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IRISH YOUTH WORK SCENE

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It 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.

In the April edition of IYWS an article entitled Breaking New Ground in Youth Work profiling the work of Transforum Alley appeared as the main Youth Work Practice article. The author of this article is Hilary Jenkinson. Due to an error in finalising the layout of the magazine prior to print Hilary was not credited for same. We apologise to Hilary for the omission.

Justice for Young People

The last quarter of 1996 has seen the passage of the Bail referendum and the publication of the new Childrens' Bill. Between them these two developments will shape our juvenile justice system for a large part of the next century.

The broad thrust of the Childrens' Bill, its focus on the primacy of diversion from crime and many of its detailed provisions deserve welcome and praise. But there are grounds for concern about how faithfully the spirit of this legislation is likely to be translated into practice.

The fact that the Bill will not have a single operational date presents the vista of a repeat of the tardy and weak implementation of the Child Care Act 1991. The cynical expedience of the timing of the Bail referendum reinforces the suspicion that government does not shy from enacting measures which it simply does not have the capacity or commitment to implement properly.

The compromise on the age of criminal responsibility represents a good example of such a victory of expediency over principle. The government has conceded the merits of holding young people responsible for their actions in a manner which separates them as far as possible from the corrupting influence of the adult justice system. Yet within the context of significant additional funding for prisons in the wake of the Bail referendum it is apparently not deemed possible to provide funding for youthwork alternatives to detention to enable this principle to be extended to the still minimal age of 12 years.

One would hope that any juvenile justice system would be judged on its effectiveness in reducing crime and recidivism. The rhetoric that this government is getting "tough" on crime does not do justice to the sophistication of its legislative framework in this regard. And to the extent that the state proves unable to substantiate the rhetoric it may prove highly counter-productive, calling further into question the effectiveness of the entire justice system.

JOHN DUNNE
 Chief Executive, National Youth Federation

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE: A Role for the Youth Service

BY ALICE MALONE & BRIAN DOYLE, LOUTH YOUTH FEDERATION

Prostitution is the oldest profession in the world. It has existed from the year dot and it still exists to day. However, it is only very recently that the issue of young people being labelled as child prostitutes has come to our attention in Ireland.

We the authors of this article feel that these young people are not child prostitutes. They are young people who are being sexually exploited and abused. The young people are not committing a crime or a criminal offence. It is the "clients" who are paying for sexual favours who are the criminals. They are abusing young people under the age of 16. So let us be clear from the very beginning, this is Sexual Abuse.

So, who are the young people who find themselves in these exploitative situations. It is our experience in Dundalk that those most at risk are young people both male and female who are caught in a poverty situation. They are aged 14-16 years, have very low self esteem, have either left or been excluded from the formal education system at a very early age. They are experimenting with drugs and alcohol, and also with sexual activity. In some cases they are very confused about relationships with the opposite sex. They have no or very little information in relation to the consequences of unprotected sex. For the young females their biggest concern is avoiding pregnancy. However, the majority of them are not taking precautions and do not seem to be aware of HIV and AIDS.

Many of the young people see their involvement as a means to an end, the end being that they need money and that if adults are willing to pay for sexual favours, then this is an easy and quick way of making money. In today's society, the cost of being a young person has escalated even in comparison to five years ago. Today's young person must have Airmatic Runners, Levis Jeans, the latest in CD equipment, designer school bags etc., or they are marginalised by their peers.

Often, the young people are in desperate situations and this results in them taking drastic

measures. They are often cold, hungry and miserable, and find it very difficult to cope with peer pressure. The young people spend this money on items such as food and clothing, essentials which the rest of us often take for granted.

What we have discovered in Dundalk is that there is no one place where the young people gather in the town. It is not particular to any one area, and it is not particular to Dundalk. Locations can vary from the street corner, to the shopping mall, to locations used by adult prostitutes, to the telephone box. Once contact has been made by a client, new pick up points can be arranged and 'clients' know where to go to pick up the young people. This in turn leads to the problem moving around, and therefore, it is even more difficult to target and work with these young people.

The most at risk times for young people seem to be from Wednesdays through to Saturdays from 7.00 p.m to 11.00 p.m. However, again it is difficult to be exact as days and times can vary depending on the adult 'client'. Coming up to Christmas, we imagine will be a time when the young people will be most vulnerable as again the need for money will increase.

Very often the young person involved does not see themselves or their situation to be dangerous or abusive. They fear the statutory agencies and services and find it difficult to accept and trust adults in authority situations. So how can a youth worker identify that young people are being sexually exploited if no young person will give this information directly to an adult?

Youth workers need to listen very carefully to what young people are saying. Workers should be listening for changes in language which may have far more sexual undertones than previously used. Youth workers should become aware of young people having much more money than is normal for them. Youth workers need to begin to move onto the streets and to make contact with young people who are constantly hanging around the streets at night. This will give workers the opportunity of informing the young person of what is available to them in any given area.

youth work policy

If you discover that young people are being sexually exploited in your town or area, then it is vital that your organisation begins to take action. We feel it is necessary to make contact with all the relevant statutory and voluntary agencies in the area and to adopt a partnership approach to respond to the issue. Health Boards, Gardaí, VECs and the Probation and Welfare certainly need to be involved, all have a role to play. Inter-agency co-operation is vital as is information sharing.

As there are no local or national statistics available regarding the number of young people involved in these abusive situations, very often the youth worker will be accused of hyping a situation. However, as this problem is for the most part a 'hidden' one, then workers must be prepared to have correct and factual information about the situation. Workers must be ready to challenge current systems which exist as well as creating awareness around the issue.

Youth workers must also be aware of the attitudes and opinions of the general public who may perceive the young people as prostitutes. This will lead to the labelling of the young people concerned and should be guarded against. These young people are not prostitutes. They are young people in abusive situations who have not made fully informed choices and decisions and have tremendous difficulty in getting out of that situation.

These young people need a place of safety and support. They need a place where their wishes, feelings and welfare are paramount. These young people should have the right to share information without fear of rejection or condemnation. These young people require a service that is accessible and acceptable to them, where they feel comfortable and confident and where their needs come first.

