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INSIDE

Youth Work Bill 1997

Responding to Ecstasy Use

5 Year Target to End Early School Leaving

Wednesday March 5 was a significant day for those involved in youth work for that was the day on which Bernard Allen, TD Minister for Youth Affairs presented his draft Youth Work Bill 1997 to representatives drawn from the youth work sector. This is the first time a serving government has introduced such a bill. For that, much credit rightly goes to Minister Allen and his officials at the Youth Affairs Section of the Department of Education. Not only that but the draft Bill contains much that we readily welcome.

One aspect of the draft Bill that gives serious cause for concern is the fact that the Bill seemingly fails to grasp the true nature of the voluntary youth work sector and of its core voluntary ethos. This failure is reflected, in particular, in the Bill's apparent failure to accord an appropriate role to the paid staff of the voluntary sector. Staff are accordingly, excluded from participating in Local Voluntary Youth Councils [15 (2) (b)] (this, to some extent, is understandable in the light of the role given to such council's within the Bill) and would appear, on the basis of the judgement of at least one department official, to be also excluded from participating in the youth work committees of the Regional Education Boards (the Voluntary Youth Council nominates 'persons for appointment to a youth work committee' [14 (2) (b)]). The possibility of a member of staff sitting on the National Youth Work Advisory Committee is clearly acknowledged in that the draft Bill allows the Minister to exclude 'employees of a prescribed national voluntary youth work organisation' [11 (6)] in certain circumstances.

In 1984 the Costello **National Youth Policy Report** clearly recognised "that the maintenance of existing youth work services, together with the further development we propose, requires the professional contribution of full-time youth workers" (11.17, p.122). The injection of paid youth workers into the voluntary youth organisation sector in 1978 (under the Development Officer Scheme) and in 1988 (under the Special Project Schemes) helped, in no small way, to enhance the overall efficiency and effectiveness of voluntary youth organisations. Many of those taken on as staff in those years had come from a volunteer background and rightly saw their task as enabling the voluntary youth sector (including staff and volunteers) to become increasingly professional in the nature and quality of the services it provides.

Should it emerge that staff are debarred from representing the voluntary youth sector on the youth work committees of the Regional Education Boards then a serious disservice will have been done to the whole voluntary youth sector. The reality of the situation on the ground is that a proactively constructive relationship has been forged between volunteers and staff both at national and local level. Staff have both imbibed and worked out of a volunteer ethos (which gives primacy to the volunteer at executive level and, properly, to the staff at management level). Far from being an issue of staff versus volunteers, the delivery of Youth Services is based on the partnership of volunteers and staff. Volunteers have learned to trust and rely on their staff to both represent and truly articulate their interests and concerns.

We, in the National Youth Federation, are rightly proud of the contribution that staff have made to the development of this organisation at all levels. We (and I speak on behalf of the volunteers) firmly believe that they have a truly critical role to play in the ongoing development of youth services and in that capacity their representative voice ought to be directly heard on the youth work committees on a par with representatives from the Health Boards and Juvenile Liaison Service. The staff representative issue is not one of disenfranchisement but rather of disadvantage, the disadvantage that will accrue to the voluntary youth service should staff be excluded from local youth work committees.

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It is open to all readers to exchange information or to put forward points of view. Send in news, 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.

The full title of the Bill which gives a good synopsis of its contents is *"an act to extend the functions of education boards in relation to youth work, to make provision for the making of grants in respect of youth work, to establish voluntary youth councils, to provide for the development and co-ordination of services, and for that purpose to establish a national youth work advisory committee and to provide for related matters"*.

Section 2 defines youth work as *"a programme of activity that is designed for the purpose of providing developmental and educational training so as to assist the personal and social development of young persons which (a) requires the voluntary participation of young persons, and (b) is complementary to academic or vocational training"*. This reflects the definition arrived at in the 1995 consultative process although it has since been suggested that the definition may be rather too broad in terms of purpose and too narrow in terms of the link to academic and vocational training. For example, spiritual and philosophical aspects of personal development - of considerable significance in relation to issues such as teen suicide - and the desire to facilitate and promote social awareness and change might not be judged to fit the definition.

Section 3 details the functions of the Minister for Education (presumably they will be delegated formally to the Minister of State for Youth and Sport) in relation to youth work. These include the development and co-ordination of youth work policy; the co-ordination of youth work with education programmes and other programmes providing services for young people; the provision of moneys for youth work; research in respect of youth work; monitoring of youth work programmes and services; and the establishment of a National Youth Work Advisory Committee. The monitoring of services, in common with all of these functions will be carried out *"in so far as it is practicable"* but envisages annual monitoring and assessments, at least once every 3 years of programmes and services in receipt of moneys under the Act. Such monitoring and assessment must include an evaluation of the expenditure incurred and any "recommendations" made by the Minister following such assessments are binding on the agency concerned.

The Minister is required to have regard to gender balance in access and participation in programmes and services; to endeavour to ensure that priority is given to persons who are between the ages of 10 and 21 years and are socially or economically disadvantaged. It is regrettable that the Bill fails to offer a more holistic framework within which mainstream and special services can be developed in a mutually supportive way. Also that it fails to address existing ambiguities as to how similar activities are arbitrarily classified as

targeting the disadvantaged on the basis of funding sources rather than content or process.

Section 4 sets out the functions of Education Boards regarding youth work. Their main function will be to ensure the provision of youth work programmes and services in their regions and to do so normally by providing financial assistance to prescribed national voluntary youth work organisations and designated local voluntary youth work organisations, subject to terms and conditions. Boards are also required to reflect the same priorities as those set out for the Minister in Section 3.

The section stipulates a procedure which must be followed by an Education Board regarding the invitation of proposals from voluntary youth work organisations before the Board may itself provide that programme or service. It is unclear, however, whether this procedure will augment or replace local government tendering procedures. Also the Board appears to be given absolute discretion as to whether or not it ultimately delivers the service itself although it is required to review this decision (itself) after three years.

Section 5 provides for the removal by the Minister for Education (for no more than two years) of an Education Board's youth work functions where it failed or is failing to perform those functions.

Section 6 stipulates the procedure for planning by the Education Boards of the provision of youth work programmes and services. Plans are to be prepared over three year cycles and must include the youth work requirements of the region, proposed responses and the financial resources required. Each Board is obliged to consult with (but not accept the views of) its youth work committee. Plans are only adopted when they have been approved in writing by the Minister who may unilaterally amend any plan that has been submitted to him for approval.

