation and Development

Bradford, Simon

- The results of a three year research project into local authority youth services. Main emphasis is on structural, cultural and organisational qualities.

Available from: Youth Work Press, 17 - 23 Albion Street, Leicester LE1 6GD, England.
Cost: £5.95Stg.

Adolescence

The Adolescent Years: A Guide for Parents

Patrie, Pat

- A guide aimed at parents of children who are approaching adolescence. Topics tackled include physical and mental changes, sex and health education, relationships, work, money and leaving home.

Available from: National Youth Agency, 17 - 23 Albion Street, Leicester LE1 6GD, England.
Cost: £16.99Stg.

Emigration

Over Here: Young Irish Migrants in London

Randall, Geoffrey

- Looks at the gamut of problems faced by young Irish migrants in London such as homelessness and prejudice and the psychological effects that result from these problems.

Available from: Action Group for Irish Youth, 5 - 15 Cromer Street, London WC1H 8LS, England. Cost: £4.95Stg.

If you require further information on any of the listed titles or would like information on borrowing facilities and how to join the Library and Resource Centre, contact:

Resource Centre Administrator,
National Youth Federation,
20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.
Ph: 01 729933 / Fax: 724183

Community Involvement

Involving Young People in their Communities

Lightfoot, June

- A radical look and approach to how the youth service should go about achieving the title's aim. Close links are advocated with Local Authorities and the Police, as well as drawing clear lines between Youth Work and Community Action.

Available from: Community Development Foundation, 60 Highbury Grove, London N5 2AG, England.
Cost: £4.50Stg.

Rural Youth Work

Working with Rural Youth: Six Case Studies

White, Peter

- A detailed look at six selected case studies around Britain concentrating on content, approach and management.

Available from: Youth Work Press, 17 - 23 Albion Street, Leicester LE1 6GD, England.
Cost: £2.95Stg.

Juvenile Justice

A Lottery

Barnardo's

- This 30-minute video details the work of five Barnardo's juvenile justice and I.T. Centres. Targeted at trainers working with young offenders, it deals with work methods used regarding justice and welfare.

Available from: Barnardo's Film Library, Tanner's Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG. Cost: £85 Stg. + vat

AIDS

Aids Education: Resource Materials

Department of Health & Education

- The materials in this package are designed as a resource for post primary schools to help them develop an educational programme on Aids in the context of its curriculum.

Child Abuse

Working with Sexually Abused Children: A resource pack for professionals

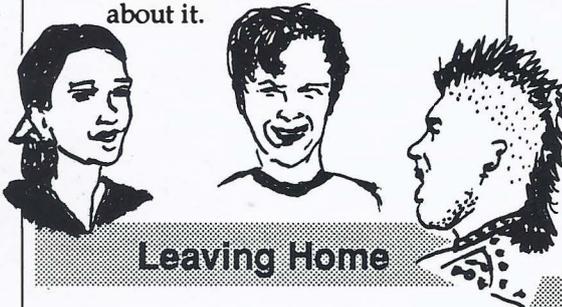
The Childrens Society.

- Self-explanatory title targeted at three main groups; (1) Professionals directly working with sexually abused children (social workers, psychologists, therapists); (2) Professionals dealing with suspected cases of child sexual abuse (educational psychologists); (3) Professionals involved in prevention work (teachers, school nurses).

Child Abuse and Neglect: Individual Study Pack

The Open University

- This pack is intended as a basic introduction to the topic of child abuse and neglect for anybody concerned with children in any capacity. This included professionals involved in such matters (social workers, youth workers, teachers, doctors and police officers), but it also caters for parents, relatives, neighbours or friends who may be concerned about child abuse and want to know more about it.



Leaving Home

Making the Break: Choices & Decisions facing young people leaving home

Leaving Home Project

- This pack is aimed at young people from age 15 upwards in both formal and informal settings ie. secondary school, colleges, youth service and youth training schemes. For use within schools it is designed to meet curriculum and assessment needs for a wide range of courses.

Unemployment

Working with unemployed people: A tutor resource pack

Careers & Occupational Information Centre (COIC)

- This handbook contains a selection of learning and teaching activities which have been used successfully in work with long and short term unemployed people.

Childhood

Childhood: Active learning Pack to Support Family Life Education

Open University Centre for Continuing Education

- This pack provides a framework for professionals working with young people - teachers, social workers and youth leaders. The pack explores three main themes: (1) identity; (2) practical experiences with young children; (3) the child, the school and the community.