Young people in these abusive situations need proper care and information in a way that they can understand. They need to have their basic needs (eg food, clothing, bath, laundry service) met. They need information on health issues such as sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy testing and support. They need information on condoms and family planning and need access to a GP who understands and is sympathetic to their situation. These young people need specialist counselling. They also need proper information regarding careers, school, accommodation, and the social services that are available to them. It is therefore vital that youth workers and youth organisations develop clear

working relationships with social workers, teachers, gardaí and parents.

Youth workers must be willing to take risks in favour of these young people and they must be willing to encourage other agencies to begin to look at new approaches to working with such young people. Change does not happen overnight but it can happen in small ways which for many young people could mean the difference between danger and safety, warmth and cold, exploitation and support.

Youth workers and youth organisations have a responsibility to ensure that these most vulnerable young people in our society are catered for, otherwise they will become even more marginalised. We also have a responsibility regarding the prevention of young people becoming involved in abusive situations. We feel the Youth Service needs to begin to develop much more accessible material regarding health education which is easily understood by young people who may have difficulty in reading the general information already available. We need to become much more creative in how we deliver programmes to young people ensuring that we do not exclude those who are most in need.

ACCESSING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES: Using Multi-Media Tools

by Fran Bissett

Final in the series of articles on the potential of information technology in the youth service, Fran Bissett explains Multimedia & CD ROM (held over from the last issue) gives a brief update on Internet censorship, and looks at some of the Internet developments that should be of interest to those in the youth and community work sector.

In looking at information on the Internet that might be of interest to those in the youth & community work sector, I will not even attempt to give an overview of all the relevant areas of information as such a task could not be done justice in a two page article. Instead I will concentrate on one topic as an example to illustrate the kind of information that can be accessed via the Internet and the different areas within the Internet one should be going to for the information. I will be looking at adult and continuing education, an area of increasing relevance and importance to the youth & community work sector.

It is possible to access a wide variety of resources and contacts simply by using E-mail. There are a number of discussion groups and networks of people working in the field of adult education. The worthwhile nature of this information varies greatly but many of the groups will contain valuable information on conferences, publications, new initiatives as well as discussion and debate on issues of the day. The following is a list of some the discussion groups on adult and continuing education and how they can be accessed.

AEDNET: International discussion group for adult educators
E-mail address: listserv@alpha.acast.nova.edu

CONTINUING EDUCATION: British university-based discussion group on continuing education. EMail address: mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

IANET: International access discussion group on adult education
E-mail address: listproc@stir.ac.uk

TESLIT-L: US based list in the field of adult education and literacy test literature. E-mail address: listserv@cunyvm.bitnet or listserv@cunyvm.cuny.edu

VOCNET: US based discussion group on vocational education
E-mail address: listserv@ucbcmsa.bitnet or listserv@cmsa.berkeley.edu

It is also possible to access a number of adult education publications and journals via E-mail. These include journals such as New Horizons in Adult Education and ERIC (the Educational Research and Information

Clearinghouse) as well as summaries of educational research.

Resources and information on adult and continuing education are also widely available through other Internet services, particularly the World Wide Web (WWW). Several Irish, British and International universities have detailed web sites on their continuing education activities. The European Universities Continuing Education Network, the Universities Association for Continuing Education (UACE) and the European Journal of Continuing Education all have homepages on WWW. Below is a list of some of the other adult education related home-pages available on the WWW.

AEDNET (international adult education network): home page:<http://www.nova.edu/Inter-Links/education/aednet.html>

Association for Learning Technology:
<http://www.csv.warwick.ac.uk/alt-E>

Distance learning resources:
<http://www.cri.com/gorgon/distance.html>

EUCEN home page:
<http://garfield.fe.up.jpt:8001/ingles/eucen/eucen.html>

European Year of Lifelong Learning:
<http://www.cec.lu/en/comn/dy22/eyinet.html>

Further Education Colleges in England & Wales:
<http://www.wwt.co.uk/colleges/colleges.html>

International Council for Distance Learning:
<http://acacia.open.uc.uk>

List of British Continuing Education home pages:
http://www.ex.ac.uk/~PRFChani/AceUK_Depts.html

Open Learning Australia: <http://www.ola.edu.au/>

Times Higher Education Supplement:
<http://thesis.newsint.co.uk/>

UACE home page:
<http://www.stir.ac.uk/epd/uace/default.htm> (NIACE, 1996)

This gives a mere overview of the range of information and resources that can be accessed on the Internet on one particular topic. Similar information is available on the wide and varied range of topics that would be of interest to those working in the youth & community sector. It is really a case of sitting down at the computer and letting your imagination flow, providing you keep one eye on your telephone bill. Happy surfing!

Internet Censorship Update

In a previous article I explored the current debate regarding censorship of the Internet and the widespread concerns regarding the access young people have to pornographic and other undesirable material on the 'Net'. Since that article there have been a number of important developments. At the time of the article Internet providers/users in the U.S.A. were in the process of challenging a new Decency Act which proposed the banning of sending explicit materials (which minors could gain access to) over computer networks. This case proceeded to a State Federal Court where the new Act was successfully challenged under the Freedom of Information Act. With regard to Ireland, the legal position was clarified recently in the Dail. Responding to a written question asked on the issue in August, the Minister for Justice Nora Owen admitted that pornography on the Internet was not covered under existing Irish censorship laws.

More recently in an attempt to respond to increasing criticism a number of Internet Service Providers in Britain have agreed to remove over 100 web sites, file areas and newsgroups from their service which provide pornographic material, in particular child pornography. This initiative is called Safety Net. It is believed that the major Internet service providers in Ireland are undertaking similar measures. This procedure will remove sites, files and newsgroups where it is obvious from the homepage or e-mail address what kind of information is being supplied. However, more subtle or disguised sites, and newsgroups in particular, will be able to escape this type of scrutiny. For anyone who is interested in buying into such a service it will be a case of asking individual service providers whether they are undertaking such a measure.

Alternatively a new product called AutoNomy, developed by an innovative British firm called AutoNomy, is currently being tested and if successful will offer a way of monitoring undesirable information on the Internet as well as changing the way millions of people search and surf the World Wide Web. This product allows agents to be posted to Internet providers like an e-mail message and perform their searches 'off line', thus saving the user the telephone cost. Information retrieved by the agent can then be downloaded all at once or at the user's discretion.