Section 7 stipulates the procedure for reviewing and reporting by the Education Boards on the provision of youth work programmes and services.

Section 8 provides that the Minister for Education may directly ensure the provision of youth work programmes and services by national and inter-regional organisations and that the provision of supplementary regional youth work programmes and services may also be secured directly by the Minister.

Section 9 details the assessment functions of the Minister as well as listing the specific powers of persons authorised by the Minister to carry out assessment.

youth work policy

Section 10 provides for the establishment of a National Youth Work Advisory Committee whose functions are to advise the Minister on the provision, co-ordination and evaluation of youth work programmes and services; on the development of youth work policies; on co-ordination of youth work with other programmes for young people and on access to, and participation in, youth work by males and females.

Section 11 provides that the membership of the committee will include a chairperson and up to three other members appointed directly by the Minister, at least one representative from each of nine state agencies and at least one representative nominated by the representative body for voluntary youth organisations. The Minister has stated that it is his intention that the number of nominees representing the voluntary youth sector will be "about equal" to the total combined number of nominees of other Ministers and FÁS. It is unclear as to why this intention is not reflected in the actual legislative provisions proposed.

Section 12 requires each Education Board to prepare an annual Youth Work Budget which is deemed adopted when it has been approved by the Minister in writing. The Minister is empowered to amend any budgets submitted to him and to determine the maximum amount of expenditure on youth services that can be incurred by any Education Board which does not submit a budget as required.

Section 13 provides that the Education Board is responsible for adhering to the agreed budget or getting sanction for any variation. If expenditure is greater or less than the amount approved by the Minister that deficit or surplus must be charged to the following year's budget.

Section 14 provides for the establishment of Voluntary Youth Councils whose functions include advising the Education Board in relation to its youth work planning; providing a forum for local voluntary youth work organisations; and nominating representatives to the Youth Work Committee of the Education Board. The Minister has indicated that he intends that councils will be based on the geographical areas recommended by the Steering Group of the Commission on School Accommodation.

Section 15 prescribes the structure and electoral process of Voluntary Youth Councils. The councils shall be comprised of between 10 and 30 members, elected by local voluntary youth work organisations. The definition of "voluntary youth work organisation" in the Bill is "an organisation which provides a youth work programme or a youth work service or both on the basis that is otherwise than for profit". Any individual who is an employee of a prescribed national voluntary youth work organisation or a designated local voluntary

youth work organisation is disbarred from election. At least one-fifth of the membership of each Council is reserved for individuals under the age of 25 and there will also be special provision for volunteer youth leaders working with the travelling community.

Section 16 sets out the general arrangements to be followed in relation to meetings of the Councils. No Council may meet more than three times in any year without approval from the Minister.

Section 17 provides for the establishment of a Youth Work Committee in each Education Board. The functions of this committee are to make recommendations to the Board on the exercise of its youth work functions and to advise it on other matters on which the Board has sought its views. It provides for possible Ministerial intervention if the Board does not accept a Committee recommendation.

Section 18 provides that one half of the membership of the Committee shall be appointed from the statutory sector and the other half to be nominated by the Voluntary Youth Councils. We have sought clarification as to whether employees of voluntary organisations are also to be disbarred from membership of the Committee. There appears to be a requirement that nominations from the voluntary and statutory sectors must compensate for any gender imbalance in the nominees of the Education Board to the Committee.

Section 19 enables the Minister to allocate grants for the purposes of the Act to Education Boards, prescribed national youth work organisations, designated local voluntary youth work organisations and other organisations engaged in youth work.

Section 20 provides for the withdrawal or reduction of grants by the Minister on specific grounds (non-compliance with a term or condition or with a recommendation made on foot of assessment) following specified procedures although there is no provision for an appeal against such decision.

The remaining sections are standard enabling provisions in regard to the implementation of the Act. They include a provision that the Minister may prescribe a voluntary youth work organisation to be "a voluntary youth work programme or a youth work service in 2 or more education regions for the purpose of this Act" and that education boards may designate voluntary youth work organisations that provide a youth work programme or youth work service within the education region concerned. This is a step in the right direction but still a long way short of a general public register of youth work organisations.

There has been a considerable increase in the use of ecstasy by young people in recent times. In 1995, the Gardai seized over 120,000 ecstasy tablets as compared with a seizure of under 2,000 tablets in 1993 (Garda Siochana, 1994, 1995 & 1996). It is generally regarded by international experts that drug seizures account for approximately one-tenth of the amount that is in circulation (O'Keefe, 1996). If one applied this benchmark to Ireland, it would indicate that there were over 1.2 million ecstasy tablets in circulation in Ireland in 1995. The falling prices would also support the view that ecstasy is in plentiful supply. The price has dropped from approximately £20-£25 to £10-£15 per tablet over the last two years (*"Undercover story"*, Irish Independent, 1995). The scale of recent seizures, together with the highly publicised deaths of a number of young people in Britain and Ireland, through ecstasy use, has generated much public concern on the issue.

The use of ecstasy as a 'recreational drug' is relatively recent, with its upsurge taking place within the last five years or so in Ireland, and thus, relatively little reliable research has taken place to inform on the dangers, short and long term, physical and psychological of using ecstasy. There is a clear need for quantitative and qualitative research to be undertaken in an Irish context to examine this recent 'phenomenon' and assess its prevalence among the youth population.

The National Youth Federation with the support of the Health Promotion Unit of the Department of Health undertook a piece of secondary research to address some of the above issues. A first draft of the research was presented at a two-day conference on *Ecstasy and Young People* organised by the Irish YouthWork Centre in June, 1996. The finalised research will be published shortly. Arising from the findings of the research the NYF made a submission to the **Second Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Measures to Reduce the Demand for Drugs**. The second report of the Task Force is focusing on the effectiveness of current responses to ecstasy and cannabis use and the NYF made a series of recommendations to the Task Force with regard to ecstasy use in Ireland, which are outlined below.