Assertion Training

Assertion and How to Train ourselves

Community Education Training Unit

This is a pack of ready made materials including handouts, wall charts and exercises to help devise and run your own assertion training course.

Open Learning

Ensuring Quality in Open Learning: A Handbook for Action

Manpower Services Commission

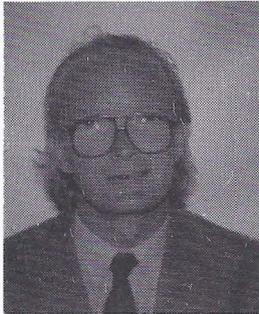
- This handbook is designed to enable individuals, companies and other institutions to reap maximum benefits from this flexible form of training. It will help identify the professional skills needed to provide quality open learning.

Youth Work PEOPLE

■ LIAM O'DWYER

Liam O'Dwyer comes to the NYF from the CDVEC where for the past 13 years he has been involved in a variety of education, training and youth projects.

For the last three years, Liam had the challenging task of co-ordinating the VEC's delivery of Youthreach, a pre-vocational initiative for unqualified early school leavers.



Liam O'Dwyer

Liam also led a European funded project which sought to develop links between two youth projects and their neighbourhood Youthreach centres. He has just completed a European funded research project on the characteristics of early school leavers and the effectiveness of programmes for unqualified young people. In 1987 Liam developed the VEC's first training centre and he managed a range of courses for young people, long-term unemployed adults and women returning to work.

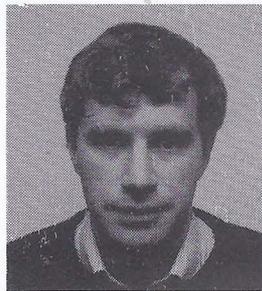
For about nine years Liam worked in the VEC's Curriculum Development Unit where he was responsible for the assessment and certificate courses. During this period he co-authored three educational tests, two on media education and one on industrial relations.

Liam lives in Inchicore, Dublin with Meb and their two children Kate and Molly.

■ BARRY LYNCH

The Ferns Diocesan Youth Service recently appointed Barry Lynch as a Community-Based Youth Worker for the Coolcotts Project in Wexford Town.

Barry hails originally from Blackrock, Co. Dublin and his most recent post was with Ossory Youth Service where he worked as Development Officer for the region. In that role, he was responsible for developing the delivery and quality of services to young people in the diocese of Ossory.



Barry Lynch

While employed there, he initiated a number of programmes in the youth arts field establishing a Young Writers Group, a Youth Theatre and laying foundations for a Rock Group Co-op.

Barry is enthusiastic about his new position, and hopes to design a long-term strategy for community work in the Coolcotts area.



P.U.L.S.E.

We live in a time of remarkable change. The implications of many developments that are taking place will be profound for young Irish people. Accepted certainties of yesterday are gone. New challenges are being presented to young people at national and international level to participate in a New World Order.

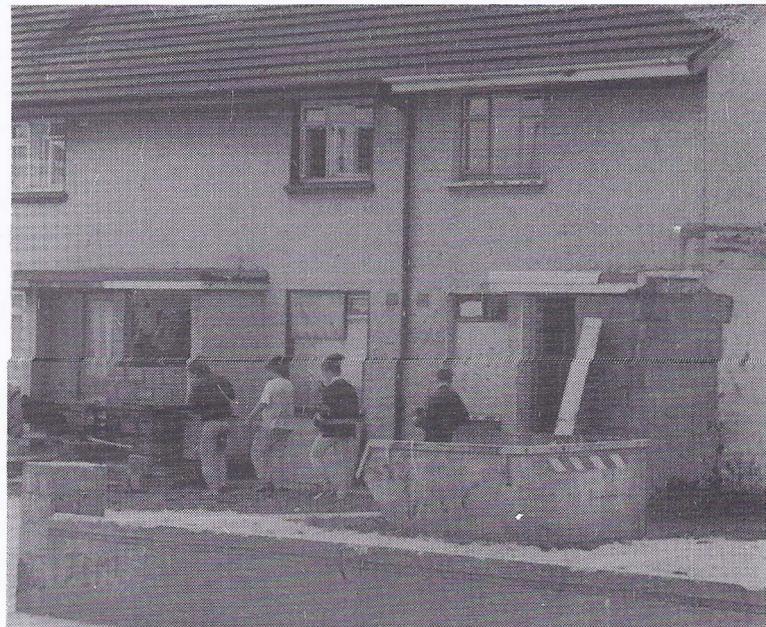
The National Youth Federation is about to launch its second development education programme which will aim, through a number of activity programmes to heighten awareness among young people of the world in which they live and to enable them to create a critical consciousness through which to channel their energy and idealism.