These agents can also perform a range of functions such as seeking out other agents with similar search criteria to form communities of like-minded people who may wish to communicate on the Net; and, more importantly, they can be trained to search for pornographic and other undesirable information on the Internet. After the test period has finished the product is expected to cost about £50. The software works alongside all existing Internet browsers such as Netscape's Navigator and Microsoft's Internet Explorer. For further details on this

product and a test copy of the software go to the following web site, <http://www.agentware.com>

Multimedia

Multimedia is one of those very trendy buzzwords, much hyped with a mystique surrounding it that gives it a much greater significance than it deserves. The word multimedia simply means the use of more than one form of media (print, pictures, audio, video etc) in combination. When the word multimedia is used in connection with computers it usually signifies a computer that is equipped with a number of "extras" that are needed to allow it to access and use a variety of multimedia related products such as E-mail, CD ROM's, Internet, video conferencing. The "extras" required in order to access these products include: *CD disk drive - to play CD ROM's; Sound card and speakers - to be able to hear speech, music and sound effects on CD ROM and Internet products; Modem - to use E-mail and access the Internet; Video Ccard - for video conferencing*

CD ROM's

In simple terms a CD ROM (Compact Disk with a Read Only Memory) is like a standard music CD that one would put into a CD record player. The main differences are that one puts it into a computer, and it can hold not only sounds (as is the case with a music CD) but anything that can be converted into digital data. This includes documents, pictures/graphics, DTP packages, programmes, etc and more recently video. By combining text, graphics, music and sound putting a CD ROM into a computer is akin to playing a video, with the added benefit of giving users menu options so they can decide what information they want to see, when they want to see it, and offering them different ways of viewing this information.

In its early days CD ROM's were mainly used for recreational games as an advancement from the traditional games console one would connect to the TV. However, more recently the potential of CD ROM's has really been exploited with its development as an educational and training tool similar to video, particularly with learners who have literacy and numeracy difficulties. There has also been an increasing usage of CD ROM's in the business and commercial sector with them proving a popular and alternative way for businesses to market and advertise their products.

References:

NIACE, Adults Learning Journal, (vol 7, no.10, June, 1996)

ROSCOMMON HERALD

INVEST IN YOUTH NOW

"It was interesting last week to note the Minister for Justice officially opening the first phase of the new prison in Castlerea. The buildings were attractively built and beautifully furnished, all at enormous cost. The Minister was quick to point out that prisoners will not be sent straight from the courts directly to Castlerea. This first class accomodation is being reserved for prisoners who will be specially chosen.

But the facilities do not stop with accomodation. Work is also underway on the provision of sports and recreation facilities, on which no doubt, no expense will be spared.

In the light of this development our young people could be forgiven for wondering if they are on the right side of the 'Wall'. While all this expense is being outlaid for criminals, the young people of Castlerea have no recreational facilities, no youth club and have to travel far and wide on buses to go to a disco.

I spent last weekend attending a National Youth Conference in Dublin. Mr Bernard Allen, T.D., Minister for Youth Affairs in his closing speech stated that he now recognised the way forward was to invest finances in Youth Work as a preventative measure. He said that apart from the heartbreak caused by crime and drugs etc., substantial savings could also be made by the State by not having to provide costly services in the area of justice and health etc. In simple terms prevention is better than cure. On this point the Minister will get no objection from me or from anyone else who is involved in Youth Work, as this is the very point that we have been making for years.

While the Minister has seen the light, he did point out that he will require the agreement of his colleagues that this is the way forward. In this regard I hope that all politicians will respond positively and will become actively involved in providing Youth Workers with the neccessary resources to put preventative measures in place, while at the same time providing local communities with proper facilities for young people.

We regularly hear the comment from our politicians that 'our young people are our greatest resource'. If they mean it, this is a great opportunity for them to prove it."

Liam Moroney, Regional Director

CARLOW NATIONALIST

YOUTHS IN ATHY 'NOT LISTENED TO'

"A major survey on the needs of young people in Athy has shown that there is a general feeling of hoplessness among the town's young people and the issue of stereotyping and social divide in the town is also very high.

The survey which was recently published by the Athy Research Project steering committee, concluded that the

widespread practice of stereotyping and labelling was creating a social divide in the town.

The findings indicated that young people in the town feel they are not listened to and there was also concern about the number of young people leaving school early.

A steering committee was established to oversee the project and Martin Fitzgerald was employed to carry out the research and report to the steering committee.

Speaking on his findings Mr Fitzgerald told the Kildare Nationalist this week that the feeling of hopelessness among young people as young as 13 and 14 was quite disturbing. "The situation is self perpetuating" he said. Mr Fitzgerald also pointed out that the unemployment rate in some areas of the town is very high and there was also a higher number of lone parents in Athy compared with other towns the same size.

Mr Fitzgerald has come up with a number of recommendations to tackle the problems and needs identified by the young people.

These include an early alcohol and substance abuse. The survey also recommends the setting up of development groups for parents and adults to help overcome perceptions about the divide in the town as well as a child development course and the employment of an outreach street/area worker.

Ms Anne Conroy from Kildare Youth Services said now that the research had been carried out and the needs identified, the steering group were determined that it would not sit and gather dust on some shelf.

Alan Curtis from the Community Development Project pointed out that sometimes people are accused of focusing on the negative but the needs had to be identified first before positive action could be taken."

Barbara Sheridan

DROGHEDA INDEPENDENT

ACTION WEEK FOR YOUTH

"Drogheda Youthreach, along with Limerick Youth Service, North Down Training Organisation and Mornington Enterprises, Belfast, are participating in a Wider Horizon project which is funded by the International Fund for Ireland. The project is in two parts and involves 45 young people. The first takes place in Ireland and consists of a series of three one week workshops. In the second stage 22 of the young people will travel to Canada for six weeks work experience in catering and service industries.

The venue for the first week is Drogheda. Sixteen young people from the North Downs and Belfast area will be joining with six young people from Drogheda Youthreach for an action packed week.

regional youthwork media coverage

As well as workshops in the centre on Reconciliation and Communication, the young people will be going on tours of Drogheda and the Boyne Valley. The visitors will be staying with host families in the Drogheda area."