Research

There is clear evidence from the current level of ecstasy seizures and the reduction in cost of ecstasy on the streets that there has been a significant increase in the availability of ecstasy in Ireland (Mooney, 1996). Increases in prosecutions by the Gardai would also support this with ecstasy related prosecutions having increased by 250% in the period from 1994 to 1995 alone. Furthermore, recent Gardai reporting would seem to indicate that the number of ecstasy related deaths is on the increase (Bissett, 1996). Taking these factors into account, it is reasonable to assume that the level of ecstasy use by young people in Ireland is on the increase and the upward trend is accelerating. However, verifying this trend and formulating policy and response strategies is difficult due to the absence of reliable data on the level of ecstasy use by young people in Ireland.

The NYF would recommend that a comprehensive study based on interviews with young people who are using ecstasy be undertaken by the Department of Health. This study would assess:

- ◆ the level of ecstasy use by young people;
- ◆ the frequency of use;

- ◆ the profile of the user i.e. age, gender, class, socio-economic background, location, living circumstances, etc;
- ◆ the links to other drug use;
- ◆ the attitude of users to media reporting of ecstasy use
- ◆ the attitude of users to and the scope of existing preventive and educational programmes aimed at responding to ecstasy use.

Harm Reduction

Any educational and preventive campaigns undertaken should take into account international experiences of initiatives and projects in countries such as England, Scotland and Netherlands which have implemented successful awareness campaigns which have used an information and education approach informing people of the effects of using ecstasy as well as detailing harm reduction measures to be taken by those who choose to use ecstasy (Bissett, 1996).

There are a number of measures that those using ecstasy can take to minimise some of the side effects and the risk of heatstroke. The most obvious step one could take would be to refrain from using ecstasy in the first place. However, the following harm reduction measures are recommended if individuals choose to use ecstasy:

- ◆ sip one pint of water per hour or drink fruit juice or preferably an isotonic sports drink
- ◆ doctors recommend adding salt to the water that is being drunk
- ◆ avoid wearing tight and/or heavy clothing to cut down on sweating
- ◆ take regular breaks from dancing to cool down and rehydrate
- ◆ avoid drinking alcohol as it further dehydrates the body
- ◆ avoid wearing headgear as it keeps body heat in
- ◆ avoid mixing drugs
- ◆ limit the number of ecstasy tablets taken. No more than one tablet should be taken at a rave or party, etc.

The NYF would recommend that the Department of Health should take into account international experiences of successful initiatives and projects focusing on information, education and harm reduction measures as outlined above. This should form the basis of any future preventive and awareness campaigns undertaken by the Department of Health and the Health Promotion Unit. There should be a particular emphasis on targeting nightclubs, raves, rock and pop concerts to provide young people with accurate information on harm reduction measures they should take if they are using ecstasy.

Treatment

There is also a question with regard to specific treatment provision for ecstasy users in Ireland, with drug treatment facilities primarily geared to respond to heroin and other hard drugs, alcohol, prescribed drugs etc. What research exists clearly illustrates that medium and long term use of ecstasy results in serious physical and psychological 'side effects' for many users (Bissett, 1996).

It had been generally accepted until recently that few people who used ecstasy would present for treatment unless they were using other drugs as well. However, as the rave/dance culture becomes more mainstream this pattern is beginning to change. Increasing numbers of ecstasy users are presenting for treatment at recognised drug treatment centres. In 1995 Trinity Court, Dublin's primary drug

treatment centre, treated 414 people as a result of ecstasy use, 309 for the first time. In 1991 the centre treated no ecstasy related cases (*"Legacy of a Love Buzz"*, Irish Independent, November, 1996). In 1995, the National Poisons Information Centre in Beaumont Hospital recorded over 300 cases admitted to casualty departments in Irish hospitals as a result of ecstasy use.

The NYF would recommend that the Department of Health undertake an assessment and evaluation of existing treatment and service provision for ecstasy users, if such provision exists. Arising from such an evaluation the Department of Health should:

- ♦ *assess the adequacy of current treatment provision for ecstasy users.*
- ♦ *evaluate the quality and effectiveness of such treatment provision.*
- ♦ *assess what additional and/or new treatment provision is required.*
- ♦ *consult with medical experts and drug agencies, nationally and internationally, on what are the most effective services and treatments available.*
- ♦ *provide the finances to implement any additional or new treatment provision that is required.*

Compilation of Statistics by the Central Statistics Office

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) which compiles statistics on drug related deaths does not have a category devoted to ecstasy. The CSO in its compilation of statistics of drug related deaths uses the category *Psychostimulant Drugs*, which includes ecstasy but also includes drugs such as caffeine and amphetamine-based substances, thus making it difficult to accurately calculate the number of ecstasy related deaths. In this category there was one recorded death in 1994 in the 15-19 age group. It is not clear from the figures whether this death was ecstasy related or not (CSO, 1995).

Furthermore, this figure was sourced directly from the CSO. The Vital Statistics, which the CSO publish quarterly, is the document whereby the public can gain access to the number of births, deaths and marriages officially recorded. The category of Psychostimulant Drugs is not included in the section on recorded deaths.

The NYF would recommend that in future drug related deaths be categorised on a drug by drug basis by the Central Statistics Office and that these figures be included in the quarterly and annual Vital Statistics publications.

Compilation of Statistics by the Gardai

1995 was the first year in which the Gardai presented a breakdown of drug related prosecutions on a drug by drug basis. These figures allow one to make a comparison with the overall number of drug related prosecutions for 1995 and this extension to previous figures is to be welcomed. Ecstasy related prosecutions accounted for 17% of all drug related prosecution for the year. Only cannabis resin (57%) accounted for a higher percentage of the overall total.

As an extension to these figures it would be valuable if more detailed information was available on regional trends and the age and gender breakdown of users. Having such information available would also enable a detailed profile of ecstasy users to be gleaned which in turn would assist those involved in the development and implementation of educational and preventive programmes related to ecstasy use.

The NYF would recommend that drug seizures by the Gardai be broken down on a Garda division by division basis and be included in the Garda Annual Crime Report. **The NYF would also recommend** that drug related prosecutions be broken down by age and gender (in addition to by individual drug) and be included in the Garda Annual Crime Report.

Official Recording of Deaths

The method of recording death highlights a further difficulty in accurately assessing the number of ecstasy related deaths. Where ecstasy use has induced water toxification, a brain haemorrhage, organ failure, or some other condition that results in death, it is more than likely that the cause of death will be recorded as water toxification, a brain haemorrhage, organ failure, etc. In such cases there will usually be no mention of ecstasy as being a contributory factor in the death certificate.

