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YOUTH work

SCENE

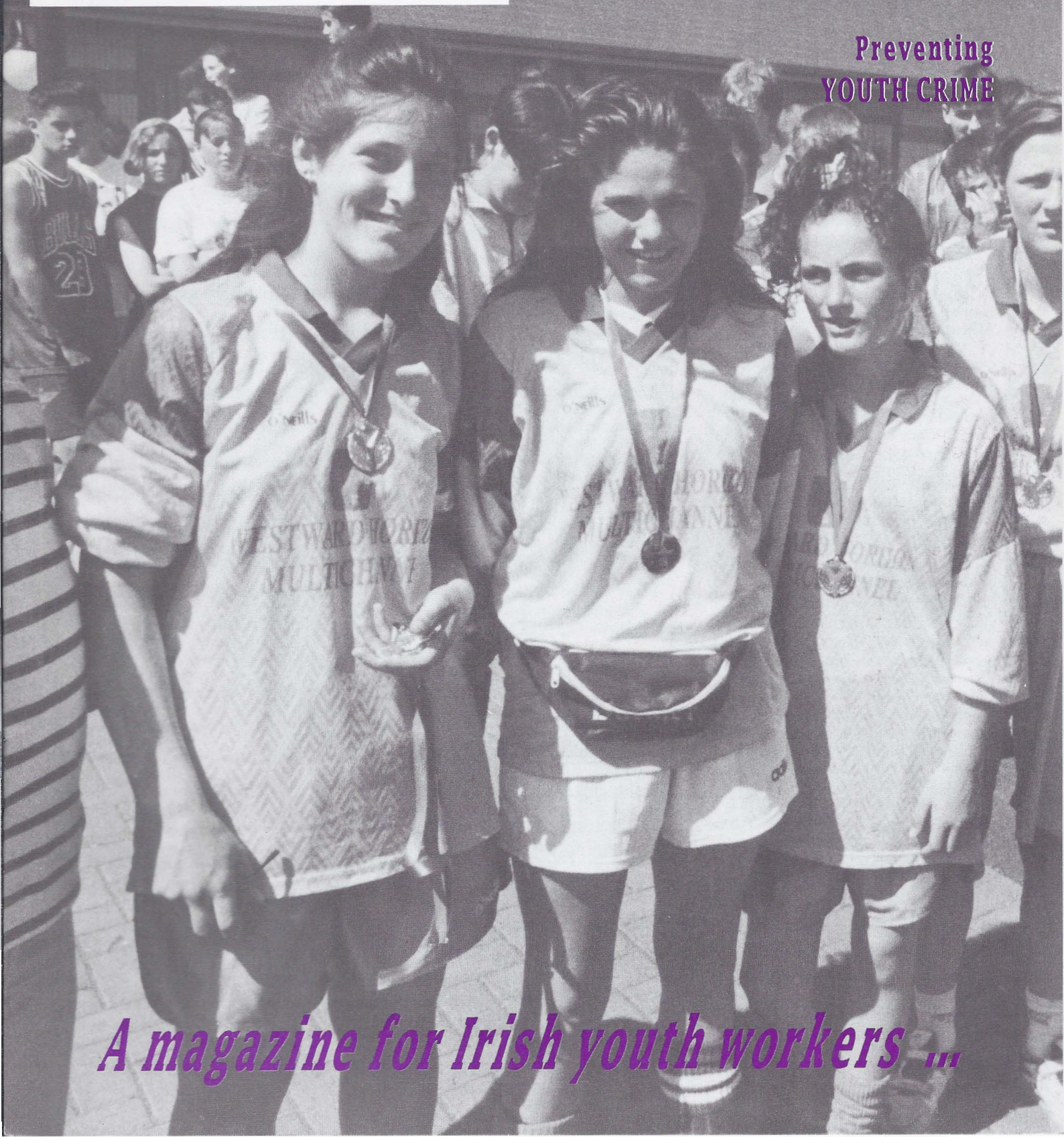
Issue 12 - July 1995 National Youth Federation

inside

Interview with
Bernard Allen TD

VOLUNTEERISM
at a Crossroads

Preventing
YOUTH CRIME



A magazine for Irish youth workers ...

CONTENT

YouthWork Policy

- An Interview with Bernard Allen TD, Minister of State for Youth And Sport **3**
- Preventing Youth Crime **7**
- Dail Watch **9**

YouthWork Practice

- Volunteerism at a Crossroads **5**
- Regional Profile **10**

YouthWork Developments

- More news for leaders, National Games winners, funding developments **10**

Youth Work Resources

- Book, packs and videos for youth and community groups with book reviews **16**

Youth Work Events

- Notice Board - an update of conferences and seminars of relevance to youth and community workers **18**

Irish Youth Work Scene

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This publication is open to all readers to exchange information or to put forward your points of view. Send in news, photos, comments, letters or articles to the editor. Views expressed in this magazine are the contributor's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the National Youth Federation.

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Cover: At the '95 Games ... Members of Northside Link Youth Club - winners of 5-a-side soccer (Female U16) taken by John Moran (see page 12)

What Kind of Youth Service Act

Speaking in Waterford earlier this year Justice Declan Costello, President of the High Court and author of the youthwork milestone **Final Report of the National Youth Policy Committee** (popularly known as *'The Costello Report'*), welcomed the announcement that the government intends to introduce a Youth Service Act but cautioned that *"legislation does not in itself produce the expansion in the services which are needed"*. This, however, is not to minimise the significance of youth service legislation because what such legislation can do is to facilitate the expansion of youth services and ensure, in the words of Justice Costello, *"that it takes place in a planned and orderly fashion"*.

Underpinning the primacy of volunteerism Justice Costello emphasised that *"it must be clearly understood that a national youth service does not mean a nationalised youth service. The expansion in the mainline youth service must take place in the main by the voluntary organisations"* while special services would be *"co-ordinated with the mainline services and funds allocated to them on a rational and planned basis"*.

Letters have now been issued from Bernard Allen, T.D., Minister of State for Youth Affairs to the various national youth organisations seeking submissions for consideration in relation to the drafting of the promised Youth Service Act. To be framed against the backdrop of the White Paper on Education it is to be hoped that the draft legislation will both reflect Justice Costello's vision and facilitate the ongoing unique contribution that the voluntary sector can play in, what Justice Costello referred to as, *"the personal development and social education of young people who voluntarily involve themselves in the services which are offered"*.

If the proposed legislation is to be truly responsive to youth service needs then it is imperative that it ensures that the educational independence, creativity and flexibility of the voluntary youth sector be both safeguarded and legislatively enhanced. This is something that calls for an expanded vision of the educational system, a vision that ought to distinguish between the mainline (traditional/school-based) and special (youthwork both in its mainline and special service forms) provisions wherein the special sector is clearly structured that it retains its fundamental character and ethos.

Fr. Paul Murphy, President



Interview with Bernard Allen T.D., Minister of State for Youth and Sport

Youth work POLICY

1 Minister, thank you for agreeing to do this interview for Irish YouthWork Scene. With your additional responsibilities in the Department of the Environment you have what is probably the heaviest workload of any Minister for Youth Affairs in the past decade. May I first ask you how you are enjoying your new role so far?

■ Answer: Yes. I am enjoying my new role as Minister of State in the Department of Education with responsibility for Youth Affairs and Sport. I find the youth area particularly challenging as it is as complex as it is interesting, with its wide range of activities, interests and organisations.

2 What would you identify as the major opportunities and obstacles facing young people growing up in modern-day Ireland?

■ Answer: As to opportunities I see the whole Education System as presenting the best opportunity for young people, to develop themselves and achieve fulfilment as complete human beings. There are I acknowledge difficulties which militate against full participation in the Education System. I refer particularly to the Disadvantage in our Communities who often are not in a position, because of their circumstances, to participate fully in the Educational process, or leave the system without formal qualifications or having achieved full personal development. Unemployment is one of the major problems facing the young and surveys have shown that in this case there is a higher incidence among our young people. Apathy and alienation can often be the product of unemployment which gives rise to non-participation in the social structure of this country. The scourge of drug abuse, is also a very serious problem and this particularly affects the young when they are at their most vulnerable. The improved economic outlook should serve as a catalyst in dealing with the major problem of unemployment.

3 How do you think youth work organisations should be preparing young people to face both the opportunities and obstacles you have mentioned?

■ Answer: This questions has links with question number fourteen (14). I do not wish to be seen to be telling Youth Organisations what to do. They are as a whole very well served by their full-time members and volunteers who have a vast range of experience and expertise which is no doubt of considerable help to these young people. As I have said, I see the Education System as a whole as offering the best opportunity to young people, for dealing with obstacles and difficulties. In the context of the White paper there is now greater scope for Youth Work to be effective in helping our young people deal with ongoing difficulties.

4 Do you think that the role of the youth service is primarily educational, social or developmental in terms of individuals and their communities?

■ Answer: The White Paper firmly establishes youth work as an Educational process which assists and enhances the personal and social development of young people. Whatever affects the individual will in time influence their communities. The more effective youth work becomes as a result of the Educational system, this will have undoubtedly, a beneficial affect on communities especially in relation to the social ills referred to earlier.