ANTRIM GUARDIAN

PILOT YOUTH SCHEME LAUNCHED IN ANTRIM

"An ambitious new approach to examining young people's health issues is being piloted in Antrim.

Based on the concept that young people listen to and are more easily influenced by their peers, the project will explore the future potential of peer education as a method of reaching young people.

The project is joint initiative between the Health Promotion Department of Homefirst Community trust and the Youth Service of Northern Eastern Education and Library Board and initially will run until December.

Young people from the age of 17 who are junior leaders in youth organisations will be examining attitudes towards health issues and the factors which influence the choices they make.

The overall aim is to explore health issues with young people and to examine the potential of peer education.

Senior Health Promotion Officer for Homefirst, Madeline Heaney, was enthusiastic about the scheme.

"The focus of this project is very timely, especially in view of the recent research findings into young peoples health needs in the NHSSB area," she explained.

"The young people have chosen alcohol, drugs and sexual health as the main issues they are interested in addressing.

INFLUENCED

"Young people are very much influenced in what their peers do and therefore by discussing these issues with the young people themselves, we can develop relevant and constructive programmes.

"We have been using a range of approaches including group work and one to one work, and our residential weekend proved to be particularly successful," she added.

Senior Youth Officer with the North Eastern Board, Gerry Devine, pointed out that the Youth Service has been developing peer led approaches for several years.

"I am very pleased that we are able to give the financial and personal support needed to train the young people from youth organisations", he said.

"I commend the youth workers in Antrim for their initiative in developing further productive links with Homefirst's Health Promotion Department.

"The focus of this project, linked to a peer led approach, is highly appropriate.

"Peer influences are significant in behaviour surrounding alcohol and other drugs as well as sexual health".

The pilot project will be evaluated by the use of on-going questionnaires with a view to extending it to other regions in the Northern Board area."

THE EXAMINER, THE IRISH TIMES THE IRISH INDEPENDENT

THE BAIL REFERENDUM

"The National Youth Federation is concerned that the forthcoming referendum on bail may be unnecessary. We would urge all those preparing to vote in the referendum (and we encourage a large turnout) to consider the following:

1. The case for change is based on poor statistics - our own evidence would suggest that the 5,000 offences usually cited as being committed by people on bail are actually the "work" of 100-200 individuals;
2. The proposal, if successful, will almost certainly be counterproductive in terms of conveying a message about "getting tough" on crime where young people are concerned since there are only four remand beds for youth in Ireland - the system will be unable to carry out its threat and will lose credibility;
3. The government seems likely to be forced to release convicted criminals earlier and to place young people in adult centres of detention, effectively pushing them further into a life of crime.

It might be more helpful if a path such as that outlined in paragraph 8 of Minister Owen's October 8th statement were to be proactively explored, namely, the strengthening of the provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1984 in relation to the imposition of consecutive sentences for offences committed while on bail; require persons going bail to guarantee the good behaviour of the accused and allow for the forfeiture of bail."

Paul Murphy, President, National Youth Federation.

IRISH YOUTHWORK CENTRE

Many of these titles and others on related topics are available on loan from the **Irish YouthWork Centre**, the official sales agent in the Republic of Ireland for Youth Clubs UK and the National Youth Agency. Further information: Fran Bissett & Brid Horan, Irish YouthWork Centre, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.
Tel: 01 8729933 Fax: 01 8724183

YOUTH WORK CURRICULUM

QUALITY WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

by John Huskins

Handbook about personal and social development for all young people, based on over 20 years experience of assessing and promoting youthwork, as an HM Inspector of Schools youth work specialist, and an education consultant providing management support and training for many local authority youth services and voluntary youth organisations. The approaches contained in the handbook are aimed at enabling those working with young people to:

- (i) deliver quality work that addresses society's concerns about young people, in particular in relation to risk behaviours, including helping them to avoid or address: truancy and exclusion from school; drugs misuse; risky sexual behaviours leading to unintended pregnancy, and HIV/AIDS; emotional problems leading to depression and suicide attempts; and crime,
- (ii) work effectively with those young people most in need of help, i.e. those "at risk" of the above behaviours, including those at "high risk", (not exclusively, but included as a priority), and,
- (iii) be accountable and cost-effective, necessary to convince the decision makers that this work with young people is a sound investment.

PLANNING THE WAY

by National Youth Agency

Curriculum guidelines produced to bring a cohesiveness to curriculum planning, design and development. They are based on youth work practice, and provide a framework for curriculum planning and offer ideas which are applicable in various youth work settings, both urban and rural. The guidelines are divided into two sections - the first is historical and theoretical, and contextualises the debates relating to the development of a core curriculum, while the second deals with the ways in which the guidelines should be used.

TRAINING AIDS

GROUPWORK, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

by Michael Reynolds

Handbook for practitioners involved in education and training who use, or are planning to use groupwork methods. Topics covered include: why groups?; models for educational design; boundaries, predictability and control; values and beliefs in experiential learning; taking account of the context; and implications for staff development.

Providing both practical guidance, case study material and a lucid evaluation of ideas and theories, it should be useful and of interest to all those involved in or considering the use of group methods, as well as students of education and vocational training.

TRIED AND TESTED ICEBREAKERS ENERGISERS AND WARM-UPS NO.2

by TACADE

Handbook containing activities for training courses. The activities are collectively known as "Ice-breakers", "Energisers" and "Warm-ups", and they have all been used or experimented by TACADE staff. Although the activities in this booklet have been tested on training courses with adults, they can be adapted and used with young people, in schools and in informal settings.

THE NEW YOUTH ARTS AND CRAFTS BOOK

by Alan Dearling and Howie Armstrong

Exciting book which contains a wide range of 'real-life' arts crafts type activities which provide creative opportunities for youth work, playschemes, youth social work and informal education. The anecdotal style of the book makes the world of youth arts and crafts come alive for practitioners as well as young people. For those who work with young people, this a reworking and up-dating of the popular and successful Youth Arts and Craft Book originally published in 1982.