Tracing the number of deaths related to ecstasy use is further complicated due to the fact that deaths which appear to be drug related often lead to a coroner's inquest where an official cause of death is not immediately registered but referred to the coroner for determination. In such cases it can be up to two years after the death has occurred before the official cause of death is recorded via the issuing of the coroner's certificate, so the figures for any given year may not accurately reflect the number of drug related deaths which have occurred in that year.

The NYF would recommend that when a death has been ecstasy induced but the officially recorded cause of death is a brain haemorrhage, water toxification, organ failure etc, it is officially recorded in a register that ecstasy was a contributory factor to the cause of death. Such a measure would require the support of coroners and doctors. Furthermore, the NYF would recommend that this should also be the case where any drug has been a contributory factor in a cause of death.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

Finally, The NYF would encourage the ongoing and increased development of inter-agency co-operation between voluntary agencies working with young people on drug education, drug treatment agencies and the Departments of Education, Health and Justice to maximise the co-ordination and effectiveness of preventive drug education programmes and initiatives.

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The latest report from The National Economic and Social Forum - **Early School Leavers and Youth Unemployment** (January 1997) - is perhaps the first report at such level to recommend the bold but achievable target of eliminating early school-leaving within five years. This is the priority action amongst key recommendations made to Government in a report that took one year to complete having received submissions and consulted with many interested groups outside of the Forum's own broad membership.

The NESF was established in June 1993 and to date have made a number of submissions to Government on various issues including Long Term Unemployment, Work Sharing, Equality Proofing Issues and Income Maintenance Strategies.

Education and Employment Co-Ordination

This, the eleventh report of the Forum, centres on the link between educational disadvantage and subsequent poor employment prospects and highlights gaps in the provision of training services and the need for a co-ordinated Inter-Departmental strategy to deal with the difficulties that early school leavers endure, while simultaneously attempting to end the flow into the early school leaving category by taking specific measures as outlined in the report's recommendations. The NESF estimate the total costs of implementing its recommendations at £12 m.

While Government statistics indicate that there may be an overall drop in the number of early school leavers in recent years, 3200 young people left school in 1995 without completing their Junior Certificate examinations. These same Government statistics do not however highlight the fact that the lack of unskilled job opportunities and "inflation qualification" issues further excluded this group from employment opportunities which have previously been available to them. Specifically targeted measures for children from disadvantaged backgrounds together with reform of curricular content and monitoring and tracking mechanisms are all called for in this report.

The report states that the link between educational disadvantage, poverty, drug abuse, crime and long term unemployment has been clearly established. The Forum's analysis of the characteristics of early school leavers show that 75% of ESLs come from working class origins or small farms and that 55% come from families where the fathers are unemployed. With only 5% of Traveller children attending mainstream second level schools the report calls on the Department of

Education to bring forward time tabled objectives to address these special needs as a matter of urgency.

New Pilot Programme for 18 - 21 year olds

One of the biggest gaps in training provision for those under 21 years of age has been the inability or indeed the unwillingness of some State agencies to develop training initiatives for almost 3,000 young people who have now moved beyond the Youthreach age category and are ineligible for Community Employment and VTOS until they reach 21 years of age. The NESF address this gap and recommend that immediate measures be put in place by the Department of Enterprise and Employment, FÁS and the Local Employment Services to introduce a new pilot programme for this age group who have left school early and have no educational qualifications. This pilot scheme would provide an additional 750 places on Community Employment Schemes and an additional 350 VTOS places. Should a positive evaluation emerge from this pilot programme the NESF recommend mainstreaming this initiative so that sufficient places (2,500+) are made available for all those with no educational qualifications in this age category. The report also welcomes the various projects promoted under the **Youthstart** initiative and indicates its interest in discussing the overall initiative when the projects are evaluated at the end of the programme's duration both in Ireland and across the EU Member States.

Second chance education

The targeting of second chance education at those who are severely disadvantaged was highlighted by the Forum as they proposed that sufficient (additional) places be made available for lone parents, those with a disability and for the long term unemployed. Should this proposal be enacted the Forum further recommends that monitoring of the take up of VTOS and second chance education should take place to ensure that these new opportunities are targeted and taken up by those most at need and that all agencies involved in the delivery of second chance education review their access procedures in order that they may reach the most severely disadvantaged in society.

In order to make it possible for disadvantaged women in particular to attend second chance education, special provision should be made to cover child care costs while imaginative outreach mechanisms should be adopted so as to reach the relevant audience and in particular the young disadvantaged in need of such assistance.

Youthreach

Having discussed in detail the obvious benefits of the Youthreach programme the NESF acknowledged the obvious benefit of the programme particularly to some of the most educationally disadvantaged young people. While the attractiveness of an allowance to participants appears to have contributed to more clients than places in Youthreach the report calls for an increase of 1,000 places at a cost of £6.3m to be allocated on the basis of gender proofing based on the female/male ratio in the target group. Recommendations are also made on certification, child care, accommodation and other support structures that could contribute to the effectiveness of Youthreach.

Community and Youth Services involvement

In launching the report in late January 1997 the NESF Chairperson, Ms. Maureen Gaffney, departed from her address to an invited audience of practitioners in the field of education provision, youth development and employment creation to pay a particular tribute to the work carried out by the various youth services throughout Ireland. She made particular reference to submissions from youth organisations to the Forum and the presentations made to a special plenary session on the report's theme in March 1996 at which the work carried out by the various youth services in dealing with and counteracting early school leaving was debated.

It was perhaps as a result of the contributions made by youth and community groups to the pre report discussions at Forum meetings that another of the report's key objectives calls for new institutional mechanisms and initiatives by the Department of Education, in co-operation with other relevant state agencies and youth organisations, to build a "Whole Community" approach to the educationally disadvantaged by involving parents, schools, employers and the community groups to address the wider socio-economic problem associated with educational disadvantage. Such proposals have been to the fore on the agenda of both community and youth organisations most notably at the National Education Convention and various other consultative meetings hosted by the Minister for Education prior to the publication of the Education Bill.