5 What do you anticipate will be the main features of the Youth Service Bill promised in the programme for government? When do you hope to introduce the Bill?

■ Answer: The main features of the Youth Service Bill will be the provisions on Youth Work as outlined in the White Paper (chapter 7) which will be developed further, and will set down the statutory responsibility of the Minister for Education and the Education Boards in relation to Youth Work. The Bill will be introduced as soon as practicable having regard to other legislative proposals in the context of the Wider Education Act. My Government is committed to introducing the Youth Services Bill as early as possible.

6 Where do you see the co-ordination of youth work services fitting in within the context of

changing structures in education generally?

■ Answer: The White Paper is quite specific on this question. it is envisaged that each Education Board will be given statutory responsibility for the co-ordination and development of Youth Work as an integral part of its overall responsibilities in the areas of formal and non-formal education. Recognised Voluntary Youth Organisations will continue to play a major role through their involvement in the delivery of services to young people.

The functions of the Education Boards will include inter alia

- (i) the identification of local needs.....
- (ii) liaison with voluntary organisations at regional level
- (iii) development of links between youth work, adult and community education and formal education.....
- (iv) Development of effective networking at regional level among community, voluntary and statutory interests involved in youth work and between those involved in youth work and other services etc.

The White Paper states that there is a need for the further empowerment of local communities to play a role in the development of responses to the needs of young people in Youth Work I am fully confident that these provisions will ensure satisfactory co-ordination of Youth Services in the context of the changing education structures.

7 You have acknowledge the need to try to improve the co-ordination of youth-oriented interventions by government agencies generally. How do you see this being achieved?

■ Answer: This will be achieved through the establishment of a National Youth Advisory Committee which will comprise Government Departments and other agencies involved in the delivery of services to young people. This Committee will advise the Minister on:

- all matters relating to the provision of comprehensive and integrated youth development strategies services.
- youth service policy development and implementation.
- the co-ordination, provision and evaluation of services to young people.

8 You have indicated an intention to extend the system of Local Voluntary Youth Councils

over >

nationwide. Will there be an evaluation of the current pilot councils beforehand and will you be setting down guidelines to achieve some consistency in good practice across the country.

- Answer: The White Paper commits us to the development of revised guidelines for a single model of a Voluntary Youth Council so as to provide a forum for local Youth Groups and units to have an input into the formulation and implementation of Youth Work Policy and provisions. It goes without saying that a revised model for local Voluntary Youth Councils must have full regard to the way existing Councils have been operating and the good practice prevailing. I consider it essential that there should be full consistency of good practice in relation to this question. The extension of the system of Local Voluntary Youth Councils nationwide would have to be considered in the context of the White Paper proposals as a whole and the resources implications.

9 You are on record as saying that you believe there is more scope for networking and sharing ideas and programmes between youth organisations. Can you give examples?

- Answer: It goes without saying that the more networking and sharing of ideas and programmes between youth organisations, the better and more cost-effective the youth service will be. This is of course very important in the context of resources generally. While each youth organisation has its unique history and activities, there are common threads and everybody has much to learn from each other which can only improve the lot of our young people. To give one example, I see the Health Education area, whether in relation to drug or alcohol abuse, as an area where there could, and indeed should, be more networking. My Department already has a programme in conjunction with the Department of Health and the NYCI, and I am of the view that other organisations when planning such programmes should link into this.

10 Would you accept that the general under-resourcing of youth organisations and the fact that organisations are funded on different criteria are major blocks to cooperation?

- Answer: Nobody involved with youth services believes that the present system of allocating grant monies to youth organisations is anywhere near perfect. More of what has been happening in relation to grant allocation is a legacy of history and some organisations are of the view "what we have we hold". There is inequality and disparity on pay levels across the board and I am seriously concerned about this.

This clearly gives rise to envy which militates against co-operation. I intend to do my best to resolve the difficulties having regard to the available resources. The Consultative Report on the Development of Youth Work states that there should be a clear, consistent and known rationale for the distribution of grant-aid. The difficulty lies in implementation. The White Paper commits my Department to drawing up criteria for the distribution of grant-aid in consultation with the relevant parties. This should reduce obstacles to co-operation which I know only too well, exist between youth organisations.

This whole question of funding will have a high priority in the context of the Youth Services Bill though the difficulties cannot be over-stated.

As regard the question of funding generally, you will no doubt appreciate that there will always be demands on the Exchequer far in excess of the available resources. Some of the grant applications from youth organisations are invariable unrealistic. However I commit myself to doing my utmost to ensure the youth service as a whole receives a level of funding consistent with its real needs.

11 Do you think volunteerism is under threat within the youth service? Do you have any views on the growing use of CE schemes in the provision and development of youth services throughout the country?

- Answer: There will always be the risk that the youth service will not continue to attract the level of volunteerism it enjoys at present. But, I am optimistic that the very nature of youth work will always be attractive to adult volunteers especially in the area of disadvantaged. I have put my appreciation on the record at every opportunity of the unselfish work of volunteers in the youth service. There are the bedrock of good youth practice.

I am particularly pleased that volunteerism is given formal recognition in the white paper. This should give an incentive to volunteers to continue to be of service in the youth field.

As regards CE schemes in youth work I give a cautious welcome to these as a way of supplementing the work of the full-time official and the volunteer. The situation needs to be carefully monitored so that a proper balance can be struck between the operatives in youth work. However, there is no real substitute for the full time youth worker, and side by side with him/her, the volunteer.

12 You are on record as favouring the development of accredited in-career training for youth workers. How do you see this coming about?

- Answer: There are many ways of providing in-service training for youth workers - through inter-organisational co-operation, in conjunction with third level institutions

etc. Some organisations have in place or have planned accredited training for their own workers. It is my view that the Department needs to build on the experiences gained from these provision so as to cater not alone for professional youth workers, but also for those who give of their time on a voluntary basis.

13 There is widespread concern in the youth service at the proposed terms of appointment for a new youth work assessor which you inherited on taking office. Are there any development on this?

- Answer: I share this concern. It is my view that the proposed Assessor Post should be up-graded and for a longer contract period than originally proposed. This is necessary arising from the provisions for evaluation in the Education White Paper. I have asked that my Department write to the Department of Finance on the matter and to request and up-grading in the context of the White Paper proposals.

14 What do you see as the major challenge facing youth organisations as we face into the 21st century?

- Answer: The challenge facing youth organisations as we approach the 21st century is that everything they do will fully reflect the needs of young people, and help them to cope with an ever changing and complex society. Youth organisations must prepare themselves for change and offer fresh solutions to problems which in some ways are not much different from old or existing problems e.g. unemployment.

Not alone youth organisations but all of us in positions of responsibility must get the young people on our side through example and wise leadership. I spoke of cynicism and alienation in young people earlier and to eliminate these which must convince young people that we are worthy of their trust and confidence.

The youth service must become more relevant, vibrant and adaptable if it is to retain the support of young people. Otherwise, all of us will have failed in our purpose.

15 If you could achieve just one thing in promoting the development of youth work services in Ireland through your role, what would that be?

- Answer: My main ambition is to oversee the full implementation of the proposals in the White Paper as they relate to youth work. I think there has been general satisfaction at the White Paper proposals and when they are implemented - and I want this done urgently - they should go a very long way indeed towards the effective development and enhancement of our youth service. What better way would there be to prepare for the 21st Century?

Volunteerism at a Crossroads

Tomorrow's community capacity may well be determined by today's volunteers. We cannot 'use' volunteers in minor services, and hope to have public support for essential human services in the future. We must provide some access to policy decision making for those serving without pay - who have the potential to become decision-makers themselves (Naylor, 1985).

Shortly before her death in 1985, Harriet Naylor, a renowned US volunteer administrator made a challenging speech to the Association for Voluntary Action Scholars in the US. Within her address, she drew attention to some of the concerns she had related to the increasing pressures being placed on volunteers. In a world torn by political, social and economic evolution, volunteers and volunteer organisations, she argued, are challenged to identify their role in society and the values they wish to place on their practice. A re-examination of the fundamental values on which volunteerism at all levels is based, she stressed, was necessary for voluntary organisations to respond effectively to the challenges posed by such changes.

Need for Irish Debate on Volunteerism

Within the Irish context, a debate on the nature of volunteerism within the Youth Service not only seems timely, but is crucial for voluntary youth organisations to engage in as we move into the 21st Century. Those who have been involved in youth work for a number of years will recognise that the nature of volunteerism within such organisations has changed dramatically over the last 20 years. A number of factors have influenced this change. Firstly, change has come about through the opportunities afforded to voluntary

youth organisations to employ youth workers in a whole range of functions, at direct face-to-face level with young people as well as in training, developmental, administrative and policy development functions. In more recent times, youth organisations have been faced with the dilemma of trying to develop essential youth work services in the context of cut backs in public spending generally. In response, increasing numbers of them have chosen to resource such developments through Community Employment Schemes. Irrespective of the separate debate about the relative value such schemes have to play in developing new services and in alleviating the negative effects of unemployment as against their potentially exploitative nature with respect to employment rights legislation, the net effect is that increasing numbers of paid youth workers are now part of the delivery systems of youth work. This poses a challenge for those committed to the concept of volunteerism to define what they believe the role of volunteer youth workers to be in an increasingly professionalised environment.