HEALTH & DRUG EDUCATION

LOVE LIFE AND LIVE IT

by Merseyside Youth Association Ltd

Resource pack produced for youth workers working with young people in informal settings to develop an accessible programme of health education. It has relevance for anyone who works with young people, be they full-time, part-time, or voluntary youth workers, or perhaps young leaders or senior members of youth groups. It has been developed as a direct result of the experience of the Merseyside Youth Association's Health Line, a four-year Project funded by Liverpool Health Authority, those fundamental aim is to promote health education as an integral part of the youth work curriculum. The pack is divided into five booklets, each with a particular focus. These areas of focus emerged as the major concerns of the young people with whom Health Line Project staff worked: Booklet One: General Health, Booklet Two: Sexuality and Relationships, Booklet Three: Sexual Health, Booklet Four: HIV, Booklet Five: Drugs.

DRUGS: A TRAINING AGENDA FOR GOVERNORS AND SCHOOL MANAGERS

by TACADE

Training pack which aims to support governors of primary, secondary and special schools in fulfilling their responsibilities in relation to drugs policy. The pack enables governors and senior managers to do the following: assess their knowledge about drugs - both legal and illegal and about drug education; consider their own attitudes and beliefs about drugs and their own drug taking behaviour; recognise the responsibilities of governors in dealing with curriculum, management, welfare and disciplinary issues in relation to drugs; participate in the development of a whole school drugs policy which is constructive, proactive, and has at its core the welfare of pupils; learn about research on young people and drugs including local surveys; and to take action to formulate and implement a drugs policy.

PEER EDUCATION

YES ME! A SELF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR PEER EDUCATORS

by Marilyn Harvey and Gillian Smith

Peer learning is a way in which young people enable other young people to learn about issues relevant to them. Young people are encouraged to help and support each other ... after all, they are in the same situation, they know how it feels. Peer learning might involve small group sessions on topics like smoking, safe sex or exam stress in youth clubs, colleges, schools or with friends. YES ME! is a DIY learning programme for young people. It is designed to help potential peer educators to develop the understanding and skills needed to run peer learning groups. Young people can use this self development programme by themselves, with others or in pairs.

A FRAMEWORK FOR PEER LEARNING

by Marilyn Harvey

Four part handbook which outlines a framework for peer learning. Parts 1 & 2 present guidelines for action and identify the key practical problems and dilemmas that workers are likely to meet in setting up a peer education programme. The latter half of part 2 and all of part 3 comprise outlines for recruitment and training sessions for potential peer educators. While programme organisers may want to adapt the detailed content of their sessions, the basic framework and session aims provide a structure which is recommended as well as tried and tested. Part 3 also includes a plan for a follow up and review session to be held after the peer educators have run their own programmes. The programme as a whole is designed to be the equivalent of three days training, though it can be delivered over a series of sessions. Part 4 of the Guide comprises 20 Activity Sheets for use in the workshops described in part 3. These Activity Sheets can be photocopied for training purposes.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

NVQ'S, STANDARDS AND COMPETENCE (SECOND EDITION)

by Shirley Fletcher

NVQs, Standards and Competence, now in a fully revised and updated second edition, is aimed at responding to the needs of those employers, managers and trainers who need an informed overview of the key issues underlying the new standards' structure as well as providing a step-by-step guide for those tasked with responsibility for introducing NVQs in an organisation. Issues that the new edition covers in detail include: what are the benefits?; how do we introduce NVQs?; who awards the NVQs?; generating staff support; meeting NVQ criteria; and the accreditation of prior learning.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

PORTFOLIOS FOR DEVELOPMENT

by Warren Redman

Handbook that explains clearly what a portfolio is and how it links in with the current training revolution taking place through the introduction of NVQ's in Britain. It shows how portfolios can be used to develop individuals, teams and organization's own training and development programme. Included are real-life examples from companies and organizations, which show different ways of using portfolios, pointing out possible pitfalls and highlighting good practice. Topics covered in detail include: working with individuals who are gathering evidence; how to overcome pitfalls; action steps in preparing a portfolio; how to involve people at all levels; the accreditation of prior learning and experience; and how to decide whether evidence is acceptable and meets the standards.

THE STAFF DEVELOPMENT HANDBOOK

by Peter Sheal

Handbook for managers, supervisors and others in leadership roles who want to improve their effectiveness, and the effectiveness of their operations, through training and staff development. Designed for use on the job, it divides the training and development process into ten clear stages, each of which is covered in separate, self-contained chapter. The stages include: how to introduce new staff to your department; how to organize on-the-job training; how to give group training sessions or business presentations; how to select and evaluate off-the-job training courses; how to conduct productive team meetings; how to delegate work and responsibilities; how to coach your staff; and how to conduct effective performance reviews.

BOOK REVIEW

GROWTH AND PARTNERSHIP (GAP) (A PARENT/SCHOOL/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME)

BY ANNE RYAN & LARRY MULLIGAN

Growth and Partnership (GAP) is an adult education programme designed and written by Anne Ryan and Larry Mulligan on behalf of the City of Galway Vocational Educational Committee. The programme was designed to encourage partnership between home, school and community in the education of children and focuses on parents of children of up to twelve years of age. The philosophy of GAP is aimed at promoting and encouraging partnership between home, school and community in the education of children. GAP aims to encourage and reassure parents, in a friendly and hands-on way, that what parents instinctively do and what they can do, dramatically effects a child's learning. It supports the efforts of parents by focusing on challenges which all children must cope with. It is intended that GAP will be an instrument of *Deis na Gaillimhe* (a consortium involving City of Galway VEC first and second level schools, youth organisations and local communities) through which parents of potential early school leavers may focus on the connection between the development of the child and the school curriculum.

The GAP resource programme consists of a 130 page Presenter's Handbok and accompanying video. The programme is divided into four modules as follows:

Module 1	The Enquiring Mind (Children Aged 0-6)
Module 2	The Use of Reason (Children Aged 7-8)
Module 3	Growing Curiosity (Children Aged (9-10)
Module 4	The Senior Citizen of Childhood (Children Aged 11-12)

Each of the modules is divided into three sections dealing with:

- Children's growth and development at specific stages
- Simulated curriculum-related experiences
- Discussion on relevant child-rearing issues

In terms of the structure and layout of the resource pack, GAP is a flexible resource programme which can used in a variety of ways:

- As a stand alone-module programme
- In single modules or
- On a thematic basis ie:
 - Partnership of Parents with the Child (aged zero to twelve)
 - Partnership of Parents with the Curriculum (infant to sixth class primary school)
 - Partnership of Parents with Parents.