The Forum's report acknowledges that a wealth of experience exists in the youth sector in dealing with the educationally disadvantaged, early school leavers and potential early school leavers. It therefore proposes joint planning at local and regional level between the formal and non-formal sectors in this area of intervention thus utilising the potential for

mainstreaming many of the pilot projects which youth organisations have developed in the past (many of which incidentally previously included the involvement of statutory partners). In urging both the school and youth sectors to work together it recognises the under funding and poor resourcing of this sector and calls for a re-ordering of expenditure priorities and that the administrative procedures in the funding of this sector be improved.

The report also makes a number of recommendations on the abolition of exam fees for disadvantaged families, on the special education needs of Traveller children and for a comprehensive tracking mechanism to monitor the non attendance of pupils. This tracking system would ensure that every pupil "physically transfers" into a second level school and therefore becomes part of the tracking system that should make it easier to identify those at risk much earlier than heretofore.

Government's response to report

The publication of the report was welcomed by the Minister of Education, Ms. Niamh Bhreathnach, T.D. on behalf of Government. The Minister announced the establishment of an Inter-Departmental Working Group consisting of representatives of seven Government Departments and FÁS to examine the feasibility and costs of implementing this NESF report, with unfortunately no representation from the Community or Youth sector on this group. However with an interim report from the group due by 31 March 1997 and a final report by 31 May 1997 the NESF can be optimistic that many of their recommendations will be accepted and budgeted for by the relevant Departments as has previously occurred most notably with their report on Ending Long Term Unemployment.

Early School Leavers and Youth Unemployment, National Economic and Social Forum Report No. 11, (January 1997), is available from Government Publications, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2, @ £5.00

Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl is a member of The National Economic and Social Forum since 1993, nominated by The National Youth Council of Ireland and appointed by Government to represent the views of Youth Organisations and Youth.

EU FUNDING

INTEGRA PROGRAMME

The European Commission has initiated a new funding programme for projects working against poverty and social exclusion. The programme, called Integra will replace the present Horizon-Disadvantaged programme (1994-7). (Horizon is now exclusively a programme for people with disabilities). While the Integra programme will provide funding for activities which would have been supported by the Poverty 4 programme, Integra itself is not affected by the European Court of Justice ruling which ruled against the funding of projects against poverty.

ADAPT and EMPLOYMENT: New calls for proposals

The deadline for submission of proposals for the ADAPT and EMPLOYMENT Initiatives 1997-1999 in Ireland is **April 4, 1997**. ADAPT is the European Union Human Resource Initiative focused on accelerating the adaptation of Europe's workforce to industrial change. Another priority has been added to ADAPT 1997-1999 - *Building the Information Society*.

EMPLOYMENT is the European Union Human Resource Initiative focused on promoting access to and equality on the labour market. The strands of EMPLOYMENT - Integra, Horizon, NOW, YouthStart - support the provision of training, employment and other opportunities for the socially excluded, people with disability and unqualified young people. ADAPT and EMPLOYMENT are primarily funded by the European Social Fund and are co-ordinated nationally by the Department of Enterprise and Employment.

For copies of guidelines and proposal forms contact: **Department of Enterprise and Employment, Davitt House, Adelaide Road, Dublin 2.**
ADAPT, Room 413, Tel: 01/ 6614444 ext. 3355
EMPLOYMENT, Room 405, Tel: 01/ 6614444 ext. 3354

LEONARDO DA VINCI

Leonardo is the programme for the implementation of a European Community Vocational Training Policy. The deadline for applications under Leonardo is **1 April, 1997**. The European Union determined a number of general and specific priorities for the 1997 Call for Proposals. In addition, the Irish Authorities have agreed a number of national priorities. All proposals must clearly demonstrate acceptable levels of quality assurance as well as address key issues in current national human resources and economic development policies, including equal opportunities. In particular, proposals will be given priority that:

- Are promoted by multi-actor partnerships, particularly those involving Enterprises, Social Partners, Training and Educational bodies;
- Pilot new approaches to the methodology and delivery of training for priority target groups;

- Promote the networking of best practice companies with SMEs and Micro Enterprises;
- Develop innovative action in the field of vocationally orientated language learning;
- Pilot innovative approaches to the continuing training of teachers and trainers.

For information packs and advisory services contact:
LEONARDO DA VINCI, c/o Leargas, 189-193 Parnell Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01/87311411

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS - RECENT GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

The Government has undertaken a series of initiatives to co-ordinate the response of Government Departments to the wider needs of children. These included the appointment of Austin Currie T.D., as Minister of State at the Department of Health, Education and Justice with special responsibility for children. In addition, a Cabinet Committee, chaired by Austin Currie, T.D., has been established to co-ordinate the provision of services for the care, protection and nurturing of children. The Child Care Act, 1991 has now been fully implemented. The Children Bill, 1996 which deals with the area of juvenile justice was published in December, 1996 and a School Attendance Bill is expected to be published later in 1997.

The Minister of State with special responsibility for children has brought forward a series of initiatives designed to improve the responsiveness of the care services to the needs of children. These include the commitment to establish a Social Services Inspectorate which will facilitate improved service provision and child care practice. It is also intended to establish a National Children's Council which will facilitate active co-operation between the voluntary and statutory sector in identifying the needs of children and responding to those needs. The Minister of State has received Government approval in principle to a programme of child care developments for the period 1997 to 1999.

The Reporting of Child Abuse

A consultative process on mandatory reporting of child abuse was initiated by the Minister of State at the Department of Health, Education and Justice with special responsibility for children which culminated in a forum on the issue which was held in September, 1996. Over two hundred submissions on the issue were received and the majority of these (by a ratio of over two to one) did not agree that the introduction of mandatory reporting would provide greater protection to children or improve child care services. In response the Minister has announced the following proposals to support the work of agencies in dealing with child abuse:

- **Designated Officers in Health Boards** to co-ordinate inter-agency approaches to child protection at community care level;
- **Regional and Local Child Protection Committees**, operating at Health Board and community care area level, to enhance inter-agency and inter-professional approaches to child protection;
- Multi-disciplinary training, under the aegis of the Regional Child Protection Committees, to increase inter-agency and inter-professional approaches to child protection;
- A new **Social Services Inspectorate** to review the 1987 Child Abuse Guidelines and the procedure for the Notification of Suspected Cases of Child Abuse between Health Boards and Gardai;
- A public information campaign to heighten public awareness of child abuse and of the system to respond to cases of child abuse;
- The provision of support services by Health Boards for victims of past abuse;
- Funding of voluntary agencies dealing with children to be conditional on procedures being in place to deal with allegations of child abuse;
- Evaluation of the impact of the above measures on the reporting of child abuse.