The second change accompanies the first and relates to the impact of increased financial investment by the state in the voluntary sector. As state investment in youth work has increased, so too has the demand for accountability grown. As we begin to move into the 21st Century, the demand for accountability will become more pronounced.

Youth work

PRACTICE

Already, the language of accountability is becoming common-place. Terms like objective setting, performance measures, evaluative outcomes are now part of the familiar vocabulary of youth work. The legitimacy of the case for accountability with regard to the spending of public monies is not questionable. However, as definers and providers of services for young people, youth-work organisations need to be clearer than they have been on what objectives, what performance measures and what evaluative outcomes they wish to be held accountable for. As voluntary organisations, youth work organisations retain the right to influence Government policies with regard such questions. This type of leverage has not been used enough.

Thirdly, as society becomes more complex, those who are involved in volunteer organisations are called upon to develop responses to a range of social, administrative and organisational issues which Robert Long (1991) sets out as follows:

■ Social Issues

Litigation; Child care; Family structure; Changing work place; Government services; Homelessness; Child abuse; Health risks; Changing demographics; Specialisation; Profit organisation services; Less community concern;

■ Organisational issues

Competition and duplication; Tax laws; Health insurance; Fair Labour Standards; Volunteers as a budget item; Employee benefits;

■ Administrative issues;

Volunteer/staff relations; Training; Screening and selection; Risk management; Computer management; Reduced budgets; Cutback management;

■ Volunteer issues;

Leadership; Effectiveness; Training; Evaluation.

At a simple administrative development level, the range of issues

affecting the development of social services and the measures which need to be put in place as a response are highly complex. When organisations are faced with trying to articulate that response in the context of a commitment to volunteer driven organisations, the management task becomes much more complex indeed. Thus, youth work managers are more and more driven to balance a number of criteria in determining their priorities: professional norms and standards; the role of volunteers vis-a-vis paid workers; public wishes and fiscal efficiency. Voluntary youth work organisations in Ireland, are thus, caught between two major forces - the strength of the volunteer interests and the professional autonomy of paid staff in making judgements about the type of services they wish to develop and the quality desired related to those services.

Historically, youth work managers have tended to respond to this dilemma by channelling volunteers to become service providers and protecting their input by strengthening the administrative bases of organisations. This is an approach which has had beneficial outcomes for volunteers in terms of the increased protection it has afforded them against litigation at a whole range of levels. However, it is now timely to examine the impact such measures have had on volunteer input into the organisational development and strategic management of voluntary organisations. Of fundamental importance, at this juncture, is that time is given by the Youth Service to examining the fundamental question of what role it wishes to promote for volunteers in determining future social services, within a society which historically has a strong tradition of volunteering in the shaping of such services.

Volunteers as Advocates

In her paper *Advocates for Change*, Anne Dalton calls for caution in defining that role in the narrowly defined term of service provider and deliverer.

If volunteers are to be positioned for effectiveness in their communities then we

must broaden the definition of that role. We must see ourselves and be seen by others as advocates as well as service deliverers, largely because I do not believe that service can be divorced from a policy framework. In this context I am talking about advocacy as a force for change; the roots of that change are in our beliefs and values (Dalton, 1992).

Elaborating on her premise that advocacy needs to be the fundamental value which should underpin voluntary activity, she argues that as society becomes more and more complex there is a crying need for effective advocates at all levels. She further argues that a more enhanced role than service deliverers is essential for voluntary organisations to develop since voluntary organisations must be part of the social fabric of society as well as being part of service delivery systems.

The development of advocacy capacity is crucial to our survival as youth work organisations. At a purely administrative level, a growing number of issues related to the nature of the voluntary sector have crept into public debate in Ireland in recent years. Such issues centre on how the term 'charity' is to be defined; how our tax systems will or will not encourage people to make charitable contributions for voluntary organisations; what type of liability insurance policies will exist which enable volunteers to function whilst also protecting the recipients of voluntary efforts and most fundamentally the degree to which volunteers and voluntary organisations will be permitted to advocate before government.

Furthermore, as the development of services becomes more decentralised, increasing emphasis is being placed on the development of local partnership structures as a mechanism for determining social service needs on an area basis. The development of services for young people is only a part of the agenda of such partnership structures. Youth work advocacy is an essential component of our work which needs to be developed so that the needs of young people in local communities are heard when decisions about future services are being determined. In addition, the development of advocates as effective partners in emerging local

structures is crucial to our survival. If we cannot be effective partners in our own right, then youth work provision will increasingly be developed as an adjunct to other social services, not necessarily committed to the principles of social education on which the Youth Service is rooted. How volunteers serve, how they are seen to be effective in identifying, responding to and managing needs-based responses at local level has the capacity to be determined by others. Indeed, whether volunteers will be considered a vital resource in the future will be determined by their ability or otherwise to respond to the challenges posed now. As voluntary organisations we have a key function now in preparing our volunteers to respond effectively to such challenges.

Which Way Forward?

The nature of voluntary activity within the youth service in Ireland is at a crossroads. Clearly, movements which have effected the nature of voluntary activity in the US and Europe are now beckoning at our own doors to be responded to. The impact of changes in society, the development of youth work organisations as complex organisational structures and the requirements for public accountability are factors which require a quantum change in how we articulate the role of volunteers within youth work for the future. The nature of that change provides us with a challenge which Marlene Wilson (1992) refers to as an awesome mountain. Being a lover of mountains myself I will conclude with the choices she offers those willing to engage in that debate:

- to return back down the safe and familiar path that brought us to this point
- to take the path that circles the mountain, or
- to check our gear, add some high altitude equipment and new mountain-climbing skills, renew our energy and begin to scale that mountain before us, tackling the greatest challenge we've faced yet.

The choice is ours!

New Juvenile Justice Legislation

If expectations related to juvenile justice legislation are realised, then we should see a greater emphasis being placed on broad-based community approaches to crime prevention in the future. Of central importance for Local Youth Services to consider is the role they wish to articulate for themselves in responding to youth crime at local level. In particular, Local Youth Services will need to tease out a role for themselves in engaging in inter-agency initiatives aimed at tackling crime in communities. The teasing out of that role involves: a greater understanding about the nature of crime amongst young people; clarity about the assumptions Local Youth Services wish to make with respect to the underlying causes of crime amongst young people and the boundaries they wish to place on themselves when engaging in inter-agency initiatives aimed at crime prevention.

Trends in Youth Crime

Between 1971 and 1991 there has been an overall increase in crime within Irish society. This is reflective of similar increases in the Western World generally. In terms of the general increase in crime, the question which needs to be asked from a youthwork perspective is whether or not these trends reflect changing population trends and a rise in crime amongst young people in par-

PREVENTING YOUTH CRIME

What role for the Youth Service?

Over the past two decades, the Irish system of juvenile justice has attracted considerable criticism regarding the nature of many of its provisions. Despite numerous reports highlighting the inadequacy of the current system and the need to replace the 1908 Act, successive Governments have failed to introduce new legislation. In 1995, however, it is expected that new juvenile justice legislation will be introduced in Ireland. While the exact details of the new legislation are not yet fully known it is expected that a number of measures consistent with British legislation regarding juveniles will be introduced.

ticular. **Chart: Trends in Indictable Crime and Population Change** illustrates the annual percentage increases for the Irish population between 1973 and 1990 and the number of young males between the ages of 15 and 39 as well as the level of indictable crime.

Chart: Trends in Indictable Crime

The Chart shows that while there has been significant population changes during the period, that the trend in crime is not strongly correlated with this change. Furthermore, the chart illustrates that the male age group of 15-39 (regarded as the most criminal sub-group) grew at a disproportionate rate to the population as a whole. Relative to the growth in crime, the level of increase is marginal which suggests that there is no strong causal link between population growth, the rise in number of young people within the population and the trend in crime (O'Mahony, 1993).

Statistically, about 50% of all crime is committed by those under 21 years of age. This is not significantly different to 20 years ago when the proportion of those over and under 21 years of age committing crime was roughly the same. In addition, the absolute numbers of young people committing crime

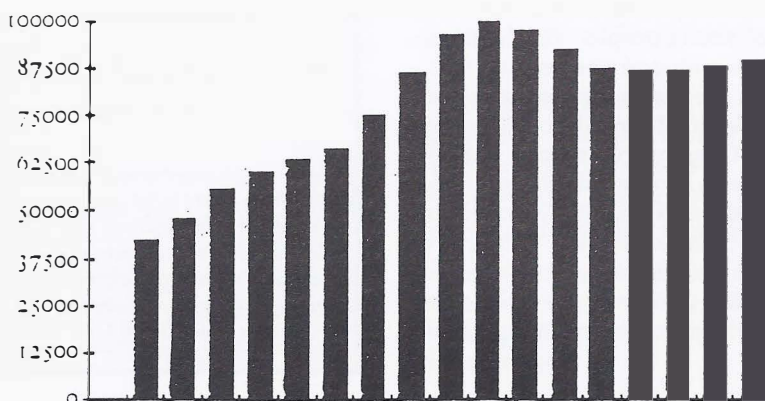
has not grown at a proportional rate to increases within the youth population during that period. By implication then, the rise in crime cannot be attributed to greater numbers of young people becoming involved in crime over recent years. The growth in the amount of crime committed by young people is accounted for by a minority of young people who are committing more criminal acts pointing to the existence of a sub-group of young persistent offenders.