The new project has been named P.U.L.S.E. (People Understanding Living Systems and their Environment). It will provide youth clubs and groups with resource materials on a range of subjects. These will be suitable for work with young people between the ages of 12-16 years.

The resource manual will be officially launched at the end of February and the NYF would like to encourage as many regions as possible to participate in the coming months.

Under Construction

Joint winners of the AIB Better Ireland Awards Youth Category, the Louth Youth Federation reconstructing two council houses into a Community Resource Centre.





BETTER IRELAND AWARDS

The AIB Better Ireland Awards were launched in 1990 and £400,000 has been allocated to award winning entries to date. The awards are intended to support groups and organisations that make a significant contribution to the quality of life in Ireland and that could include your youth club or region.

Categories

This year's awards will have four categories with one major prize of £25,000 in each category and five additional prizes of £5,000.

The four categories are *Youth; Communications; Heritage/ Environment and Arts/Culture.*

The Youth Category

The Youth category of the Awards seeks to support innovative projects initiated by young people or by recognised youth organisations on their behalf. Projects designed to develop young people in their social role, which will enhance their awareness of community needs and foster a spirit of self-help and enterprise are given priority. In this category only, one of the recognition awards of £5,000 may at the discretion of the adjudicators, be divided into five equal parts of £1,000 to support small but worthwhile local endeavour.

The Louth Youth Federation were joint winners of the 1991 awards in the Youth category. Their project involved the reconstruction of two council houses in Dundalk which were then used as a Community Resource Centre. Commenting on the presentation of £12,500 to their project Alice Malone, the Louth Regional Youth Officer said that she welcomed the awards as the money presented would now enable them to develop and complete the work on the centre and thereby provide a valuable service to the young people of the area.

The dividing of one of the £5,000 awards could allow for more entries from youth clubs and youth organisations in 1992. Therefore, if your club or region is involved in a

community development project or any similar initiative why don't you consider entering the 1992 AIB Better Ireland Awards?

Further details are available at any AIB branch or from the AIB Bank Centre, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 and the closing date for entries is 29 May, 1992.

Chocolate Surprise

Sr. Joan Bowles of Limerick Youth Service with Catherine O'Neill and Noreen O'Brien of the Limerick Youth Service Job Creation Enterprise



Youth Work

NEWS

Irish Youth Foundation Grants to NYF Regions

CASHEL & EMLY YOUTH SERVICE: £2,000

This grant will be used to supplement an existing special project through the expansion of a home-school liaison project.

CLARE YOUTH SERVICE: £12,000

This grant will be used for staff salary and equipment costs for a joint production enterprise.

FERNS DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICE: £5,000

This grant will be used to develop their training and service agency for young people.

KERRY DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICE: £10,000

This grant will go towards the 'Diner' Enterprise Project which will provide a healthy alternative to the 'pub' scene.

KILDARE YOUTH SERVICES: £3,000

This grant will be used to provide information to staff, voluntary youth workers and young people and to provide a limited youth information service for the Naas area.

LIMERICK YOUTH SERVICE: £12,000

This grant is for the second part of a two year application for the home-made chocolate and liqueur employment project.

LOUTH YOUTH FEDERATION: £2,500

This grant will go towards the reconstruction of two council houses into a youth and community centre for young people.

MONAGHAN YOUTH FEDERATION: £1,000

This grant will go towards the purchase of video camera, recorder and tapes, art and photographic equipment.

ROSCOMMON REGIONAL YOUTH SERVICE: £1,500

This grant will go towards a youth drop-in centre in the Castlerea area.

WATERFORD REGIONAL YOUTH SERVICE: £4,000

This grant will go towards projects assisting the development of young people, as to both empower and enable them to take greater control of their own lives.

**KEEP BLOOD
IN CIRCULATION
PLEASE BE A
BLOOD DONOR**

The Blood Transfusion Service Board

Pelican House, P. O. Box 97, 40 Mespil Road, Dublin 4. Tel. (01) 603333.
Regional Centre: At St. Finbarr's Hospital, Douglas Road, Cork. Tel. (021) 968799.