Recently Published Bills

The following Bills have been published by Government in the past few months: Children Bill, 1996; Education Bill, 1997; YouthWork Bill 1997; Equal Status Bill, 1997. The feature article entitled **Youth Work Bill 1997 - A Guide for the Perplexed** deals with the key provisions of the Education, 1997 and YouthWork Bill, 1997.

Children Bill, 1996

The Children Bill, 1996 provides a statutory basis for the creation and development of a new juvenile justice system. Also, it re-enacts and updates provision in the 1908 Act protecting children against persons who have the custody, charge or care of them. In addition, it provides new provisions for dealing with out of control non-offending children.

Main Features of the Bill

- **Upper Age Limit:** In general, but with some exceptions, the provisions of the Bill will apply to all children under 18 years of age who have committed offences.
- **Diversion and Family Conference:** The gardai at present operate on an administrative basis a successful juvenile diversion programme (formerly the Juvenile Liaison Scheme). The Bill places the diversion programme on a statutory basis: this follows a recommendation of the Dail Select Committee on Crime that statutory recognition be given to the principle of diversion. The scope of the diversion programme is being widened by the inclusion of provision for a family conference with

the purpose of confronting the child with the consequences of his or her wrongdoing in a family and community setting and will affirm the authority the parents and wider family members to take responsibility for their children.

- **Criminal Responsibility:** The Bill provides for a raising of the age of criminal responsibility to 10 years and also provides measures for dealing with children below that age who acts or omissions, but for their ages, would have constituted offences. There is provision for periodic review of the age of criminal responsibility until it has been further raised to 12 years.
- **Children Court:** The existing Juvenile Courts will be replaced by a new Children Court.
- **Remand:** The Bill provides for the custody in a junior remand centre of any child aged under 16 years who has been remanded in custody by a court. Provision of such remand facilities will be the responsibility of the Minister for Education. Provision of remand facilities for 16 and 17 year old children will be the responsibility of the Minister for Justice.
- **Children Detention Schools:** The reformatories and industrial schools vested in the Minister for Education will be replaced by children detention schools for the under 16 year old age group. Provision is included for the designation by the Minister for Justice of Places of Detention for 16 and 17 year old offenders.

The National Youth Federation has submitted a response to the Children Bill, 1996 which is available on request.

Equal Status Bill, 1997

The Bill provides for equality outside the context of employment. It outlaws both direct and indirect discrimination in education, provision of personal property and services, disposal of land and accommodation. The specific grounds on which the Bill prohibits discrimination are gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race (including colour, nationality and ethnic or national origin) and membership of the Travelling community. The Bill contains measures to deal with discrimination by registered clubs against members or applications for membership. It also gives the Minister for Equality and Law Reform the power to make regulations about accessibility of transport facilities for those with disabilities.

The Bill provides that claims of discrimination (other than those concerning registered clubs) will be dealt with by the Director of Equality Investigations, an independent official under the aegis of the Minister for Equality and Law Reform, with an appeal to the Circuit Court. The Equality Authority (now the Employment Equality Agency) is given an extended remit covering discrimination in both employment and non-employment areas.

BULLYING

We Don't Have Bullies Here *by Valerie Besag*

Training pack which offers guidelines and materials or anyone working with young people to plan and implement a one-day workshop on the issues of bullying. Although primarily geared to schools the materials are adaptable to any setting. The pack also includes materials to support the development of a long-term strategy to respond to bullying.

CHILD PROTECTION

Our Duty to Care: principles of good practice for the protection of children & young people *by DHSS*

Resource pack which provides a flexible framework of sound principles and good practice guidelines to assist organisations to improve their policies, procedures and practice to safeguard children and young people. The pack is based on the recommendations of a report by the Social Services Inspectorate in Britain relating to child protection and the management of sex offenders. Sections include: The Welfare of Children; Children's Rights; Raising Awareness; Selection and Recruitment Procedures; Minimising Risk; Complaints Procedures; The Principles of Parenting.

DRUG EDUCATION

Youth Work Support Pack for Dealing with the Drugs Issue *by National Youth Health Programme, NYCI*

Resource pack produced by the National Youth Health Programme who facilitated a Drugs Education Advisory Committee comprising staff from drug education & treatment agencies and youth services to devise the pack. The pack is aimed at assisting youth service agencies and their

staff and volunteers to develop responses to the drugs problem. It is divided into four sections: Youth Work in a Drug Using Society; Youth Work Responses to Drug Use; Policy Development; Supporting Information.

OPEN LEARNING

Evaluating Open & Distance Learning (Second Edition) *by Mary Thorpe*

The first edition of this book was warmly welcomed as a practical guide to the evaluation of open and distance learning for educational practitioners across all levels and specialities. The text of this new edition has been thoroughly revised in the light of developments since the first edition.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Action Packed: Young persons guide to Adventure, Survival and Rescue *by British Red Cross*

Resource pack which contains ideas and activities on adventure, survival and rescue activities to be used as part of an outdoor pursuits programme. The pack is designed as peer-led to be used by the young people themselves with the support of their leader/instructor.

RACISM

RAXI Activities Pack *by NYCI*

Resource pack produced as part of the Irish National Campaign against Racism, Xenophobia, Intolerance and Anti-Semitism (part of a Europe-wide campaign). The pack is aimed at young people and covers issues such as ethnic minorities, Travellers' rights, prejudice against Northern Ireland, disability, homophobia and anti-Semitism

POLITICAL EDUCATION

Why Don't We - A Political Education Pack by NYCI

Resource pack which is a guide to action and participation for young people designed to create awareness among young people of their own capabilities and how these can be put to good use for taking action. The pack itself was written by young people with the support of the Youth Participation Committee of the NYCI for young people, primarily in the 16-25 age bracket. It is divided into four sections: Raising Awareness; Issues; Skills For Change; Political Structures - Ireland and the European Union.