Assumptions About Crime

Posing an assumption about the nature of crime and the solution to it is the foundation and underlying principle on which Local Youth Services' responses should be planned and measured. Such a principle needs to take into account the findings of research on the matter which recognises three significant factors in explaining and determining responses to crime amongst young people. Factors regarded as significant are that: a) social inequality, and the social disadvantages it engenders are instrumental in propelling young people into delinquency b) the stigma involved in a court appearance by an individual young person merely compounds such social disadvantage by confirming the young offender's delinquent identity, c) the state, through its social, economic and criminal-justice policies, should play a central role in combating and responding humanely to both the causes and the consequences of social inequality (Locke, 1990).

It is likely that in attempts at inter-agency collaboration this assumption will not be widely shared. The experience of British, French and US

GRAPH: TRENDS IN CRIME BETWEEN 1973 AND 1991



community initiatives in crime prevention would seem to indicate, that on the whole, community development agencies, the court and the other various aspects of the legal framework often constitute two antagonistic faces of the juvenile-justice system. This antagonism arises out of two systems which operate very different assumptions about the nature of juvenile crime and the proposed solutions to it (Ames, 1991). Youth work organisations need to confront this issue in the growing context of the real possibilities offered to the youth service in adopting multi-agency work with young offenders.

The Multi-Agency Challenge

Multi-agency approaches provide a real opportunity for the Youth Service to exercise some influence on important areas of decision making in relation to young offenders: a recognition of the importance of providing adequate social leisure facilities for young people and advocacy opportunities in respect to necessary changes in criminal legislature which effects young people for instance. There are, inherent dangers, however, for the Youth Service in engaging in such ventures. Fundamental is the danger of the Youth Service being used by other more powerful agencies to implement a response and relationship base with young people that is at odds with the core value of youth work.

Youth workers have a long tradition of working with young people in a way which engages their energies, helps them learn and develop and does not label them as difficult or delinquent. The relationship between adequate youth service provision together with sport and leisure facilities generally and the prevention of crime is thus well recognised. A starting point for Youth Services is, thus, to firmly locate and maintain its unique position of being an initial point of contact for young people that in time engages them in a voluntary way with the youth service. The current strength of the youth service with young people 'in trouble' or considered to be 'at risk' is that it is not part of an overall Justice System. This allows youth workers build a relationship of trust with young people. This position needs to be protected in whatever collaborative ventures are engaged in at local level. Furthermore, whatever ventures are developed, they need to be developed in a manner which does not endanger the perception young people have of the youth service itself. Furthermore, strategies, which allow for co-

operation between the Gardai and the Juvenile Justice System but allow sufficient distance, are important to develop so that the Youth Service is not seen to be overly identified with either.

The Role of Youth Workers?

Youth work agencies have a key role in ensuring that inter-agency initiatives are clearly aimed at improving services for young people and communities generally, particularly in areas of high socio-economic disadvantage. The Youth Service, however, needs to be cautious about developing this role in a manner which will ultimately engages youth workers in a legal, controlling and rehabilitative relationship with young people. The major task for youth workers and youth work organisations in formulating responses to crime prevention, is to consider ways in which young people can be kept *out* of the formal criminal justice system and retained in their local communities, while at the same time considering how the nuisance value they can create and the distress they cause can be reduced, particularly in those areas which suffer most from the impact of juvenile crime. Our concern should be focused on what might be done to divert young people away from crime or away from situations where crime is more likely to be committed. We must also look at positive policies for young people in areas of greatest disadvantage and we must ensure that the policies and practices of individual agencies do not allow young people to be inadvertently labelled or responded to as an offender. The challenge is to consider how the youth service might support such young people to more effectively manage themselves and their lives through adolescence.

Special Centres?

In planning responses to young people 'at risk', it is important that individual youth centres do not become exclusive buildings which in time become over identified with a particular group of young people. This is important for a number of reasons:

Firstly, the youth service has a duty to respond to the needs of all young people. Ongoing community support for the youth service will ultimately depend on the goodwill and involvement of adult volunteers locally. This type of support is best harnessed by responses that are seen to address the needs of the whole community and not a segregated sector.

Secondly, if centres are used as part of a broad-based response then adults within the community will naturally be drawn to using the centre as part of their involvement with other groups. This will eventually lead to a situation where adults as part of this interaction have ongoing opportunities to observe such young people in creative ways. Such interaction will have a cumulative effect of challenging community prejudices towards such young people.

Thirdly, segregation has very damaging psychological effects on how such young people view themselves and a more healthy response is to create opportunities for them to see themselves capable of engaging in programmes and services availed of by others in the community.

Finally, broad based responses are more likely to reduce stress levels of workers who otherwise would be involved in working on a constant basis in an intensive way with difficult and often marginalised groups of young people.

In establishing core principles on which youth work with juvenile offenders and young people 'at risk' might be developed, it is important for Local Youth Services to:

- 1 Spell out their own assumptions and response to the nature of juvenile crime, its causes and solutions.
- 2 Set themselves a limited agenda in respect to crime prevention which acknowledges a different but valuable contribution to law enforcement agencies.
- 3 Develop a curriculum base with young people involved in crime prevention initiatives which focuses on increasing young people's life chances and providing them with a range of developmental experiences which are not segregated.

To conclude, the Youth Service needs to value its unique relationship base with young people and stand back enough from what may be presented as an escalating crime problem to plan responses which acknowledges and does not undermine that contribution in an overall strategy.

New Juvenile Justice Legislation

The NYF is currently engaged in drafting a policy position with regard forthcoming Juvenile Justice Legislation. Submissions from interested individuals will be greatly received as part of this process. Please send submissions to: Louise Hurley, National Youth Federation, 20, Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1. Ph: 01/8729933

Youth work

POLICY

Finance Minister costs CORI budget submission's proposal on a basic income for all.

Deputy Molloy asked the Minister for Finance to supply an estimate of the increase in current income tax that would be required to meet the cost of implementing the proposed unconditional basic income for all as proposed by CORI (Conference of Religious in Ireland) in their pre-budget submission. Responding, Minister Quinn stated that the CORI pre-budget submission suggested a partial basic income for all financed by means of a 50% tax rate on all income. The Revenue Commissioners had analysed the proposal and calculated that the tax rate on all income that would be needed to finance the basic income as described would be between 55% and 59%.

No action to be taken in response to Child Abuse Prevention Programme Report

Deputy D. Mc Dowell asked the Minister for Education what action, if any, she would be taking on the recommendations of the Child Abuse Prevention Programme in its report A Proposal for the Future Involvement of Teachers in the Area of Child Welfare and Protection. In response Minister Bhreathnach stated that the said report did not contain the recommendations of the Child Abuse Prevention Programme (CAPP) but the report appeared to be sponsored by individual teachers who had been seconded to CAPP, and as such she had no plans to act on the recommendations contained in the report.

Finance Minister fails to divert unclaimed National Lottery prizes to social and charitable causes.

The Minister for Finance Ruairi Quinn missed the opportunity to provide organisations involved in social and charitable projects with some much needed extra revenue. Responding to a question posed by deputy Lynch who asked the Minister for Finance whether he would amend the legislation governing the National Lottery to allow unclaimed prize money to be allocated to social or charitable projects rather than being returned to the general prize fund, Minister Quinn said "by returning unclaimed prizes to players the national lottery can in the long term achieve a greater return to the beneficiary fund programmes than would be achieved by a direct allocation of unclaimed programmes".

I.N.T.O report on Poverty and Educational Disadvantage to be referred to the Combat Poverty Agency

Deputy Hughes asked the Minister for Education to state her views on the INTO report on educational disadvantage and poverty. He also asked her if she would take into account factors such as remoteness and depopulation in informing enrolment policy and its effect on teacher retention within declining rural areas in the future. Responding Minister Bhreathnach stated that she had noted the report's comments in relation to these problems and she would be bringing the INTO'S report to the attention of the CPA, so that the views expressed therein would be taken on board in the context of a study on educational disadvantage that she had commissioned the CPA to undertake.

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Update on Implementation of Child Care Act

Deputy Flood asked the Minister for Health to update him on the present position regarding the implementation of the Child Care Act and what proposals he had for putting in place all elements of the Act. Responding, Minister Noonan stated that over the past two years additional resources totalling £20 million had been made available to develop child care services and had resulted in the following developments being approved;

- The creation of over 370 new jobs for child care services around the country
- The provision of additional hostel places for homeless children
- The establishment of new family resource centres and community support projects to assist disadvantaged children
- The expansion of the homemaker and home help services to assist families in difficulty and the establishment of community mother programmes in a number of health boards
- Increased financial support to pre-school services in areas of social deprivation
- The development of foster care and other alternative family placement services

The Minister also highlighted the fact that in the current year it was intended to commence implementation of Parts III, IV and VI of the Act which deal with the protection of children in emergencies, care proceedings and the powers and duties of health boards in relation to children in their care respectively

Despite these measures only 17 sections out of 79 have been implemented (since the Child Care Act was passed by the Oireachtas in 1991) and full implementation and resourcing of the Act is not scheduled until the end of 1996.