GAP is a resource which may be used with different groups: primary schools/teachers in order to deepen partnerships and by home-school-community liaison teachers, parent associations, youth organisations, community groups and adult education groups. Potential presenters have the option of completing a training course for presenters or using the handbook and video. Presenters, ideally, should have some familiarity with the following:

- The school curriculum content of the modules being presented
- Teaching methodologies
- Developmental stages of a child from birth to twelve years
- Knowledge/experience of effective child rearing

Copies are available to those wishing to purchase it from: City of Galway VEC, Island House, Cathedral Square, Galway (Tel: 091/567194) Price: £45

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust seeks to support charitable work which promotes justice and equality within the social and political structures of society. Until recently almost all the Trust's grantmaking took place in Britain. However, earlier this year the Trust commissioned a report on social justice and rights work in the Republic and after careful consideration and consultation the Trust decided to set up a funding line in the Republic for an experimental five year period.

The Trust is interested in receiving applications from organisations working to:

- Promote the concept of citizenship, the ability of all citizens to participate in the democratic process, and the freedom and rights of the individual;
- Encourage accountability, openness and responsiveness in government, government agencies and the civil service;
- Promote new ideas to sustain the democratic process;
- Promote dialogue, understanding and cooperation across political and religious divides;
- Explore new ideas about the future social, economic and political development of the island, north and south.

The funding programme

The Trust anticipates spending up to £100,000stg per annum in the Republic of Ireland for a period of five years. In order to use the limited funds effectively it will need to restrict its activities to those programmes that the Trust believes will make a difference. Initially two types of grant will be offered:

Strategic Grants

A small number of strategic grants will be made to encourage organisational development and to raise the effectiveness and profile of key organisations. These grants are likely to fall within a range of j6,000stg to j15,000stg per annum and will be offered for a maximum of three years.

Project Grants

A number of project grants will be offered for work such as - action research; the dissemination of research findings; conferences, seminars, and networking events; and publications. These will be one-off grants and are likely to fall within the range of £500stg to UK£6,000stg.

For further details contact: *The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, The Garden House, Water End, York YO3 6LP, England.*

NEW EU PROJECT OFFERING VOLUNTARY HELP

The European Commission has launched a new project which allows organisations to host a volunteer from an EU country for 6-12 months. The Commission is offering special grants to organisations who want to avail of this opportunity.

Projects in which volunteers will be able to take part in include: work with disadvantaged; preservation of cultural heritage; environmental protections; urban and rural renovation; and cultural integration.

For further details contact: *Youth Work Service, Leargas - The Exchange Bureau, Avoca House, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 8731411 Fax: 01 8731316*

NEW REPORT ON BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION IN SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Ballybeg Community Development Project recently published a report funded by the Combat Poverty Agency which examined the barriers for young people who participate in the formal second level education system. The report is based on an action research project which looked at the factors influencing participation in secondary school education as experienced by the Ballybeg community in Waterford.

The report is entitled "In a Class of Their Own" and is available from The Ballybeg Community Development Project, Project Office, Ballybeg, Waterford. Tel: 051/350100. The cost is j5.00 to funded groups and j2.00 to groups who are not funded. All proceeds from the report will go towards developing responses to the issues raised in the report.

NATIONAL YOUTHREACH CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVE

COPPING ON is a new initiative funded through by the Department of Education, (ESF section and In-Career Development Unit). The programme is a response to the need for a proactive approach with teenagers at risk. Copping On aims to enable the inclusion of a crime prevention module within each Youthreach centre, which will be implemented by centre staff, in conjunction with the local Juvenile Liaison Officer. This process will be facilitated through the development of a resource pack, and the implementation of a national training programme for Youthreach staff and JLOs.

The resource pack will consist of two broad strands:

- Personal development and communications: For example, decision-making, assertiveness skills, and alcohol and drug issues. This will focus on how these factors influence a young persons' choices regarding criminal activity, and links will be made with existing programmes.
- Understanding and critiquing the judicial system: This will include providing information on how the system works; discussion regarding how laws are made and enforced, and what changes could, or should be made; discussion and reflection of young peoples' experience of the system; contemplating society with and without law; examining our own morality, and how we individually decide what is right and wrong.

The programme will be monitored by a group consisting of representatives from the National Juvenile Office, Department of Education Psychological Services, Kildare VEC, and the National Youthreach Co-ordinator.

For further information on the programme, contact: **Marian Quinn, Copping On Co-ordinator, Centre For Adult Education, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.**
Tel: 01/7083468 Fax: 01/6289370.

ALONE SEEKS HELP OF YOUNG PEOPLE

ALONE, the voluntary organisation dedicated to assisting the elderly, especially those living alone, has launched an Educational Video and Student Workpack aimed at encouraging young people to visit and be aware of the needs of the elderly living alone.

The Video and Workpack, entitled "Why Care?", was launched on 23 October 1996 by the Minister for Health, Mr Michael Noonan, T.D. at a reception in Dublin. The Video and Workpack will be made available to all second level schools in Dublin City and County, and to all libraries and teacher resource centres throughout the country.

For further details contact: **Alone, 1 Willie Bermingham Place, Kilmainham Lane, Dublin 8.** Tel: 01/6791032

MINISTER GOES GREEN ON VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY

The Minister for Social Welfare has decided to abandon plans for a White Paper on the Voluntary Sector. The publication of a White Paper had been promised in both the PESP and PCW. The Minister now intends to

publish a Green Paper on Voluntary Activity before the end of the year.

The Green Paper will cover issues such as:

- Suggested principles which should underpin the relationship between the State and the Voluntary Sector including the matter of representation in national policy making fora.
- Suggestions regarding the method and source of funding for national representative structures for the voluntary sector.
- Criteria to be attached to funding generally by statutory agencies.
- Issues relating to charitable status and taxation issues.
- Effective consultation mechanisms already in place both nationally and at EU level and the reason/s for their effectiveness.
- Areas which could usefully be explored where models of statutory/voluntary sector co-operation should be actively encouraged.