QUALITY ASSURANCE FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Managing Quality of Service by Alan Lawrie

Addresses the way in which voluntary organisations operating on a contract basis are becoming increasingly accountable for the quality of their service. The book highlights the benefits of intelligent and efficient monitoring systems and processes which can enable an organisation to improve service delivery as well as creating a sense of purpose, achievement and progress within the organisation.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

Passing the Buck by Mhemooda Malek

Report by The Children's Society which examines the cases of 154 young people under 18 who are admitted to and discharged from residential institutions via four agencies (probation, social services, education and psychiatry) in 1990. The most worrying outcome is that the great majority of young people, according to their key workers, do not benefit from the time they spend in residential institutions. The report concluded that the most the residence achieves to contain them, at worst it adds to and intensifies their

difficulties in obtaining and gaining access to relevant information. Other weaknesses highlighted include the absence of uniform and clear definitions of difficult behaviour, the issue of funding and its influence on placement, the time taken to respond to young people's needs, and the lack of relevant training for dealing with difficult behaviour.

SOCIAL JUSTICE WORK

Rights and Justice Work in Ireland by Brian Harvey

Report commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust in York, England to survey the state of civil and social rights in the Republic of Ireland; examine the organisations currently operating in the field; and report on the current funding for such work. The purpose of the study was to provide information so that the trust could decide whether it should commence a funding programme in the Republic of Ireland.

YOUTH AFFAIRS

Putting Youth On The Agenda - The State of Youth Report by NYCI

Document which brings together a range of subject matter regarding the situation of young people in Ireland today. The report is divided into six sections, each addressing the central issues influencing young people's lives, the concerns and problems which young people face and offering recommendations as a way forward.

Further Information:

**Fran Bissett & Bríd Horan,
Irish YouthWork Centre,
National Youth Federation,
20 Lr Dominick Street,
Dublin 1.**

Tel: 01 8729933 Fax: 01 8724183

New Youth & Community Work Course

St. Peter's College, Killester is offering a new foundation course in community and youth work. It is being offered under the VTOS scheme and has been developed with the assistance of the Centre for Applied Social Studies, Maynooth College. The course is aimed at those aged over 21 and who have been unemployed for more than six months. Welfare benefits will be unaffected and students will get allowances or travel, meals, books and materials.

Modules covered will include community work, youth work, social administration, social analysis and equality studies. Students will also undertake project work and research assignments and will have tutoring on computers, study skills, writing and personal development.

For further information contact: **Joe Kelly, St. Peter's College, Killester. Tel: 01/8337686**

Certificate in Voluntary Sector Management Course

September 1997 is the last year in which the Combat Poverty Agency will part fund places on the above course which is run by Dublin City University Business School in DCU. The nett fee outside of the contribution from the Combat Poverty Agency is £700. The course, which is aimed at managers or prospective managers working in the voluntary and community sectors, runs over one and half days (Friday and Saturday) each week for two 12 week modules. The course covers a variety of modules including:

- Strategic Planning;
- Human Resource Management;
- Organisational Behaviour;
- Financial Management;
- Voluntary Sector Management

The course also covers areas such as professional development skills, group work, writing and negotiating skills, and stress and time management.

For further information on the course and application procedures contact: **Dublin City University Business School at 01/7045265.**

Post-Graduate Certificate in Therapy For Abused Children

The C.A.R.I. Foundation, in conjunction with international experts in child sexual abuse will again be running the above course this year. It is a one-year training programme for professionals, starting September, 1997, which will concentrate on therapies for abused children with particular emphasis in helping children who have been subjected to sexual abuse or are sexually aggressive with other children. The course will be run in four modules covering the following areas:

- Child Development, Ethics, Law, etc.
- An Assessment Model.
- Child Abusers of all ages.
- Child Centred Therapeutic Techniques.

The course will use a range of trainers with backgrounds in child sexual abuse management, child therapy, group analytic therapy, psychotherapy, psychodrama, play therapy, drama therapy and social work. In addition to the training the course will also offer the possibility of Supervised Clinical experience.

For further details and/or applications forms contact: **The C.A.R.I. Foundation, 2 Garryowen Road, St. John's, Limerick. Tel: 061/413331**

New EU Funded Course in Information

The Department of Computer Science at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth is offering three new courses with admission in 1997, funded by the EU (for citizens of EU member states only). One of these courses will be a **Higher Diploma in Information Technology**. The other two are **M.Sc. in Software Engineering** and **Master of Computer Science**.

For further details contact: **The Department of Computer Science, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co.Kildare. Tel: 01/7083847 Fax: 01/7083848 Email: admin@cs.may.ie Web site at <http://www.cs.may.ie>**

Alternative Education Teacher Training Course

The Necessary Teacher Training College in Denmark is offering a four-year course in International Alternative Education. This course will qualify students:

- to work in children's villages in Africa;
- teach children and young people in independent schools and residential settings in Denmark and other European countries;
- work with street children in Brazil, Mexico, etc;
- work within international aid organisations pioneering solutions to present and future education and health issues affecting children and young people.

The programme includes : Studies in Social and Environment Sciences; Psychology; Pedagogics; Drama, Art, Music & Sports; European Languages (including Danish); and Mathematics. The International study on the course will include four month study trip to Asia, six months teaching practice in Denmark and eight months practice as a teacher in Africa.

Computers linked to digital libraries, internal networks and the Internet will be available to each student. The course will begin on 1st September, 1997 and there will be an information meeting in Dublin in advance.

For further details contact: **Det Nodvendige Seminarium, DK-6990 Ulforg, Denmark. Tel: 0044 1603 278250 (Britain) Fax: 0044 1603 279031**
Email: tvinddns@inet.uni-c.dk

New Child and Family Directory

Barnardo's have recently launched the second edition of their "Child and Family Directory". The directory provides a comprehensive guide to national agencies and services concerned with children and their families in Ireland. An essential reference book for anyone working with children and young people, it is available from: **Barnardo's, Christchurch Square, Dublin 8. Tel: 01/4549699. Cost: £6.00**

Directory of Voluntary Opportunities Launched

The Community Youth Information Centre in Sackville Place, which is operated by Dublin Corporation Libraries, has recently launched a "Directory of Voluntary Opportunities in Ireland". The directory includes organisations who provide voluntary opportunities in a range of areas including: *administration work; agriculture; working with children; conservation work; counselling; disability; first aid; fund-raising; health; homeless; human rights; information work; elderly; social, community and youth work.* It should prove a valuable resource to anyone seeking voluntary work and also to agencies and individuals involved in information provision.