Youth work PRACTICE

Kerry Diocesan Youth Service is currently working through numerous programmes and projects to respond to the diverse needs of young people throughout the diocese. Its aim of *enabling young people to gain for themselves the knowledge, feelings and skills necessary to meet their own and other developmental needs* is being achieved through projects which include Youth Clubs - Community Work in Urban Housing Estates, Information Services, Travellers' Projects as well as Centre Based Projects. The Service operates from three bases, Killarney, Tralee and Listowel.

This year the service in Tralee took up residence in a new Youth Resource Centre in Denny Street. A very special feature of this new centre is that the young people of Tralee decided themselves on all the facilities to be provided. The young people were involved, not only in the planning, but also in its construction, through FAS/CYTP Programmes. The Denny Street Centre is a major undertaking and includes a sports hall, theatre, cafe, creche, dark room, music studio, art room, training room, resource library and a user friendly information centre.

Information Services

Last year, the Killarney Information Office moved to a more accessible office in New Street, Killarney. This Youth Information Office is one of three in Kerry, the other two being in Listowel and Tralee. The Information Service integrates with all other areas of K.D.Y.S.' work. In recent years, an outreach programme was established to bring the information beyond the centre to more peripheral areas. As part of this outreach approach, workshops on travel, immigration, drugs and careers are among those conducted in schools, colleges and communities each year. The information service also facilitates a number of young people's magazine groups. *Youth Echo* is one such magazine which is researched, edited and printed by a group of young people in Tralee. Another interesting project which is organised through the Information Service is the Radio Group. Each week, the production team get ready for another edition of *Young Link* which is presented live on Kerry Radio. This programme informs young people of the work of the K.D.Y.S. as well as giving valuable information to listeners.

Centre Based Projects

One of Kerry's centre-based projects is *Transforum Alley*. This is a Youthreach project

REGIONAL PROFILE KERRY DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICE

which is run in partnership with the town of Tralee V.E.C. Run as an arts-based social education programme, the project caters for young people who have left school early. To date, the young people have had significant success with their drama performances having appeared in Cork with *Macnas* during U2's Zooropa. Members of *Transforum Alley* have also written and performed their own material. *Message in a Bottle* and *House of Pain* are amongst the pieces performed on West Coast Tours by the project last December. *Transforum Alley* have also hosted and exchanged cultural experiences with young people from England, France, Greece, Brazil, Ghana, Germany and Morocco. Most recently, a group of 15 young people performed in Kacela in the Macedonia area of Northern Greece, while one of the members participated in a 2 week long international Rock Music Workshop in Brussels.

Work with Young Women

One of the exciting recent developments in youth work in Kerry is the emergence of a number of projects catering for the specific needs of young women. *Chat-Pack* caters for school girls aged between 13-15 years. This programme is aimed at addressing the exclusion of marginalized young women in the formal education system. *Freedom* is a young mothers' group which uses play therapy, group murals, personal development, rights and entitlements as part of its programme.

Celtic Young Women Group is another such group comprising of young women from the Travelling Community. The group is currently working on a programme which explores Traveller issues, social & health education, nutrition and fitness. In 1993, two young women from this group attended a Conference on racism in Strasbourg. Arising from this, an anti-racism campaign has been organised by the region with groups affiliated to the K.D.Y.S. To further its work with young women, K.D.Y.S. is promoting anti-sexist youth work practice and is planning to introduce a *women and youth work* project in response to the needs of young women in remote rural areas in the near future.

Travellers' Project

Tralee Travellers' Training Programme is a joint initiative between the K.D.Y.S., Tralee Area Partnership and FAS. Its central aim is to provide those in the group with an

opportunity to develop their potential with a view to serving the interests of Travellers in their own community. The programme will last for 11 months. In addition to this programme, three teenage Travellers' clubs for boys were formed in September 1994 after initial outreach work. *The Rovers* and *Sablas* clubs are youth clubs which focus on developing a positive image of Travellers and then conveying this to a wider community. The highlight of this outreach work has been the launch of *Young Sablas Talking* which tells of the lives, fun, anger and hopes of young Travellers from Tralee. Another successful Travellers' club *The Out and About Club* uses the medium of outdoor pursuits to develop group and personal skills. This programme finished with the boys organising a six day trek on the Wicklow Way and the launch of their Club Book.

Staff and Volunteer Training

Training is a major element of the work of K.D.Y.S. The most intensive training programmes offered by the region are the Certificate Courses in Youth Work Skills. These courses, for adults are accredited by U.C.C. and are both theoretical and practical and enable the participants to have a better understanding of themselves, young people and the community at large. The K.D.Y.S. had 60 participants on such courses this year and all of these contributed to the development of the region by their involvement with groups of young people in youth clubs, community projects and personal development groups.

Participation in Local Development

K.D.Y.S. is very aware that Area Partnerships, Leader Projects and County Enterprise Boards have a significant impact in the lives of the community and in particular young people. The K.D.Y.S. is an active participant in the South Kerry Partnership Co., the Tralee Area Partnership, Kerry County Enterprise Board and the Leader Programme, thus, ensuring that the social and economic needs of young people are addressed through such structures. One of the outcomes of this kind of involvement by K.D.Y.S. has been the part funding of new developments in youth work. However, the most significant outcome is the increased awareness and understanding of the vital role of youth work in education.

VOLUNTEERING Opportunities

The Child Studies Unit, Department of Applied Psychology at University College Cork is an international agency concerned with the welfare of vulnerable children in difficult circumstances caused by social disjuncture such as extreme poverty, displacement and war. The Unit currently has staff working in Bosnia and Ethiopia. In Bosnia, the Unit is the implementing partner with UNICEF with four international professional staff and seven local staff responsible for the delivery of joint CSU/UNICEF

programmes for vulnerable children in Sarajevo and Central Bosnia. In Ethiopia, the Unit are partners with Save the Children Federation, USA and the Ethiopian Forum for Street Children, where it has 3 international professional staff and one local staff member engaged in the delivery of programmes addressing the needs of street children, along with action based research. The Unit may shortly extend its work to other areas in the former Yugoslavia, Eastern Europe and Africa.

The unit is currently looking for two or three volunteers to join its team in Bosnia, and one volunteer

Youth work NEWS

to join its team in Ethiopia, who have appropriate experience with vulnerable children, have professional backgrounds in community or youth work, and who can commit themselves to us for a minimum of 1 year. Those interested in volunteers would need to start as soon as possible and would receive financial support for under the APSO Co-funding programme for their work.

For further details, contact:

**Professor Max. Taylor,
Dept of Applied Psychology,
University College, Cork.
Tel: 021-276871, Fax: 021-270439**

CLUB DEVELOPMENT TRAINING INITIATIVE

The role of Club Development Advisory Groups or Training Groups have long been the topic of major discussion in youth organisations. The lack of full time youth workers, trained voluntary leaders and the ever increasing number of Community Employment workers in youth organisations has, once again, opened this debate to all involved.

In an attempt to address this issue two of the NYF regions, the Louth and Meath Youth Federations, have commenced a joint Club Development Training Initiative (in consultation with the NYF) that has set the formation of two separate Club Development Training Teams as their main objectives.

The participants on this training course include adult volunteer leaders from youth clubs in both Meath and Louth, CE workers and full time youth workers from both areas. The group will undertake joint training resulting in a unique group of trained 'volunteers' capable of carrying out basic induction training, leader training and advanced leader training within their own regions.

Participation in this training initiative involves many sacrifices, not least of which will be the time commitment and the subsequent opportunities made to them via the local youth service to implement the skills acquired. Another sacrifice, and perhaps a major issue for any group considering a similar undertaking, is the need to release these 'volunteers' from their own youth club duties so as to enable them concentrate on the task in hand.

This joint training initiative has concentrated to date on equipping the participants in the knowledge and skills to deliver the basic level of training at youth club level. When the participants have completed this level of training they will embark on the leader and advanced leader training requirements. Such training has, once again, created a forum at which agreed methods and levels of training within the NYF has come under the microscope. The Louth/Meath training initiative will continue however parallel to this debate and all interested parties look forward to the completion of their work and a subsequent publication to follow.

For further information contact: *Mr Gearoid O'Maoilmhichil, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01/8729933 Fax: 01/8724183*

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS TRAINING FOR YOUTH LEADERS

The National Conservation Education Centre is offering a training course for youth leaders to assist them develop environmental awareness among their club members. The Centre is located in Knocksink Wood, a nature reserve near Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow. The course runs for one day from 10.00 am - 5.30 pm and will involve an awareness-raising walk in the woods, a session on outdoor games and activities, and a session on planning an environmental awareness programme for the club/group. The course fee is £120.00 (up to 20 people), and £145.00 (21 - 30 people).