NEW CERTIFICATE IN YOUTH AND COMMUNITY WORK

North Connaught Youth and Community Service have joined with Sligo Regional Technical College to offer an NCEA single subject certificate in Youth and community Work.

The Course which takes place in Sligo RTC is on 30 weeks duration with many youth and community leaders from Sligo and adjoining counties in attendance.

The course content includes an insight into Youth Work Practice, specific training on youth work guidelines relating to sexual abuse, bullying, suicide and drug misuse, behavioural science issues and specific group and communication skills.

For further details on the course contact: **Pat Forde, North Connaught Youth Service, 5A Market Street, Sligo.** Tel: 071 45578.

YOUTH SERVICE BILL NOT EXPECTED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR

On 18 June Deputy B. Smith asked the Minister for Education what progress, if any, had been made in relation to the preparation of the Youth Service Bill, and when such legislation would be published. In response Minister Bhreathnach stated that progress on the Bill was satisfactory and that she expected to be in a position to consider the Heads of the Bill in the very near future.

At the launch of the Code of Standards for Youth Information Centres on 3rd July, the Minister of State for Youth and Sport Brendan Allen announced that the previous day the Heads of the Youth Service Bill had been agreed. He further stated that he would be contacting all the mainline youth organisations with a view to getting the Bill drafted during the summer months, and hopefully, be in a position to bring it before the Dail in the autumn. Since then the date has been revised a number of times. The latest estimate is the end of January, 1997.

NO PLANS FOR NEW YOUTH ENCOUNTER PROJECTS

Deputy E. Byrne asked the Minister for Education what proposals, if any, she had for the further development of the youth encounter projects. In response Minister Bhreathnach stated that currently there were four such projects, two in Dublin and one each in Cork and Limerick, aimed at working with children alienated from the school system. She had no plans to further develop such projects but highlighted other measures aimed at reducing early school leaving/school alienation such as special support schemes for pupils in disadvantaged areas, the home-school community liaison schemes and the pilot scheme of teacher counsellors. Vol 467 No.1, June 18, 1996.

CALL FOR SEPARATE YOUTH SERVICE BUDGETS FOR SALARIES AND SERVICES REJECTED BY MINISTER.

Deputy Martin asked the Minister for Education if she would provide two separate budgets for youth organisations, one for salaries and one for a budget programme. In response Minister Bhreathnach stated that her Department made funding available for the support of national and major regional voluntary youth work organisations through the youth service grant scheme. Within the available resources, each qualifying organisation was provided with a block grant on the basis of information

supplied in its application regarding its youth work programme, staffing and administrative expenses, and on the basis of the Departments's assessment of its ongoing effectiveness.

The funding provided under the youth service grant scheme was a grant-in-aid in respect of the youth work programmes and services of the organisation as a whole and it thus was a matter for the organisation itself, subject to compliance with Departmental requirements concerning ongoing effectiveness etc., to decide on issues such as the numbers and salaries of its staff. The Department considered, therefore, that the allocation of separate grants for the salary and programme costs of an organisation was not warranted. Vol 470 No.4, October 22, 1996

MINISTER QUESTIONED ON AGE DEMARICATION OF YOUTH SERVICE PROGRAMMES.

Deputy Martin asked the Minister for Education her views on whether approximately 80 per cent of referrals to youth service programmes are aged between eight and 14: and the steps, if any, she will take to abolish the regulations which provide for demarcations between the eight to 14 age group and the 15 to 18 age group. In response Minister Bhreathnach stated that there were no regulations governing the age of referral of young people to the youth services as indicated by the Deputy. The priority age group for youth services at present is, however, from 12 to 21 years. Vol 470 No.4, October 22, 1996

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING RESIDENTIAL CARE

Deputy Sargent asked the Minister for Health whether he had responded to a call by the Irish Association of Care Workers for the establishment of a Government task force to ensure that the hundreds of teenagers leaving residential centres each year do not end up homeless and marginalised. In response the Minister of State at the Department of Health Austin Currie stated that he had not received any request from the Irish Association of Care Workers to establish Government task force on this matter. Section 45 of the Child Care Act, 1991, which was brought into operation on 31 October 1995, enables health boards to provide support and assistance to young people who have left the care of the board until they obtain 21 years of age and to arrange for an individual to complete his or her education in cases where they are over 21 years if age.

The Minister further stated the draft Guide to Standards in Children's Residential Centres published by his Department, contained guidelines on steps health boards and residential centres should take to prepare young people

for independent living. It was intended, that the draft Guide would form the basis for the drafting of regulations this year on the registration of children's residential centres pursuant to Part VIII of the Child Care Act, 1991. Vol 466 No.5, June 6, 1996.

MINISTER OF STATE CURRIE GIVES COMMITMENT ON CHILD CARE INSPECTORATE

Deputy F. Fitzgerald asked the Minister for Health what plans, if any, he had for the development of an independent inspectorate of childcare and, if so, the time-table envisaged for the development of this inspectorate; the model of inspectorate which he intended to develop; and whether this inspectorate would allow for consistency of approach in procedure and legality in respect of enquiries being held in this country. In response Minister of State at the Department of Health Austin Currie) stated that he intended to establish a social services inspectorate attached to the Department of Health as part of his ongoing commitment to the delivery of a high quality child care service. The principle functions of the inspectorate would be the quality assurance and audit of child care services. In addition, as he had stated previously:

"it will be charged with undertaking inquiries on behalf of the Minister. I intend to introduce enabling legislation which will provide for the privileged publication of reports of inquiries undertaken by the inspectorate"

The Minister further stated that he was currently examining a number of alternative models for the social services inspectorate and that it was his intention to establish the inspectorate as soon as possible. Vol.465 No 5 May 16, 1996

MINISTER DETAILS NEW CHILD CARE WORKER POSTS

Deputy Byrne asked the Minister for Health the number of child care social workers allocated to each community care area within each health board area for each of the years from 1990 to 1995; and what plans, if any, he had for the further recruitment of such workers and further in-service training. In response the Minister of State at the Department of Health Austin Currie stated that there were no additional child care social worker posts approved by my Department in 1990. Details of the number of additional posts approved for each health board by community care area for each of the years 1991 to 1995 were set out in table form (see table 1).