For copies of the directory contact: **Community & Youth Information Centre, Sackville Place (behind Cleary's), Dublin 2. Tel: 01/ 2828324 Fax: 01/8786610 Cost: £2.50.**

World Festival of Youth and Students

The 14th World Festival of Youth and Students will be held in Havana, Cuba in July, 1997. It will be co-hosted by Cuban Youth Organisations and the World Federation of Democratic Youth. The festival provides an opportunity for young people to come together for discussion and debate on social and political issues affecting young people, such as poverty, social injustice, young people's rights etc.

The Connolly Youth Movement is the organisation which has traditionally taken responsibility for the Irish Preparatory Committee. For further details contact: **Henry Dent, Connolly Youth Movement 97, 43 East Essex Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. Tel/Fax: 01/6711943**

IRELAND

Managing Organisations

ATGWU Hall, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin
Tuesday, 8 April, 1997

One-day course aimed at providing Co-ordinators, assistant co-ordinators and those involved in managing local centres with skills in managing and supervising staff. There will be a particular emphasis on managing staff on Community Employment Schemes.

Cost: £20.00

Further Details: I. N.O.U., 6 Gardiner Row, Dublin 1.

Tel: 01 8788635 **Fax:** 01 8788874

Counselling Victims of Bullying

Doyle Tara Hotel, Merrion Road, Dublin 4
Saturday, 17 May, 1997

One-day workshop aimed at working with children who experience bullying in their environment which will include theory and experiential exercises. The workshop will be conducted by a teacher counsellor who is certified in Reality Therapy and a teacher who is a Dramatherapist and co-ordinates school self-esteem programmes.

Cost: £25.00 (20.00 members of IACT)

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

Issues in Sexual Abuse Counselling

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre
Wednesday, 28 May, 1997

One-day seminar which will focus on issues in sexual abuse counselling such as attitudes to disclosure, crisis management and support counselling.

Cost: £60.00

Further Details: Education Department, Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, 70 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: 01 6614911 **Fax:** 01 6610873 **Email:** rcc@indigo.ie

Transition to Independent Living of Young People

National Youth Federation, Dublin
Saturday & Sunday, 26-27 April, 1997

Two-day seminar organised by the Irish YouthWork Centre which will examine the issues and difficulties encountered by young people making the transition to independent living. Topics covered will include: *the adolescent and developmental need to progress to independent living; social, environmental and economic factors which prevent the successful transition to independence; rates of youth homelessness; the educational needs of young people undertaking a transition to independent living; comparisons in International housing policy for young people and profiles of pro-active housing measures aimed at facilitating the successful transition to independent living by young people.*

Cost: £40.00

Further Details: Irish YouthWork Centre, National Youth Federation, 20 Lower Dominick Street, Dublin 1.

Tel: 01 8729933 **Fax:** 01 8724183

Working With the Aftermath of Child Sexual Abuse

Newtown House Centre, Doneraile, Cork
Monday - Friday, 21-25 April, 1997

Comprehensive five-day course which will provide participants with therapeutic skills to work effectively with all those affected by child sexual abuse. The emphasis of the course will be on skill development using a variety of teaching methods including lectures, videos, exercises, case studies and experiential learning. Topics covered will include: *Introduction to Therapy; Working with children and young people; Working with non abusing parents; Working with abusers; working with survivors; Family dynamics and treatment for the family; Care for the carers; Psychodrama; Application of the programme to the work setting.*

Cost: £525.00

Further Details: Catherine Murray, Newtown House, Doneraile, Co.Cork

Tel: 021 24117

BRITAIN

Youth Access National Training Workshops

Oxford Brookes University, Oxford
Friday & Saturday, 4-5 April, 1997

Annual event run by Youth Access, the national membership organisation in Britain for youth information, advice and counselling services. The workshops at this year's event will include: Young men and Anger; Bullying and Young People; Young People and the Sex Industry; Eating disorders; Self-Harm; Transactional Analysis in Working with Young People.

Further Details: Dianne Aimable-Lina, Youth Access, 1a Taylor's Yard, 67 Alderbrook Road, London W12 8AD.

Tel: 0044 181 7729900

Education - The Key to Future Opportunities For Young People Living in Residential Care

University of Durham
Tuesday, 8 April, 1997

The National Children's Bureau has been involved in a residential care project in the north of England focusing on the education needs of young people in residential care. This conference will explore models of good practice and working tools for residential carers involved in such provision. Young people who have previously been in care and who are currently in care will contribute to the conference alongside professional carers.

Cost: £158.63

Further Details: Kirstin McCarthy, National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley Street, London EC1V 7QE.

Tel: 0044 171 8436009

Training and Development: Analysing the Need, Developing the Plan, Implementing the Strategy

Royal Westminster Hotel, London
29 April, 1997

One-day seminar aimed at development professional, administrators and training providers from both the public and private sectors. It is designed to offer a practical 'tool box' approach to training and development issues for individuals and their organisations. Topics

covered include; *Staff Development: Why Bother?; Building Up the Development Profile of your Organisation; From Analysis into a Plan; From a Plan into Action; Troubleshooting; and a hit list of Essential Actions.*

Cost: £250.00

Further Details: Judy Leech, Technical Communications (Publishing Ltd, PO Box 6, Hitchin, Herts SG5 2DB.

Tel/Fax: 0044 1462 437075

Learning in a Global Context

London Voluntary Sector Resource Centre, London

Wednesday, 18 June, 1997

One-day national conference which aims to share knowledge of experience and practice in the development of strategies for promoting global perspectives in adult education.

Further Details: Celestine Harris, Phil Hughes or Philippa Cattell, NIACE, 21 De Montfort Street, Leicester LE1 7GE.

Tel: 0044 116 2044200 **Fax:** 0044 116 2854514

From Agenda To Action - contemporary developments in policy and practice in work with young people

UMIST Conference Centre, Manchester
Monday & Tuesday, 23-24 June, 1997

Two-day conference which aims to bring together youth service managers, policy-makers and decision-makers from both the voluntary and statutory sector. The conference will focus on specific areas of policy and practice in informal education work with young people including health, employment, and youth work management.

Further Details: Helena Ferroa-Read, National Youth Agency, 17-23 Albion Street, Leicester LE1 6GD.

Tel: 0044 116 2856789