For further details contact: *Fergus*

*O'Gorman, Director, National
Conservation Education Centre,
Knocksink Wood, Enniskerry, Co.
Wicklow. Tel: 01/2866609 Fax:
01/2866610*

CLUB GAMES IN MAYNOOTH

The sun-drenched surroundings of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth proved the idyllic backdrop for the Finals of the NYF Youth Club Games on 24/25 June, 1995.

More than 700 club members and leaders participated in what was generally agreed to be one of the best Finals in many years. This was the third year that the games were held in Maynooth and it was appropriate that the successful games took their place as during of the College's bicentennial celebrations.

The National Finals were the culmination of many months work for youth club members within the 19 affiliated regions of the National Youth Federation. Some competitions commenced last October at local and club level and winning teams progressed through their local and regional finals before eventually qualifying for the national finals by winning one of the four inter-regional events in early May, 1995.

These inter regional/area events took place in **Athlone, Limerick, Sligo and Kildare**. We greatly appreciate the effort made by parents, leaders, staff and club members in preparing for these events.

Fifteen NYF regions qualified for various finals ranging from indoor soccer and basketball to chess, quiz, disco dancing and debating. Twenty-two different competitions took place during the weekend in addition to many outdoor spontaneous and exhibition sports.

A significant aspect of the games in recent years has been the high standards reached in many of the 'recreational' type events. Under the guidance of Vincent Kilcawley and Jim Somers, the Chess and Draughts competitions respectively have continued to raise their standards with previous All-Ireland winners finding it increasingly difficult to retain their titles.

This years debating final between **Ardfert (Kerry)** and **Castleblayney (Monaghan)**, discussed a motion

on the introduction of divorce in Ireland. This topical subject was well and truly debated by both sides (and by the audience) with the Ardfert team maintaining the proud debating record of Kerry winners in this event at the end of the day.

Competitions this year were divided into male, female and mixed events for both under 19 and under 16 age groups. The National Youth Federation is recognising the drop in age groups in youth clubs throughout Ireland are now considering lowering the age group for the 1996 youth club games. Whatever the outcome of these deliberations, we can be guaranteed some

great competitions again next year at local, regional and national level. Let's hope for a continuation of the camaraderie and sporting behaviour that we experienced this year in Maynooth.

WELL DONE TO ALL INVOLVED

Participants and leaders attending the Games in recent years will undoubtedly know Tony Rutledge, (Ferns), Chairperson of the NYF National Youth Club Games Committee. Tony's loyalty to the various national programmes is best illustrated by the time and commitment he gives each year to these events. All participants and leaders will join with us in wishing him a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

EVENT	1995 WINNERS	RUNNER UP
Table Tennis		
Female U16	Kerry, Ardfert	Donegal, Clonmany
Male U16	Ferns, Clonard	Kerry, Ardfert
Female U19	Ferns, Caim	Donegal, Clonmany
Male U19	Donegal, John Paul	Ferns, Clonard
5-a-side Football		
Female U16	Limerick City, Northside Link	North Connaught, Merville
Male U16	Limerick City, Moyross	Donegal, Burnfoot
Female U19	Donegal, Greencastle	Limerick City, St. Patricks/Brigids
Male U19	Donegal, Fanad	Louth, Saoirse na nOg
Volleyball		
Mixed U16	Donegal, Milford	Galway, Loughrea
Mixed U19	Galway, Loughrea	Limerick County, Kilcornan
Basketball		
Mixed U16	North Connaught, Merville	Clare, Kilrush
Mixed U19	Clare, Kilrush	Monaghan, Castleblayney
Quiz		
Mixed U16	Kerry, Camp	Ferns, Caim
Mixed U19	Donegal, John Paul	Kerry, Camp
Chess		
Mixed U16	North Connaught, Merville	Limerick County, Adare
Mixed U19	Kerry, Fossa	Ferns, Caim
Draughts		
Mixed U16	Roscommon, Castleview	Ferns, St Joseph's
Mixed U19	Ferns, St Joseph's	Clare, Ruan
English Debate		
Mixed U19	Kerry, Ardfert	Monaghan, Castleblayney
Uni-Hoc		
Mixed U19	Ferns, Oylgate	Donegal, Muff
Mixed U19	Clare, Miltown Malbay	Ferns, Rosslare
Disco Dancing		
Mixed U19	Ossory, The Swan	Donegal, John Paul

FUNDING DEVELOPMENTS

PROMOTING COMMON INTERESTS

The Combat Poverty Agency as a contribution to the development of the peace process has launched a new grants scheme supporting the exchange of learning and expertise on anti-poverty work and community development between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The Combat Poverty Agency has received additional funding from the Irish Government for this purpose and is making £100,000 available in 1995 for the scheme.

The purpose of the scheme is to:

- enable people involved in anti-poverty work and community development to learn from each other's experience.
- to develop new policy and practice and to identify shared needs and common problems.
- to improve the effectiveness and impact of anti-poverty work on both parts of the island.
- to enhance research into poverty.

Types of Grant

1 Grants will be available for the purpose of enhancing and enriching community development activity. Three types of activity will be eligible in this area:

- *Community Development Training Programmes where organisations in the North and South come together to organise training programmes for people involved in community development work including creative and cultural activities.*
- *The Development and Production of Resource Materials that will enhance the effectiveness of local community projects and community workers.*
- *Joint Project Activity where local community or anti-poverty projects in the North or South are working on the same poverty issue.*

2 Conferences, Seminars and Publications. Funding will be available for these on a north-south basis around poverty issues. Priority will be given to events that are intended to contribute significantly to the policy making process, which foster the exchange of good practice and new ideas, which promote the advocacy role of community groups in civil society or which are part of an ongoing programme of work.

3 Research. Grants will be available to groups and institutions involved in anti-poverty research who wish to undertake comparative research on aspects of poverty which has a north-south dimension.

4 Seeding Grants. Support will be given to assist organisations to explore and develop funding proposals on a north-south basis which could then be submitted under any of the above three areas.

Application procedure

In allocating grants priority will be given to community groups or groups who experience particular disadvantage. The maximum grant available will be £10,000. Applications should not exceed this limit, and the majority of grants will be in the region of £2,000 to £5,000.

Applicants must submit a completed application form to the Combat Poverty Agency of Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust. Applications will be considered throughout the year. Application forms and further information are available from:

Combat Poverty Agency,
8 Charlemont Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 01/4783355 or
Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust,
22 Mount Charles, Belfast B7 1NZ
Tel: 0232/245927.

RESEARCH GRANTS

The Combat Poverty Agency also provides a limited number of research grants to community groups and voluntary organisations undertaking research in their own community locality. These grants are aimed at enabling groups develop a deeper insight into the underlying causes of disadvantage and deprivation. Grants may also be made available to enable groups evaluate the adequacy of their own response to tackling poverty and social deprivation. The grants under this scheme are not available to professional institutions, universities or individuals. However it is possible for a group to apply for a research grant where the actual research is carried out by a professional individual or organisation.

Priority will be given to research work which:

- has a clear poverty focus
- is carried out by or on behalf of local community groups
- would not otherwise receive funding
- is of sound methodology

Two types of research grant are available:

a) **Small Local Research Grants:** these grants are available for small research projects which are locally based and will not normally exceed £2,000

b) **Policy Relevant Research Grants:** these grants will fund externally initiated research which has wider policy implications and a limited number of grants of between £2,000 and £10,000 may be available for groups to undertake such projects. Such research projects should be relevant to the Agency's priorities as outlined in its Strategic Plan 1993 - 1995 and need not be locally based.

The total amount available annually under this scheme is £30,000. Applications are considered twice a year, in spring and in autumn. The closing date for the next round of applications is 15th September, 1995. For application forms and further details contact:

Research Grants,
Combat Poverty Agency,
8 Charlemont Street,
Dublin 2.
Tel: 01/4783355 Fax: 01/4783731

BOOK REVIEW

FACILITATION SKILLS: A REAL WORLD APPROACH

by Tony Spinks & Phil Clements

Initially, I found the 'real world' subtitle somewhat off putting, imagining it signalled a gimmicky how to, quick fix solution to a complex issue, especially one which can appear as mysterious as facilitation itself. My concern however wasn't justified as this is a useful book, well crafted and superbly laid out. The authors, both English police officers involved in training in a number of areas eg. equal opportunities, staff development, since the mid 1980's assert that they have developed a 'timely new approach to facilitated learning'. Their 'real world' model systematically addresses the learners need to make their learning relevant, significant and meaningful in their real world, this is the central theme of their book which is primarily aimed at those involved in facilitated training courses rather than those facilitating process oriented groups.

Facilitation is described as a process which enables or encourages learning, seeking to achieve this by focusing on the experience and activity of the learner. The leading principle of real world facilitation is that *"learning should be relevant, significant and meaningful to the*

learner at every stage of the facilitating process. It should make sense and be of use in the learner's real world". It aims to provide a bridge for the learner between the training environment and the real world of lived experience. Anyone involved in facilitating training courses in youth and community work, adult education and related fields will, I think, recognise the necessity of making these real world connections as well as the potential obstacles to effectively establishing that learning bridge.