The Minister pointed to the fact that since 1993, additional revenue fundraising of £35 million on an

annualised basis had been provided for the development of child care and family support services and to strengthen the capacity of the health boards to meet the demands imposed by the implementation of the 1991 Child Care Act. All the health boards had used some of this additional funding to provide improved training for child care personnel, including social workers and in total over 900 permanent new posts had been approved for the child care services since 1993. The Minister finished by drawing attention to the fact that he was preparing proposals for Government for the financing of a new child care programme for the period 1997 to 1999. It included proposals for the recruitment of additional child care staff.

TABLE 1

Additional Child Care Social Worker Posts allocated to each health board by community care area for each of the years 1991 to 1995						
Health Board	Community Care Area	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Eastern	Total	4	6.5	21	32.5	32
	1	0	1	1	4	2
	2	0	1	1	3	2
	3	1	1.5	1	2	3
	4	1	0	3	3.5	4
	5	2	0	2	4	4
	6	0	0	1	3	4
	7	0	0	4	3	4
	8	0	1	4	3	4
	9	0	2	3	3	2
10	0	0	1	4	3	
Midland	Total	0	0	8	8	4
	Estimated Laois/Offaly	0	0	4	4	2
	Estimated Longford/Westmeath	0	0	4	4	2
Mid Western	Total	3	4.5	13.5	5	10
	Clare	1	1	2	1	3
	Limerick	1	1.5	3.5	2	4
	Tipperary N.R.	1	1	2	1	3
	Regional	0	1	6	1	0
North Eastern	Total	0	0	6	3	10
	Cavan/Monaghan	0	0	1	0	3
	Meath	0	0	0	1	3
	Louth	0	0	1	2	2
	Child and Family Centre, Drogheda	0	0	4	0	2
North-Western	Total	0	0	6	2	9
	Donegal	0	0	4	1	5
	Sligo/Leitrim	0	0	2	1	4
South-Eastern	Total	5	4	12	10	10
	Carlow/Kilkenny	1	0	2	3	2
	Tipperary S. R.	1	1	1	2	2
	Waterford	1	1	2	3	2
	Wexford	1	1	3	2	3
	Regional	1	1	4	0	1
Southern	Total	3	3	22	24	8
	Cork City/South Cork	0	0	7	10	0
	North Cork	0	0	4	2	0
	West Cork	0	0	2	2	0
	Kerry	0	1	5	3	2
	Regional	3	2	4	7	6
Western	Total	2	1	5	11	10.5
	Galway	0	1	1	5	4
	Mayo	1	0	3	3	3
	Roscommon	0	0	1	1	1
	Regional Service	1	0	0	2	0
	Hospital Service	0	0	0	0	2.5

NOTICEBOARD

NOTICEBOARD CONTAINS INFORMATION ON CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND TRAINING EVENTS OF RELEVANCE TO THOSE INVOLVED IN THE

IRELAND

TRAINING ON DRUGS AND HOMELESSNESS

*Carmichael House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin.
Sunday 12 January, 1996*

One-day course for part-time workers in hostels, meal centres, day centres and anyone working with people who are out of home. The course aims to assist participants to respond constructively to people in their care who are drug users.

Cost: £20.00

Further Details: Frank Mulville, Focus Point Ireland, 1 Lord Edward Court, Bride Street, Dublin 8.

Tel: 01 4751955 **Fax:** 01 4751972

TEAMWORK AND GROUP MOTIVATION

*Carmichael House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin.
Thursdays 16, 23, 30 January & 6 February, 1997*

Four week evening course (7.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.) which aims to give an understanding of group performance and dynamics, leadership styles, interpersonal skills and planning techniques. The course will run on a participative basis with a strong emphasis on using the experience of the people in the group.

Cost: £20.00 (limited to 15 participants)

Further Details: Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups, Carmichael House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.

Tel: 01 8335702 **Fax:** 01 8735737

BUDGETING SKILLS FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

*Carmichael House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin.
Wednesdays 5, 12, 19, 26, February 1997*

Four week evening course (7.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.) aimed at treasurers and financial controllers of voluntary organisations. Do you plan how your group will survive financially? Do you have proper procedures and financial controls? Do you do more than just compare last year's figures with this year's? If the answer to each question is no, you need this course!

Cost: £15.00 (limited to 15 participants)

Further Details: Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups, Carmichael House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.

Tel: 01 8335702 **Fax:** 01 8735737

THE MANAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS

*Carmichael House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin.
Wednesday 9 April, 1997*

One-day course for those involved in managing and supporting volunteers. The course will cover concepts of Volunteering; recruitment and selection of volunteers; motivation of volunteers; training volunteers; rejecting volunteers and dealing with (problem volunteers); supporting and supervising volunteers; drawing up volunteer policy, building staff/ volunteer relations.

Cost: £15.00 (limited to 15 participants)

Further Details: Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups, Carmichael House, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7.

Tel: 01 8335702 **Fax:** 01 8735737

BRITAIN

THE CHANGING FAMILY: THE NEEDS OF TEENAGERS

London

16 January, 1997

One-day conference focusing on issues related to the changing nature of the family, and the implications of this for young people in all circumstances. In particular the day will allow practitioners, researchers and policy makers the chance to hear of new research findings, and to put these into a context of effective work with families and teenagers.

Further Details : Jan Hill, TSA, 23 New Road, Brighton BN1 1WZ.

Tel: 0044 1273 693311 **Fax:** 0044 1273 679907 **eMail:** tsa@pavillion.co.uk

AN INTRODUCTION TO OUTREACH: THEORIES, SKILLS AND PRACTICE

London

15 - 16 January 1997

Two-day course which will look at developing outreach services with client groups including drug users, sex workers, homeless people and young people. It will enable participants to develop skills and explore theories around outreach work using a mixture of theory, role-play and practical discussion groups.

Further Details: Camden and Islington Health Promotion Service, St Pancras Hospital, 4 St Pancras Way, London NW1 0PE.