The practical guide to facilitation skills offers a useful framework within which to build these bridges and address obstacles to learning covering topics like; principles of real world facilitation, planning and preparation, working with the group and encouraging future actions. These areas are covered in many guides as they are key areas in developing a training course. There are three additional areas explored here that I found particularly useful: a review of current methods and materials; co-facilitation; and a discussion on strategies for when things go wrong in a group, as they sometimes do even to the most experienced facilitator.

The layout of the chapters is very helpful, well illustrated with diagrams that help visualise the main points in each section. Each chapter begins with an outline of content and a number of desired learning outcomes for the reader. In fact, the style is quite like that of a workbook complete with *"points to ponder"* for the reader or as the book says *"pause for thought"*. These include questions like *"As a facilitator, what behaviour do you find most difficult to deal with?"* *"What is your nightmare scenario?"* (from Ch.7 when things go wrong.) Challenging but essential questions for any facilitator to consider before they happen, hopefully!

Two quibbles, one is the price approx. £20 Irish, a bit on the expensive side I think. The other, more serious in my view is the lack of any systematic input on course evaluation and closure of the course warrants one and a half pages in some 177 pages of text. A regrettable omission in an otherwise valuable resource for any training course facilitator or potential facilitator.

Facilitation Skills:
A Real World Approach
(Kogan Page, London, £18.95
Sterling)

**Reviewed by Hilary Tierney,
Youthreach Trainer.**

ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD: CHILD WELFARE, CHILD PROTECTION AND THE CHILD CARE ACT, 1991.

Edited by Harry Ferguson and Pat Kenny

The editors of *'On Behalf of the Child: Child Welfare, Child Protection and the Child Care Act, 1991'* state that the aim of the book is to 'provide a comprehensive analysis of the content and implications of the Child Care Act, 1991 for child welfare and protection from a range of perspectives'. To achieve this end they have brought together a combinations of academics, policy makers and practitioners in the child care area. Dividing the book in two, the first half covers general perspectives on child protection, welfare and the 1991 Act. The second half looks in more detail at the practical implications of the Act for those working in the area of child care, be they a G.P., a public health nurse, a social worker, a child psychologist or a judge of the District Court. By simply bringing together the views of these people working in different disciplines, this book clearly shows the magnitude of the impact of the Child Care Act. A common thread running through all the contributions is the welcome given to the Act as being a long overdue and major piece of work in the area of social legislation. However, there is also a common view that this initiative, to be truly successful, needs to be backed up with resources and policy.

On Behalf of the Child endeavours to steer away from the equation that 'child care = child protection' and into a broader view of care. Invariably however the protection discussion

returns throughout the book and this is to be expected in view of the political perception of child care that has developed in recent times. Harry Ferguson sets out the historical background to the 1991 Act but the irony is that some of the most startling scandals affecting children have occurred since the passing of the Act (the Kilkenny case, the Kelly Fitzgerald case).

Any examination and discussion of the Child Care Act has to take place against the background of no one being sure of what will happen when the Act is properly up and running. Eoin O'Sullivan's chapter on Section 5 and Youth Homelessness, which charters the implementation of Section 5 of the Act, cautions the reader not to be optimistic about the full implementation. Don McDwyer complains that the 'failure of imagination has given us a structure which will in all likelihood be out of date and requiring review in 5-10 years time.' McDwyer echoing other contributors, feels that the lack of any unifying statements of policy will lead to an 'inconsistency which could undermine the innovative principles of the Act.

The paramountcy of the child's welfare under the 1991 Act is also debated in the book. The apparent contradiction between this consideration and the constitutional position of the family is touched on. Kieran Woods calls for a Charter of Rights for Children and endorses the Kilkenny Report

recommendation for a declaration of children's rights to be included in our constitution as a way of avoiding possible conflicts under the present constitution. Robbie Gilligan tackles the area of family support under the Act and states that 'family support is not just about securing the safety of children in the face of immediate physical or sexual threat. It is also about promoting their welfare and normal development in the face of adversity.'

A note of caution to the reader in that all the practical perspectives come from people working in the North Western Health Board area. It would be interesting to know whether their experiences of providing child care services are common throughout the country and if not, what are the differences that may be found within other Health Boards.

All in all, this is an important book for those interested and involved in the child care area. Some of the contributions are lighter than others but drawing a wide spectrum together is in itself important and all credit goes to the Editors. Finally, one hopes that the next publication in this area will be in a position to examine the implementation of more than 17 sections of the Child Care Act. If not, books dealing with the Act will be moved from the legal/social affairs areas of bookshops into the fiction section!

**ON BEHALF OF THE CHILD:
CHILD WELFARE, CHILD
PROTECTION AND THE CHILD
CARE ACT, 1991.**

**(A and A Farmer Press,
Dublin, 1995)**

*Reviewed by Mary Ellen Ring, a
Barrister who specialises in Child
Care Legislation.*

Youth work

RESOURCES

SEX EDUCATION

Exploring Healthy Sexuality: A Guide to Sex Education

in a Youth Setting
by The Family Planning Association

- Practical sex education training manual for those working with young people aged 14 to 24 years. Provides a clear, accessible explanation of the main issues and uses a combination of quizzes, games and step-by-step exercises to enable young people to explore their attitudes and feelings related to; body image; assertion and communication; decision-making; sexuality; relationships; HIV/AIDS and safe sex; and contraception.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Caring For Children and Young People who have been Sexually Abused

by Breakthrough For Youth

- Comprehensive trainers resource pack for those working with children/young people who have been sexually abused. Originally developed in Canada it has been adapted by a British working group including the National Children's Bureau, Barnardo's, the National Foster Care Association and individuals working in foster care, residential care, youth and community work and local authorities. The pack includes a video on young people's experience of disclosure which won a national film award in Canada in 1993.

STATUTORY/ VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIPS

Promoting Partnerships Through Consultation

by Val Barker

- Offers a practical way for individuals and groups who either use or work in the welfare and care services to become active partners in the planning, development and provision of these services. It contains a tried and tested step-by-step route aimed at empowering individuals to participate and making service providers more sensitive to people's views and ideas.

Working in Partnership: The Probation Service and the Voluntary Sector

by Angela Sarkis & Russell Webster

- Practical guide aimed primarily at probation officers. Written by two ex-probation officers it addresses the whole partnership process from the assessment of client need, through identifying partner agencies, preparing a model contract, monitoring and evaluation, and eliminating bad practice.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Setting Up and Managing Projects

by YMCA George Williams College

- Developed from an initiative that combined the training and qualification of youth workers with the development of youth work projects in the independent voluntary sector in Britain. The pack includes sections on; thinking about projects: definition; preparing a business plan; the expectations of funders; and managing and developing workers.

PARENTING SKILLS

Education For Parenthood

by The Children's Society

- Training pack that takes a multicultural approach to parenthood by challenging existing gender stereotypes of parenting and family roles. It does not advocate a single correct formula for parenting but reflects the diversity of family structures, lifestyles and cultures. Contains a wide range of activities and exercises on; pregnancy; childbirth; parents needs; parent-child relationships; health, safety and development issues; children's rights; what it means to be a parent.

WORKING WITH MEN

Gender, Crime and Probation Practice

by Paul Senior & David Woodhill

Collection of chapters taken from varying perspectives looking at the impact of gender on crime and how gender should be taken into account when formulating probation practice. Themes covered include; making masculinity explicit in work with male offenders; empathy and warmth; and collusion and crime.

Breaking In... Breaking Out (Social and Sex Education for Men with Learning Difficulties)

by Martin Hazelhurst

- Booklet that examines the difficulties involved in social & sex education with men with learning difficulties, with particular reference to the role that masculinity plays.

ACCREDITATION

Can You Credit It?

by Mary Brigid Kelly, Combat Poverty Agency

- Study that identifies the motivating factors in demands for accreditation, the approaches to accreditation currently used by community-based learners and trainees and the concerns of voluntary organisers, tutors and participants in relation to accreditation. It also examines a cross-section of current education and training provision in disadvantaged communities and highlights the key issues arising in relation to accreditation in this environment.

RURAL YOUTH WORK

Nothing Ever Happens Around Here

by Dave Phillips & Alison Skinner

- Findings of a three-year study that dispels the commonly held myths that rural youth work is a more relaxed and less stressful version of its urban counterpart and that rural living offers protection from life's more obvious dangers and temptations. It also looks at the potential disadvantages faced by young people living in rural areas and at the range of youth work responses available.

Youth Work in Rural Areas: a training pack by National Youth Agency

- Self-contained 12-hour training programme aimed at providing youth workers working in rural areas with a range of specialised strategies to combat the disadvantages experienced by young people living in rural areas.

CHARITY MANAGEMENT

Meeting Need

by Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators

- Handbook that focuses on the need for voluntary organisations and charities to develop a clear marketing strategy, defined as a management approach which puts the customer at the heart of an organisation's activities. It looks at how commercial marketing tools can be applied to voluntary organisation activities such as service provision, fundraising and pressure group work.

Foundations For Fundraising

by Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators

- Handbook that offers a stimulus and guide to all aspects of fundraising with particular reference to acquiring major funding supports.

EDUCATIONAL DISADVANTAGE

Poverty and Educational Disadvantage

by I.N.T.O.

Report that attempts to refocus the debate on educational disadvantage by examining the link between poverty and educational disadvantage and how the difficulties that many parents experience as a result of poverty impinge on the educational access and opportunities of their children.

STRESS

Young People Under Stress

by Sally Burningham

- Practical handbook that explains many of the stresses and mental health problems that young people may experience, ranging from family difficulties, peer pressure, and bullying to anxiety and severe depression. Contains information on approaching professionals, various treatments and therapies available and helpful organisations.

PARENTING SKILLS

Mothers and Breadwinners - First Steps to Access and Opportunity

by G. Healy, Parents Alone Resource Centre

Pre-vocational training manual that provides a new model of training for lone parents and women's groups. It aims to provide a structured, progressive approach to gaining the skills and confidence required to allow them to avail of education, training and employment opportunities with a view to providing an independent economic future for themselves.

Many of these titles and others on related topics are available on loan from the **IRISH YOUTHWORX CENTRE**, the official sales agent in the Republic of Ireland for **Youth Clubs UK** and the **National Youth Agency**. The wide range of topics covered by the materials available for the Centre include youth service management policy and curriculum, detached and rural youth work, health education, art education, social and political education, leaving home, counselling, club work, games and simulations, youth work training and working with girls and young women.

Further information :

Irish YouthWork Centre
National Youth Federation
20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.
Tel: 01 8729933 Fax: 01 8724183



Youth work EVENTS

IRELAND

Introducing Sexuality Training: A Short Course for Relationships & Sex Education Trainers

Limerick

2 - 3 September, 1995

Two-day course offering trainers from different educational work settings the opportunity of developing awareness and practising skills, leading to a greater confidence in the delivery of relationships and sex education programmes, and of exchanging ideas and strategies through networking.

Cost: £160.00

Further Details: Ruth Riddick, IFPA
Education Service, 36/37 Lower
Ormond Quay, Dublin 1. Tel:
01/8725366 Fax: 01/8726639

Programme Planning For Relationships and Sexuality Education: A Short Course For Programme Managers

Dublin

8 September, 1995

One-day course for school principals, teachers, youth and community workers and programme managers with a responsibility for designing and administering relationships & sexuality education programmes. The course will concentrate on examining the elements and planning process of such programmes.

Cost: £85.00

Further Details: Ruth Riddick, IFPA
Education Service, 36/37 Lower
Ormond Quay, Dublin 1.

Tel: 01/8725366 Fax: 01/8726639

NOTICE BOARD

Noticeboard contains information on conferences, seminars and training events of relevance to those involved in the youth and community work sector.

It will include Irish, British and European mainland based events.

Introducing HIV/AIDS: A Short Course for Professionals and Youth Workers

Dublin

7 - 8 October, 1995

HIV/AIDS has increasingly become an issue for youth workers, be it as a subject in itself or within a lifeskills or sex education programme. This course will examine some of the issues involved and look at strategies for an appropriate response.

Cost: £160.00

Further Details: Ruth Riddick, IFPA
Education Service, 36/37 Lower
Ormond Quay, Dublin 1. Tel:
01/8725366 Fax: 01/8726639

Counselling Survivors of Sexual Violence

Tara Towers Hotel, Dublin.

Saturday 23 September, 1995

One-day workshop for counsellors or anyone encountering survivors of sexual violence. The workshop will explore the complex effects of rape and child sexual abuse, recovery, healing and many of the myths surrounding sexual violence.

Cost: £22.00 (£18.00 to Irish
Association of Counselling & Therapy
members)

Further Details: IACT, 8 Cumberland
Street, Dun Laoighaire, Co. Dublin.

Rural Youth - The Unseen Disadvantaged

Anner Hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary

21 October, 1995

One-day conference aimed at youth workers (paid and voluntary), teachers, social workers and others who work with young people in rural areas. The aims of the conference are to: highlight the effects of poverty and disadvantage on rural youth and to create an awareness of the lack of facilities for rural young people; to dispel the myth that rural life necessarily confers a better quality of life; to bring together experiences of work with young people in rural communities and develop a forum for improved youth and community responses. The format of the conference will be an opening keynote address followed by three workshops on Education, Economics, and Social & Cultural.

Further Details: Elaine Gleeson, Cashel
& Emly Youth Service, O'Brien Street,
Tipperary Town. Tel: 062/52604

From the Margins to the Mainstream: Youth Work in Change

St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra,
Dublin.

30 September - 1 October, 1995

National conference that aims to provide an opportunity for those involved in youth work to reflect on the changing nature of youth work provision in Ireland. The conference will involve a number of keynote addresses as well as the following three sub-conferences:

- Local Youth Service Development; providers; core elements; partnership; funding and contracting; changes in evaluation.
- The Changing Nature of Irish Society; modernisation and family

patterns; social exclusion; new ways of working with young people.

- Skills and Practices; a range of practical workshops which will enhance the skills of those working directly with young people.

For further information contact: Ann O'Neill: 01/2873088 or Louise Hurley: 01/8729933

Training the Trainer

London

19 - 21 September, 1995

Three-day course aimed at equipping trainers with the essential knowledge and skills required to devise and carry out effective training programmes with volunteers. Areas covered will include: identifying training needs and proposing solutions; designing and delivering relevant training courses; developing participative training techniques; monitoring progress and assessing the effectiveness of training.

Cost: £165.00stg, £160.00stg
(Volunteer Centre UK members)

Further Details: Volunteer Centre UK, Carriage Row, 183 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BU. Tel: 0044/171 3889888 Fax: 0044/171/3830448

BRITAIN

Education and Training for the Future Labour Markets of Europe

St. Hild & St. Bede College

21-24 September, 1995

The themes of this conference relate to two major research programmes recently awarded to the University of Durham: the ESRC Research Programme: The Learning Society and the Resource Centre for Access to Data on Europe.

Cost: £195.00stg (if booked before 1 May, 1995) £245.00stg (if booked after 1 May, 1995)

Further Details: Mrs Alex Barfield, Department of Geography, University of Durham, South Road, Durham 3LE, England. Tel: 0044 191 3742467 Fax: 0044 191 3742456

Who's Hurting Who?

Mechanics Institute, Manchester

26 July, 1995

One-day national conference organised by 42nd Street, a community based organisation/resource for young people under stress. The theme of the conference will be young people who repeatedly attempt suicide/self harm and will focus on three areas: theory; practice; and campaigning.

Cost: £50.00stg/£25.00stg/concessions

Further Details: Helen Spandler, 42nd Street, 4th Floor, Swan Buildings, 20 Swan Street, Manchester M4 5JW. Tel: 0044/161/8320170

From Managing to Leading

London

11 - 12 September (women only) and
18 - 19 September, 1995

Aimed at managers who want to develop their vision and create a learning organisation, this two-day course will examine communication methods, quality management, planning and evaluating performance and prioritising. The first event will examine women's particular management issues and leadership qualities.

Further Details: Contact Interchange Training, Dalby Street, London NWS 3NQ. Tel: 0044/171/2675220 Fax: 0044/171/4825292

Connecting With Communities

University of Nottingham

22 - 24 September, 1995

Annual Training Conference and Rally of the National Playbus Association which will focus on the theme of mobile community work. Topics covered will include: adaptable craft ideas for mobile work; community outreach work; mobile work with young people; contract culture; co-operative games; fundraising; project management; safety; good practice with volunteers.

Further Details: National Playbus Association, Tel: 0044/117/9775375

Education and Training for the Future Labour Markets of Europe

St. Hild & St. Bede College

21-24 September, 1995

The themes of this conference relate to two major research programmes recently awarded to the University of Durham. The first is The ESRC Research Programme: The Learning Society which will examine the nature of what has been called a learning society and explore ways in which it can contribute to the development of knowledge and skills for employment. The programme will focus on post-compulsory education, training and continuing education and will fund around 25 projects under the programme from 1995 to 1999 at a cost £3+ million. The second programme is the Resource Centre for Access to Data on Europe (r`cade) which is an interdisciplinary resource centre that will help researchers and analysts to identify and acquire data for the European Social Sciences.

Cost: £245.00stg

Further Details: Mrs Alex Barfield, Department of Geography, University of Durham, South Road, Durham 3LE, England. Tel: 0044/191/3742467 Fax: 0044/191/3742456

EUROPE

Volunteurope - The Fourth European Workshop on Volunteer Action

Castelldefels, near Barcelona, Spain

28 September - 1 October, 1995

Five-day conference that will comprise a series of workshops on the themes of volunteer management, volunteering and unemployment, and promoting volunteering in Eastern Europe.

Further Details: Julie Reynolds, Volunteurope, 237 Pentonville Road, London N1 9NJ. Tel: 0044/171/2786601 Fax: 0044/171/8379621

**From the
Margins**

To the

Mainstream

YOUTH WORK IN CHANGE

conference '95

Saturday, 30 September - Sunday, 1 October, 1995

St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin

The conference will involve a number of key note addresses as well as three sub-conferences: Local Youth Service Development; Skills and Practice; The Changing Nature of Irish Society

Full programme, registration and booking details and further information from:

Ann O'Neill : 01 2873088

Louise Hurley : 01 8729933